

**M**INUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD  
AUGUST 7, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main,  
Vernal, Utah 84078.

**PRESENT:** Councilmembers Bert Clark, Dave Everett, Ted Munford, Sonja Norton and JoAnn Cowan and Mayor Gary Showalter.

**WELCOME:** Mayor Showalter welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT:** The invocation was given by Councilmember Ted Munford.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Sonja Norton.

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF JULY 17, 2013 REGULAR MEETING:**  
*Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of July 17, 2013 with several corrections. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Cowan, Everett, Norton and Clark voting in favor.*

**QUESTAR GAS LINE UPDATE AND 3 YEAR PLAN - SHELLEY FENN AND DOUG ROSS:** Shelley Fenn, representing Questar Gas, explained that their company is conducting expensive updating to their system and will continue this work over the next four years. The project managers are Mr. Ross and Mr. Wardle who will be on site overseeing the construction. The main objective is to replace all the steel lines and relocate the gas meters to the front of homes. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if the reason the meters were being relocated was to make it easier to read them. Shelly Fen answered that not only for reading, but also for maintenance. Many times the gates to backyards are locked or they have animals making it hard to access them. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if they talk to the homeowners about the new location of the meter. Shelley Fenn stated that the project managers attempt to contact the customer. Councilmember Cowan stated that in her neighborhood they have contacted the property owners and have been willing to work with them. Councilmember Everett agreed. Shelley Fenn stated this project should be completed in 2017. The Council thanked Shelly for the update.

**TEEN SUICIDE PREVENTION FESTIVAL REQUEST FOR FUNDS- THE EDGE NON-PROFIT LLC - LANIE HANCOCK:** Ms. Lanie Hancock explained that there is a problem in the area – teen suicide. Uintah County has the highest incidents in the State of Utah, not including the Ute tribe. A non-profit organization has been formed to help educate the community to recognize the signs and help the teens get help. A prevention training session is being planned with professionals from Salt Lake City willing to host educational seminars. This will be the first festival of this kind held in Vernal. Councilmember Bert Clark asked where this festival will be held. Lanie Hancock stated it will be held at the Western Park. The Fallen Brothers Association will also be going to the schools teaching the students, counselors and principals about teen suicide. Councilmember Ted Munford asked what the cost breakdown is for the festival. Lanie Hancock responded that they do have a tight budget.

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD AUGUST 7, 2013**

Councilmember JoAnn Cowan suggested they team up with Tri-County Health and the School District for this event. Lanie stated she has a meeting with them this week. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if there is a local response number that teens can call for help. Lanie stated they are hoping to set one up in the future. The festival, which is scheduled for Labor Day weekend, is the first step to bring awareness with vendors and speakers. The local businesses have been supportive, and she asked if Vernal City would consider helping with the event. Mayor Showalter stated that the City has to follow specific rules when contributing to events with the event bringing in additional sales tax. Lanie Hancock stated they will have people from out of town coming in for this event. Councilmember Sonja Norton stated that this event is for the emotional health of the community, and questioned if the City should be sponsoring this type of event or if it would be better to apply for grants and support them in other ways such as allowing the use of the building for meetings or asking the police for input. Councilmember Cowan agreed that it would be tough to be involved with mental health issues financially. There was further discussion regarding entities that should be approached to help. The Council thanked Lanie for the presentation, with the consensus being to not participate financially at this time.

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH UINTAH SCHOOL DISTRICT - RESOLUTION NO. 2013-19:**

Ken Basset explained that Resolution No. 2013-19 was drafted to enter into an interlocal agreement with Uintah School District to provide a school resource officer. Keith Campbell stated this program was initiated a few years ago with a police officer being placed at the Junior High and helping at the Middle School when needed. The officer has to find a balance between the school, students, parents and law enforcement. The amount paid to the City for the officer is around ½ the wage. Ken Bassett stated that the plus for Vernal City is to have a presence at the school and establish relationships, not just with students and administration, but with the parents. The hope is to prevent problems with young people in the community. There was some discussion regarding participation from other entities. Councilmember Cowan stated that another reason the decision was made to put an officer in the Jr. High was due to the scare of a student bringing a gun to school and the potential for something to happen. The junior high age group has a lot of scrapping and drama that needs police presence. *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve Resolution No. 2013-19 and the Interlocal Agreement with the School District. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

- Councilmember Ted Munford.....aye;*
- Councilmember JoAnn Cowan .....aye;*
- Councilmember Dave Everett.....aye;*
- Councilmember Sonja Norton.....aye;*
- Councilmember Bert Clark.....aye.*

**MEETING SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST:** Ken Bassett explained that he has a scout training at the same time as the next Council meeting and asked the Council to consider postponing or canceling the meeting. Mayor Showalter stated that a special meeting can be held if necessary. *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to cancel the August 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Councilmember Dave*

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD AUGUST 7, 2013**

*Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Clark, Everett, Cowan, Munford and Norton voting in favor for a unanimous vote.*

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF ELECTRICAL EASEMENT FOR ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER:** Ken Bassett explained that along the northeast corner of the walking park is a street light belonging to Rocky Mountain Power. The wires for that light are overhead across Highway 121. There is a concern with the height of the line, and the power company is asking the City to allow the power source for that light to come from the lights inside the walking park. The lights in the park are also owned and operated by Rocky Mountain Power, but will require an easement to run the line. The new line will be run underground from the closest light to the street light on the corner. *Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to approve an electrical easement for Rocky Mountain Power for the street light at 800 West and 500 North. Councilmember Sonja Norton seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Cowan, Norton, Everett, Munford and Clark voting in favor.*

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Baseball tournament:

Councilmember Bert Clark reported that the area hosted a two-week ball tournament which was successful due to the local volunteers and the Recreation District. The participants praised the courtesy and support from the local businesses and citizens.

Vernal Excitement:

Councilmember Sonja Norton stated that the Vernal Excitement events are finished for this year and were successful with the number of patrons increasing each week. Next year the events may be held on a different day so there is no conflict with Alive after Five.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business, *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to adjourn. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote and the meeting was declared adjourned.*

---

Mayor Gary Showalter

ATTEST:

---

Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

( S E A L )