

**M**INUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD  
MAY 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main, Vernal,  
Utah 84078.

**PRESENT:** Councilmembers Dave Everett, Bert Clark, Ted Munford and JoAnn Cowan and Mayor Sonja Norton. Councilmember Samantha Scott was excused.

**WELCOME:** Mayor Sonja Norton 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 Dave Everett.

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF APRIL 16, 2014:** Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of April 16, 2014. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Cowan, Everett, and Clark voting in favor.

**ROD AND GUN CLUB PRESENTATION – STACY HAWLEY:** Stacy Hawley thanked the Council for their continued support of the Rod and Gun Club events. This year the Club will be hosting four trap shooting tournaments which seem to be growing in popularity every year. The largest shoot will be held in June with 445 participants already signed up from 23 States and Canada. She asked the Council to consider sponsoring the main event again this year. The City’s sponsorship goes towards the purchase of the trophies. Also, in the past there has been big name entertainment, but this year there will be fun shoots. Councilmember Clark moved to sponsor the Rod and Gun Club tournament in the amount of \$5000. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

*Councilmember Munford.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Cowan.....aye.*  
*Councilmember Everett .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Clark.....aye.*

**APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER – MIKE DAVIS, FINANCE DIRECTOR:** Mike Davis informed the Council that the current treasurer, Brenda Nold, is retiring on May 15<sup>th</sup>, and an open house will be held for her next Wednesday. When she notified the City of her decision to retire, her position was advertised internally and Mary Brickler in the finance department was offered the Treasurer position. Sarah Lamb will take over Mary’s position of accounting assistant, and Michelle Rushton will transfer to Sarah’s position to do the accounting for the Districts. The treasurer position is an appointed position, and Mr. Davis asked the Council to approve the appointment of Mary Brickler. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to formally appoint Mary Brickler as the City Treasurer. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Cowan, Munford, Clark and Everett voting in favor.

Mike Davis noted that the new on-line express bill pay system had 884 people used that method of paying their bills. Mayor Sonja Norton asked how many users are on the water system. Ken

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD MAY 7, 2014**

Bassett stated there is around 3300 accounts. Councilmember Clark asked what the fee is for each transaction. Mike Davis stated it cost, in total, around \$300 for those transactions. The financial reports will be presented at the budget meetings.

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF 2014/2015 HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE PROGRAM:** Ken Bassett presented a summary of the proposals the City received from seven different companies for health insurance for this fiscal year. The reason the City asked the Broker, GBS Benefits, to solicit proposals was that the current provider, Cigna, gave a rate with a 28% increase in premiums. Cigna has since dropped the renewal rate down several times, including a new proposal yesterday of 6%. As the staff and Administrative Committee looked at the proposals, some of the companies were eliminated fairly quickly because of the decrease in benefits being offered or based on past experience. The Administrative Committee recommendation is to go with a new carrier in Utah - Arches Health Care. This company is offering a cap on the renewal for next year of 13%. That amount may seem high, but if the City has a bad claim year, that cap could be a blessing. The increase in premium to transfer from Cigna to Arches is 1.43%. The changes in benefits from the current plan to Arches include an increase in the out-of-pocket amount from \$2000/\$4000 to \$3000/\$6000 for the main plan. That amount would increase even more with Cigna. Also, Mr. Bassett recommended the employees pick up the same percentage of the premium of 12%. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan asked if the City would continue offering vision and dental insurance. Ken Bassett answered that the dental is included in the premium amount to the employees, and the vision is an optional program with the employee paying the full premium. The dental insurance premium increased 8%. Councilmember Dave Everett asked if this change would affect the health savings account on the high deductible plan. Ken Bassett answered that the employees who elect the high deductible plan will have the health saving account with the City putting funds into that account. Councilmember Everett asked how to get the provider list. Ken Bassett explained that Arches uses the Altius network, and a provider list will be provided. Also, if an employee goes to Basin Clinic, there will only be a \$5 co-payment. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to adopt the Administrative Committee's recommendation for insurance, going with Arches for health insurance and PEHP for dental. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote.

- Councilmember Munford.....aye;*
- Councilmember Cowan.....aye.*
- Councilmember Everett .....aye;*
- Councilmember Clark.....aye.*

**REQUEST TO AMEND THE VERNAL CITY MUNICIPAL CODE - TAXI CAB REGULATIONS – ORDINANCE NO. 2014-13:** Ken Bassett reminded the Council that the first draft of this ordinance was presented around a month ago, and all the recommendations from that discussion have been incorporated into the revised ordinance. The City Attorney has also reviewed the ordinance and has provided his suggestions. Councilmember Clark asked if the City would prohibit so called mustache services, or taxi cabs that are not licensed. Councilmember Cowan stated that it is hard to stop gypsy cabs. Mr. Tony Wagner stated that other cities have high fines for violating the taxi cab laws. Ken Bassett suggested that many times the industry itself will monitor what is happening and report it. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan stated that the background check completed by the Chief of Police does not need to

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD MAY 7, 2014**

require letters of recommendations, and that requirement should be deleted. After further discussion, Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve Ordinance No. 2014-13 with the exclusion discussed. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

*Councilmember Munford.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Cowan.....aye.*  
*Councilmember Everett .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Clark.....aye.*

**REQUEST TO AMEND THE VERNAL CITY PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES - SECTION 5.02.130 - CONVERSION OF SICK LEAVE AT EMPLOYMENT TERMINATION - RESOLUTION NO. 2014-05:**

Ken Bassett explained that the City has had several employees retire or leave employment recently. There is a provision upon termination to pay the employee 25% of their sick leave hours. If the employee has 10 years or more of employment with the City, then an additional percentage of their sick leave is paid into a health retirement account. If they do not already have a health retirement account, one has to be set up for them. If they do not have a lot of sick leave hours, it is not worth it to set up the account. Resolution No. 2014-05 allows the employee to be paid the hours instead of putting the money into a health retirement account if they have less than 25 hours of sick leave left. Councilmember Cowan asked if the amount paid is based on their hourly wage. Ken Bassett answered yes. Mayor Norton stated that it may not be fair to make employees put in a minimum of ten years before they get their sick leave hours. Councilmember Ted Munford asked what the standard is. Ken Bassett stated that many government entities do it differently. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan stated that sick leave is to help an employee when they are ill, not another way to give them money when they leave. However, there also needs to be some incentive to not abuse their sick leave. Ken Bassett stated that some agencies use personal time off (PTO) instead of vacation and sick leave. The Council can consider that option, which would be a major change. After further discussion, Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to approve Resolution No. 2014-05. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote;

*Councilmember Munford.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Cowan.....aye.*  
*Councilmember Everett .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Clark.....aye.*

**PRESENTATION OF FY2015 TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SET PUBLIC HEARING:**

Mayor Sonja Norton explained that the staff and Council spend countless hours on the budget to make sure the money is being spent wisely. Ken Bassett presented the tentative budget and read the budget message. He explained that the general fund budget, not counting the water and sewer fund, is \$10.3 million dollars. The utility funds are \$4 to \$5 million dollars. He asked the Council to set the public hearing for this budget on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Mayor Sonja Norton confirmed that the storm water mentioned in the budget message is water from rain and snow, and that water needs to have a place go. Ken Bassett agreed and explained that there are stricter guidelines to dispose of that water as the City grows in population. In order to maintain that water, the City may need to charge a fee. Councilmember Bert Clark stated that in years past, that water was dumped into irrigation ditches, but now the capacity is too high and impacting the

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD MAY 7, 2014**

water users. Ken Bassett agreed that the irrigators in the valley have been extremely patient. Mayor Sonja Norton stated that the budget contains many aspects that the Council will need consider. Councilmember Bert Clark moved to set the public hearing for the FY2015 budget on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Clark, Munford, Everett and Cowan voting in favor for a unanimous vote.

Ken Bassett asked the Council to set dates for the budget workshop sessions. After discussion, the consensus was to hold the meetings on May 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> at 4 p.m.

**OPEN AND PUBLIC MEETINGS:** Ken Bassett explained that in their Council packets is a form prepared for them to sign after they view the video of David Church, legal counsel for the Utah League of Cities and Towns, who gives a presentation on the open and public meeting law. He asked the Council to watch the video and sign the form. Councilmember Bert Clark stated that he received the training through the Special Service Districts and has a certificate. Ken Bassett stated the City simply needs written notice that they received the training. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan stated that she watched the video that afternoon, and the last part is the most beneficial.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Planning Commission:

Councilmember Clark asked what is being done about the vacated seats on the Planning Commission. Allen Parker stated that he will be asking the Planning Commission for a recommendation at their next meeting.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Sonja Norton

ATTEST:

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Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

( S E A L )