

1 **M**INUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING HELD
2 **JULY 22, 2014** at 5:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main, Vernal,
3 Utah 84078.

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

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8 **WELCOME:** Mayor Norton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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10 **INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT:** The invocation was given by Councilmember
11 Bert Clark

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13 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Samantha
14 Scott.

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16 **APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF JUNE 18, 2014 REGULAR MEETING:**
17 Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to approve the minutes of June 18, 2014. Councilmember
18 Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Cowan, Everett
19 and Scott voting in favor. Councilmember Clark noted he was not present at that meeting.

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21 **APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF JUNE 25, 2014 SPECIAL MEETING:**
22 Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to approve the minutes of June 25, 2014. Councilmember
23 Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Cowan, Everett,
24 Scott and Clark voting in favor.

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26 **NOVA PRESENTATION - KEITH CAMPBELL:** Lt. Keith Campbell gave the Council a
27 brief overview of the NOVA (Nurturing, Opportunities, Values and Accountability) program,
28 explaining that Officer Steve Labrum is the instructor. Back in the early 1990's the police
29 department started teaching the DARE program in coordination with the Uintah County Sheriff
30 and Naples City police. At some point Uintah County and Naples City decided to stop
31 participating. There has been some debate on the effectiveness of the DARE program which only
32 focuses on drugs, and the issues surrounding the choice to use drugs. The NOVA program is
33 more broad, dealing with issues such as peer pressure, bullying, anger, internet use as well as
34 drugs. The hope is that Uintah County will share the responsibilities of teaching this program
35 after January as it is hard to cover the entire County with only one instructor. Councilmember
36 Clark asked which grades have the program being taught. Keith Campbell stated it is only the
37 6th grade right now. Councilmember Clark asked what would happen if a social club or group
38 wanted this program taught to them. Keith Campbell stated it cannot be taught in one session,
39 so it would be hard to get them all the information. Councilmember Cowan asked if a portion
40 of the training can be geared toward high school age students. Keith Campbell stated there is
41 curriculum geared toward students ages 7th grade through high school. There is currently no
42 manpower to teach those students. Councilmember Cowan stated that possibly the police
43 department could team up with a teacher and partner with the School District to get this program
44 out to more students and not tie up law enforcement. Keith Campbell stated that another
45 benefit of this program is that the students are not afraid of police officers anymore.

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47 Keith Campbell stated that the police department will also be hosting a public safety summit on
48 July 31st in the community room to teach families about internet safety, drugs and safe driving.
49 The Council thanked Officer Campbell for the report.
50

51 **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF ENGINEERING CONTRACT WITH GDA FOR**
52 **AIRPORT 5-YEAR IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND AMENDMENT #1 FOR**
53 **PAVEMENT RESTORATION PROJECT:** Ken Bassett reminded the Council that the City
54 and County approved the engineering contract with GDA in April. The first amendment to that
55 contract has been prepared for the work on the runway. The total cost is \$155,000 with the FAA
56 picking up \$139,000 of that cost. Councilmember Clark stated that the work will start at the 500
57 East entrance with a crack seal on the asphalt. Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve
58 Amendment #1 for the airport. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion
59 passed with the following roll call vote:

60 *Councilmember Cowan.....aye.*
61 *Councilmember Everettaye;*
62 *Councilmember Scott.....aye;*
63 *Councilmember Clark.....aye.*
64

65 **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF SEWER LINE EASEMENT ABANDONMENT –**
66 **RESOLUTION NO. 2014-13:** Ken Bassett explained to the Council that the City has an old
67 sewer line that goes down the middle of the property between 600 West and 700 West where the
68 Polar King building used to be. The line was originally installed in the 1950’s. It is no longer
69 being used and is not needed. Councilmember Clark noted that this line used to go under Basin
70 Sports, and that section has already been abandoned. The current property owner is requesting
71 that the City formally abandon the line and easement so there are no encumbrances on the title.
72 Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to approve Resolution No. 2014-13 abandoning the sewer
73 line and easement as noted. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion
74 passed with the following roll call vote:

75 *Councilmember Cowan.....aye.*
76 *Councilmember Everettaye;*
77 *Councilmember Scott.....aye;*
78 *Councilmember Clark.....aye.*
79

80 Councilmember Cowan asked about the hotel that is going to be built on that property. Allen
81 Parker stated that the site plan shows a three-story building with 78 hotel rooms. This company
82 does have hotels in other areas, and they are expanding here. Councilmember Cowan questioned if
83 they have enough parking. Allen Parker stated they have the minimum requirement.
84 Councilmember Cowan stated that there has been some dislike from the public on the amount of
85 parking being allowed for hotels. Councilmember Clark suggested the parking requirements be
86 reviewed as many times larger vehicles are taking up more spaces creating a shortage of parking
87 around a hotel. Ken Bassett suggested the staff look at what other communities are doing.
88

89 **REQUEST TO AMEND THE VERNAL CITY MUNICIPAL CODE - CHAPTER 13.04 -**
90 **STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC WORKS -**
91 **ORDINANCE NO. 2014-24:** Ken Bassett stated that from time to time it is necessary to make

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92 amendments to the standard specifications for the construction of public works based on
93 recommendations from staff, developers, or engineers. These changes are mostly housekeeping
94 items dealing with drive approaches, concrete finishing and back filling. Glade Allred, the street
95 superintendent and Mike Davis, the water / sewer superintendent, are recommending these
96 changes which have been prepared by the engineers. Councilmember Dave Everett moved to
97 approve Ordinance No. 2014-24. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The
98 motion passed with the following roll call vote:

- 99 *Councilmember Cowan*.....aye.
- 100 *Councilmember Everett*aye;
- 101 *Councilmember Scott*.....aye;
- 102 *Councilmember Clark*.....aye.

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105 **RATIFICATION OF QUESTAR GAS REQUEST TO ENCROACH ON 500 SOUTH**
106 **MORATORIUM ROAD:** Ken Bassett explained to the Council that Questar Gas requested the
107 City allow them to encroach into the shoulder of 500 South Street which is under moratorium.
108 The encroachment needs to be ratified by the Council. Questar explained that their plans for
109 upgrading their lines are handled out of their Salt Lake City office, and there were some
110 oversights for this area. The City will require Questar to use a heat process to repair the
111 roadway so there is no scaring of the asphalt. Mayor Norton asked if they will have a
112 warranty period. Ken Bassett answered yes. Councilmember Cowan stated that there are still
113 some areas of sidewalk that Questar needs to repair from last year, and she will provide the
114 addresses. Councilmember Bert Clark moved to ratify the approval of the encroachment by
115 Questar onto 500 South Street near Highway 40. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the
116 motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Clark, Scott, Cowan and Everett voting in
117 favor.

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119 **REQUEST TO ABANDON WATER LINE ON WEST HIGHWAY 40:** Ken Bassett
120 explained that this request is coming from the developers of the Hampton Inn on West Highway
121 40 in the Towne Center complex. The water line actually travels the full length of their
122 property line and is only needed to the building site. The line was placed there so the entire
123 parcel could be developed. The developer would like to have a portion of that line abandoned
124 so they can place the parking lot where the water line is. Mayor Norton asked if the line stops
125 at the west property line. Ken Bassett answered yes. Councilmember Cowan asked if this
126 hotel will have enough parking spaces. Allen Parker stated they meet the minimum requirement.
127 Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to approve abandoning the above noted section of water
128 line, but not the utility easement. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The
129 motion passed with Councilmembers Cowan, Everett, Clark and Scott voting in favor for a
130 unanimous vote.

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132 **REQUEST TO ACCEPT OWNERSHIP TRANSFER OF IMPROVEMENTS FOR**
133 **ASHLEY CREEK VILLAGE:** Allen Parker explained that the developers of Ashley Creek
134 Village are requesting that the City accept the public roadway improvements that were put in
135 next to Lloyd Swain's property on 600 South. The City code requires a developer to place the
136 road through to the neighboring property. This roadway has been in place for approximately a

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137 year and for the most part it has been built in accordance with City specifications. There are a
138 few defective areas such as the cement around the manholes and a missing section of sidewalk.
139 The developer has been made aware of these two issues. In order to expedite the acceptance
140 and allow them to start construction, the developer is asking to open an escrow that will be used
141 to make these repairs when the asphalt paving company is mobilized to pave the parking lot.
142 The warranty period on the improvements will begin once the City accepts the work.
143 Councilmember Cowan stated that she thought the cement around the manhole would be a better
144 solution than asphalt. Allen Parker stated that actually there ends up being a seam that pops out
145 and allows water to penetrate more. He suggested the Mayor sign the acceptance form for the
146 infrastructure once the escrow account is in place. Mayor Norton asked what the time frame for
147 repair is. Allen Parker answered that he thought it was September 1st. Allen Parker stated that
148 if the City does not accept these improvements, it will prevent the neighboring property owner
149 from obtaining a building permit to build a house. Ken Bassett suggested the Council accept
150 the improvements contingent on the escrow account being in place. Councilmember JoAnn
151 Cowan moved to approve the ownership transfer of the improvements for Ashley Creek Village
152 after the escrow account is in place for the repairs and authorize the Mayor to sign it.
153 Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with
154 Councilmembers Cowan, Scott, Everett and Clark voting in favor for a unanimous vote.

155 **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

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157 Joint City / County Meeting:

158 Ken Bassett reminded the Council that a joint City / County meeting is scheduled for next
159 Monday at 3:30 p.m. However, there are no agenda items yet and the meeting may be
160 canceled.

161

162 Canine training:

163 Councilmember JoAnn Cowan stated that this summer there have been police officers at the
164 schools receiving canine training. A certified trainer has traveled here from Salt Lake City to
165 train officers from Uintah County, Naples City and Vernal City so the dog handlers can get the
166 maximum use out of their animals. She stated that she had the opportunity to watch the training
167 and is impressed with the enthusiasm of the officers and their new dogs.

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169 Fireworks:

170 Councilmember Bert Clark asked what is happening with the 4th of July fireworks incident that
171 occurred at the park. Lt. Keith Campbell stated that it has not been determined who set off the
172 fireworks that caused the injuries, and from a law enforcement standpoint it is difficult to enforce
173 fireworks standards in such a large crowd. He suggested the City conduct a public information
174 campaign. Councilmember Cowan stated that the fire chiefs and Utah League of Cities and
175 Towns are trying to propose legislation to stop aerial fireworks because of the fire danger they
176 present. Ken Bassett agreed and stated that the counties can restrict fireworks if they have any
177 wild land or brush areas. However, Vernal City cannot prohibit them except on City property
178 or on wild lands.

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180 Funeral Processions:

181 Mayor Norton stated that funeral processions have become a public safety issue. She asked the
182 Council to consider notifying the local funeral homes that law enforcement will no longer
183 conduct funeral processions and instead the funeral directors should tell those attending the
184 funeral to simply meet at the cemetery after traveling there on their own. Councilmember Clark
185 stated that the funeral for his family member crossed Main Street, and the procession needs to
186 obey traffic lights. Mayor Norton stated she understood this was a tradition to show respect for
187 the deceased, however, it is time to consider the public safety aspect. The consensus of the
188 Council was that this request was reasonable to notify the funeral homes.

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

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196 ATTEST:

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Mayor Sonja Norton

Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder
(S E A L)