

**M**INUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD  
OCTOBER 1, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main,  
Vernal, Utah 84078.

**PRESENT:** Councilmembers Dave Everett, Samantha Scott, Bert Clark, Ted Munford, Bert Clark and Mayor Sonja Norton.

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember JoAnn Cowan.

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2014:** Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the minutes of September 17, 2014. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Cowan, Everett, Scott and Clark voting in favor. Council Munford abstained.

**INTRODUCTION OF YOUTH COUNCIL MAYOR:** Ms. Sabrina Powers announced that she has been appointed as the new Youth Mayor this school year and thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity. Mayor Norton stated that the Youth Council will be invited, again this year, to observe the State Legislature in action. Sabrina Powers stated she was excited to serve and see what was in store for her this year.

**UINTAH BASIN ORCHESTRA & CHOIR SPONSORSHIP REQUEST – BOYD EDWARDS & TJ BATTY:** Boyd Edwards, organizer of the Uintah Basin Orchestra & Choir, stated that organizing a high quality musical program has been a dream for many residents. Last year a Christmas performance was held with 100 residents in the chorus and this year a Christmas and spring performance will be held with 160 people in the chorus. The Orchestra and Choir is an established 501C(3) non-profit organization with a Board of Directors. Mr. Michael Bankhead, who is the Chair of the music department at Utah State University, served as the director last spring. A children's choir is also being established this year with 60 children being invited to perform. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan asked if there will be a Bell Choir. Boyd Edwards answered yes. Councilmember Cowan noted that the Uintah Schools Foundation purchased a set of bells for this purpose, and possibly they could use them.

Mr. Edwards mentioned that several upstanding conductors will be performing with the Orchestra which may increase the cost. Currently the members pay a \$20 fee to join and the remainder of the expenses are paid with donations received from the community and ticket sales. The expenses are projected to be \$30,700 or more if the School District charges for the use of the Middle School. Last year the Orchestra helped purchased a keyboard for the school in lieu of payment. Mr. Edwards asked the Council to consider a \$3000 sponsorship for the Orchestra and Choir. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan stated that this type of performance greatly enhances the community and is in line with other events that the City sponsors. She moved to sponsor the Uintah Basin Orchestra and Choir with \$3000. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the

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motion. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if her motion was only for this year. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan amended her motion to sponsor the Uintah Basin Orchestra and Choir with \$3000 annually. Councilmember Bert Clark agreed to second the amended motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

Councilmember Cowan suggested that someone decorate a tree to be entered into the Trees for Charity program with the proceeds being donated to the Choir and Orchestra. Mayor Norton thanked Mr. Edwards for what he has brought to the community.

**UINTAH RECREATION DISTRICT SPONSORSHIP REQUEST – SHAWNA JO EVES:**

Shauna Jo Eves, representing the Uintah Recreation District, explained that the annual Halloween Walk has grown in popularity making it necessary to spend more money on prizes and candy. She noted that Naples City is contributing \$1500 and is challenging Vernal City to match their contribution. Councilmember Ted Munford moved to sponsor the Halloween Walk in the amount of \$1500 and match the contribution of Naples City. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A MINOR SUBDIVISION FOR JUAN GALLEGOS FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 128 SOUTH 200 WEST, VERNAL, UTAH:**

Allen Parker brought the Council’s attention to an updated plat of the property at 128 South 200 West. He explained that the original plat had several errors that needed to be corrected before the parcel of land could be split into two parcels. This is .43 acres of land, and the zoning changes right in the middle of the property from R-4 to R-3 on the south parcel. The Planning Commission reviewed the original plat which had one parcel too narrow and the other one was three feet short of meeting the code. The plat also was shown as a record of survey rather than a subdivision and had the address and property owner’s name wrong. Councilmember Cowan asked who the owner of the property is. Allen Parker stated that Mr. Gallegos submitted the formal request and his wife is the property owner. The Planning Commission forwarded a negative recommendation on this issue unless the corrections were made to the plat. Councilmember Clark asked if the property will be rezoned. Allen Parker stated that the parcel with the house on it will remain R-4, and the vacant land will remain R-3. A zoning change has not been requested yet. Mayor Norton asked what the frontage is. Allen Parker stated that one parcel has 61 feet and the other parcel is a flag lot with a large stem. Mayor Norton stated there is a problem with

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allowing a 50 foot flag lot and not a 50 foot frontage lot. After further discussion, Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to approve the subdivision as shown on the amended plat presented at the meeting. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Cowan, Everett, Munford, Scott and Clark voting in favor for a unanimous vote.

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDING THE VERNAL CITY MUNICIPAL CODE – TITLE 5 – BUSINESS LICENSES FOR DOOR-TO-DOOR AND TAXI CAB – ORDINANCE NO. 2014-35:** Ken Bassett reminded the Council that they recently approved an ordinance to formalize requirements for door-to-door solicitors and taxi cab businesses to receive a business license. However, there are inconsistencies regarding the number of years which an individual has to have a clean criminal background in order to get a permit. The Public Safety Committee looked at these concerns and concluded the following:

1. Citizens in the community put their trust in taxi-cab drivers and door-to-door solicitors so they should be free of any concerning criminal charges for at least ten years, and there needs to be consistency in the number of years that applicants are free from criminal offenses.
2. Recommend that an individual provide their background screening from each State where they have lived over the past ten years. A nation-wide check takes six to eight weeks to receive. These checks have to be current within the last 30 days of their application.

Ken Bassett stated that Ordinance No. 2014-35 covers these concerns. Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve Ordinance No. 2014-35 as written. 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 Scott.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Clark.....aye.*

**REVIEW OF NORTH VERNAL AVENUE PROJECT BIDS AND REQUEST TO REJECT ALL BIDS:** Ken Bassett reminded the Council that the City received funding from the Community Impact Board to replace the water line on north Vernal Avenue. Bids were received, however the engineers found a problem with the way the specifications were written and have determined that the project needs to be rebid. This project is in a State highway which usually requires a flowable fill to make sure there is no settling later on with the trench. In this case, UDOT waived that requirement because the line is going parallel to the roadway instead of across it. Clint Allen, engineer with CRS, explained that this made a significant change in the bid specifications and recommended the bids be rejected. Once the specifications are corrected, the project can be rebid. Councilmember Clark asked if this will increase the engineering costs. Ken Bassett answered no. Councilmember Bert Clark moved to reject the bids on the north Vernal Avenue water line project. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Clark, Everett, Cowan, Scott and Munford voting in favor.

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**REVIEW OF STREETS TRUCK BIDS AND REQUEST TO REJECT ALL BIDS:** Ken Bassett explained that the City received bids for this piece of equipment that was budgeted for this year. A problem was noticed with how this vehicle would be used, making it necessary to have a different front end and grill for snow plowing. Mayor Norton asked if they expect the change to significantly change the price. Ken Bassett stated he did not know. Councilmember Ted Munford moved to reject the bids and rebid this vehicle. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Clark, Everett, Cowan, Scott and Munford voting in favor.

**REVIEW OF SEWER CLEANING BIDS AND REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO AWARD:** Ken Bassett explained that the City received one bid for this project. There are only a few contractors in the State that do this this type of work. The City has used Twin D in the past, and they are a competent, capable contractor. The bid of \$70,000 is reasonable as well. The City’s insurance carrier requires the City to clean the sewer lines every year. The City crew can handle around half the system, and this company will clean the other half. Ken Bassett explained the difference between flushing versus cleaning as requested by Councilmember Clark. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to accept the bid from Twin D to clean the sewer lines. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Fire Station:

Councilmember JoAnn Cowan explained that the Uintah Fire Suppression SSD held a meeting to discuss placing a fire substation in Maeser. The main motivation is to help the insurance ratings in this area which are based on how close they are to a fire station. There is a family willing to donate the land, and this will not be a full station.

Women’s Shelter:

Councilmember Cowan stated that the State director that supervises the women’s shelter indicated that the shelter is nearly full every night with up to 20 people being housed on a regular basis. The shelter also houses people from neighboring counties.

Street Lights:

Councilmember Bert Clark noted that at the last meeting Rocky Mountain Power indicated they fixed the street lighting on West Main, but around 200 West to 1000 West those street lights are off. Ken Bassett stated they are aware of the outage and are repairing it now.

Tree Removal:

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Councilmember Bert Clark asked if the City crews would be doing branch removal from the streets after the last rain storm. Ken Bassett stated the crews can do it if it is public safety issue.

Street boring:

Councilmember Clark asked the staff to check on the debris left in the right-of-way on 1000 East by the company doing the boring for the gas line. Allen Parker stated he would check on it.

Board of Adjustment:

Ken Bassett explained that many Cities are doing away with their Board of Adjustment's and instead having a hearing officer designated by the City Council to hear requests for variances. Councilmember Clark suggested the City write a letter to the family thanking Leo Speirs for his years of service on this Board.

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

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Mayor Sonja Norton

ATTEST:

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Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

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