

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
OCTOBER 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main,
Vernal, Utah 84078.

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

WELCOME: Mayor Norton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

UPLIFTING THOUGHT: An uplifting thought was given by Councilmember Dave Everett.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Sonja Norton.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF OCTOBER 1, 2014: Councilmember Samantha Scott moved to approve the minutes of October 1, 2014. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Cowan, Everett and Scott voting in favor.

REQUEST TO AMEND THE VERNAL CITY POLICIES & PROCEDURES MANUAL – RETIREMENT SYSTEM – RESOLUTION NO. 2014-15: Ken Bassett explained that the Utah Retirement System recently audited the City, and will be auditing the entire State, to make sure all agencies are adhering to retirement policies and all funds are being paid appropriately. One item they are requesting is a change to the wording for elected officials in the personnel policy of the City. Resolution No. 2014-15 states that for the purpose of Utah Retirement System, elected official are classified as part-time employees and their eligibility will be administered by State Retirement rules. Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve Resolution No. 2014-15. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Councilmember Cowan.....aye.
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Scott.....aye.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE CRS ENGINEERING CONTRACT FOR 1500 EAST 500 SOUTH STORM WATER IMPROVEMENTS: Ken Bassett explained that over the past few months, there have been several heavy rain storms causing a river to flow down Main Street, testing the storm drain system. The water dissipated quickly without a lot of property damage within the City limits although it did fill sewer manholes that created problems. This storm water project is one block east of Highway 40 on the north side of the street. Currently the storm water drops into an irrigation ditch to the east, and the irrigators do not want any debris in that ditch. This project will capture the water in a culvert pipe that will take it to the golf course where the City has a retention basin. The total cost of this project is \$33,000 with the engineering expense. The funds will come out of the City’s Storm Drain fund. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan acknowledged that this is a wise move although having another storm like this summer is slim. Councilmember Cowan moved to approve the engineering contract with CRS for this storm drain project not to exceed \$6,000. Mayor Norton noted that the construction cost is estimated to be \$27,000. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the

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following roll call vote:

Councilmember Cowan.....aye.
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Scott.....aye.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE ENGINEERING CONTRACT FOR THE SEWER CLEANING: Ken Bassett noted that this is more of a ratification as this engineering work has been done by CRS Engineering. The total cost was \$6,000. Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the engineering cost for the sewer cleaning project in the amount of \$6000. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Councilmember Cowan.....aye.
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Scott.....aye.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE CDBG PROJECT AWARD & BID: Ken Bassett explained that the City solicited bids for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project that benefits low income housing. The City received \$30,000 in funding to repair housing units owned by the Uintah Basin Assistant Council including a tri-plex that needs a new roof, heating and air conditioning, and a duplex that had plumbing issues. After inspecting the units, it was found that the plumbing was a very simple cleaning of the lines instead of replacing the lines. One bid was received from All Serve Construction in the amount \$22,500 to repair the tri-plex. The engineering cost for this project was \$2500 leaving the remainder of the \$30,000 grant for the construction work. The Director of the CDBG program does not want the City to have any funds left, so it is hoped that another unit owned by the Uintah Basin Assistance Council can receive a new heating unit. Councilmember Cowan asked the staff to explain what CDBG grants are used for and how they are obtained. Ken Bassett explained that the federal government awards funds to the State which is then split up into regions. The money can be used, mainly, for low income housing needs such as building new units or making improvements to already existing housing units. Vernal City has to apply for the funds and competes with other entities in the Basin for these funds. The City received \$30,000 for this project. Councilmember Cowan stated that in the past the City has been able to winterize homes for seniors, install energy efficient windows, rails in bathrooms and build ramps into homes. Ken Bassett stated that four different contractors were invited to bid, however, only one bid was received. This contractor has performed work for the City in the past, and Mr. Bassett recommended the Council accept the bid. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to accept the bid from All Serve Construction for the CDBG project in the amount of \$22,500 and earmark the additional funding for a heating unit for another Uintah Basin Housing Assistance housing unit. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Councilmember Cowan.....aye.
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Scott.....aye.

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REQUEST TO AMEND THE VERNAL CITY MUNICIPAL CODE – TITLE 6 – ANIMALS – ORDINANCE NO. 2014-32 (1ST READING): Ken Bassett explained that this is a huge ordinance that will take time to review. The Uintah Animal Special Service District Board has taken a lot of time to develop an ordinance to provide more consistency with the laws dealing with animals for all three entities involved in the District - Vernal City, Uintah County and Naples City. The Uintah Animal Special Service District is the organization that manages the animal shelter and provides animal control officers to take care of nuisance problems and make sure animals are properly cared for. Councilmember Dave Everett explained that when he was first assigned to represent the City on the Uintah Animal Special Service District, he went on a ride-along with Rick Bell so he would have a good understanding of what the animal control officers do. That experience helped with the preparation of this ordinance. The animal control officers actually cover 80,000 square miles and deal with all types of issues. Currently they may have a dispute on the same street and have to deal with two sets of rules for different entities. The District Board has spent over a year putting this ordinance together by hosting joint meetings with attorneys for each entity as well as the animal control, District director and the shelter manager. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan expressed her appreciation to the District for the services they provide. She noted that there are vast differences between animals in the City and animals in the County which is much less populated. One example is if a dog is barking in the County, it may not be a nuisance while in a subdivision of the City it will be disturbing to the neighbors. Councilmember Everett agreed and stated that the number of pets allowed in a household in Vernal City has always been 4, and it will remain up to each entity to decide how many animals are allowed in specific zones. Ken Bassett stated that the City Attorney indicated that the Council could designate different numbers in the zones of the City. Councilmember Cowan thought it would not be too complicated to designate a specific number of animals for each zone. She suggested the number of pets allowed remain at 4.

Councilmember JoAnn Cowan stated that one area that is not being addressed is wild animals such as skunks, raccoons, pigeons or prairie dogs. The animal control officers do not deal with them, nor does the Division of Wildlife Services. Mayor Norton agreed that there are other types of animals that affect the community. Ken Bassett suggested inviting representatives from the Animal District to discuss these challenges and how to address them. Councilmember Cowan stated that the other issue is the limited hours that the animal shelter is open to the public. It is difficult for people to adopt an animal when the shelter is only open on certain days. Mayor Norton agreed that the times for the shelter to be open needs to be geared toward the needs of the community. Councilmember Dave Everett stated this is a staffing issue that needs to be discussed. Ken Bassett indicated this ordinance will again be placed on the next agenda for review.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Special Council Meeting:

Ken Bassett reminded the Council that a special meeting has been scheduled for Monday, October 20th at 4 p.m. to consider two planning issues that require public hearings. He noted

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that Mr. Parker will take care of those items as he and the Mayor will be in Salt Lake for a meeting.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, Councilmember Samantha Scott 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:

Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

(S E A L)