

**M**INUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main, Vernal, Utah 84078.

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

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

**INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT:** An 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 NOVEMBER 5, 2014:** Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of November 5, 2014. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Cowan, Everett, Scott and Clark voting in favor.

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2014:** Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of November 13, 2014. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Cowan, Everett, Scott and Clark voting in favor, and Councilmember Munford abstaining.

**REQUEST FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY BY QUESTAR GAS:** Ken Bassett explained that the City received another request from Questar Gas for an easement on property owned by the City located at 500 North and 1500 East. The easement would go to the east 200 feet then takes a turn south over the road to the subdivision by 1500 East. The reason for the right-of-way is to install a 4 inch gas line along the edge of the property rather than put it in the roadway. There will be minimal impact on City property because it is on the edge. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to approve the easement for Questar at 500 North and 1500 East. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Cowan, Clark, Munford Everett and Scott voting in favor.

**APPOINTMENT TO UINTAH FIRE SUPPRESSION SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT BOARD:** Mayor Sonja Norton explained that Councilmember JoAnn Cowan has been representing the City on the Uintah Fire Suppression Special Service District for a four-year term that is set to expire. Mayor Norton indicated that she has asked JoAnn to continue to serve and she is willing to continue. Councilmember Dave Everett moved to support that appointment. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Cowan, Scott and Clark voting in favor.

Councilmember Cowan explained to the students present at the meeting that when the County set up the Special Service Districts, one member of the Council is appointed to each Board. Naples City and Ballard also have representatives on those Boards along with a County

Commissioner and a citizen-at-large. The Fire District has been able to build new fire stations in LaPoint and Jensen, a future one in Naples and remodel the stations in Vernal and Avalon. The next project will be to build a substation in Maeser so the District can provide better fire service in that area. The District can provide the equipment and materials, but the heart and soul are the volunteer fire fighters. She stated that it has been an honor to be on that Board and support those volunteers in the community.

**CDBG FUNDING & EXPENSES:** Ken Bassett explained that the City received funds through the Community Development Block Grant to make repairs to low income housing. The repairs included a new roof, heating and cooling system to a tri-plex owned by the Uintah Basin Assistance Counsel. The cost for those repairs was approximately \$25,000, and the grant was for \$30,000. The State of Utah does not want any funds returned and has agreed to allow the City to use the funds on a duplex owned by the Uintah Basin Assistance Counsel to repair the heating system. The cost to replace the boiler system with a force air heating and cooling system is \$18,000. He recommended using the remainder of the CDBG funds, taking \$10,000 out of the housing fund, and getting the remainder of the funds from the green space fund. Councilmember Clark asked if the green space fund can be replenished. Ken Bassett answered that is up to the Council. He noted that it is important to provide low income affordable housing for those that cannot afford more expensive rentals in Vernal City. Councilmember Bert Clark moved to make the necessary heating repairs as suggested taking the funds from the housing fund, green space fund and CDGB funds. 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 Scott.....aye.*  
*Councilmember Clark.....aye.*

**PUBLIC HEARING: REQUEST TO AMEND THE VERNAL CITY MUNICIPAL CODE - TITLE 16, PLANNING & ZONING - BUS SHELTERS - ORDINANCE NO. 2014-38:** Allen Parker presented a draft ordinance that is being proposed to allow bus shelters to be built in the City. He explained that the Planning Commission reviewed these proposed changes and are recommending that Section 16.28.085 be omitted which deals with signage. The purpose of the ordinance is to allow bus shelters to be placed along the right-of-ways as requested by the Basin Transit Association (BTA). Most zones of the City require a 30 foot setback which will not work for a bus shelter. This ordinance specifies in all zones that bus shelter can be placed five feet back from the curb or sidewalk without interfering with ADA requirements. Mayor Norton questioned why the Planning Commission opted to take the verbiage out on public necessity signs. Allen Parker answered that some of the members felt that was not the best section to add those requirements. There was some discussion regarding commercial advertising. Mayor Norton opened the public hearing. Hannah Lopez, 2381 East 5000 South, asked what will be allowed. Mayor Norton stated that the ordinance will allow bus shelters close to the roadway. Ms. Lopez asked where the shelters will be placed. Will they be in the center of the City or more rural areas? Mayor Norton noted that the bus route is in the main areas for now. She asked the students to

consider riding the bus. There being no further public comments, the public hearing was closed. Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve Ordinance No. 2014-38 excluding the section on necessity signs and adding other recommendations from the Planning Commission. 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 Scott.....aye.*  
*Councilmember Clark.....aye.*

**PUBLIC HEARING: REQUEST TO AMEND THE VERNAL CITY MUNICIPAL CODE - TITLE 16, PLANNING & ZONING - SIGNS IN RESIDENTIAL ZONES - ORDINANCE**

**NO. 2014-36:** Allen Parker explained that this draft ordinance would allow subdivision entrance signs in all residential zones, including mobile home parks. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if these are temporary or permanent signs. Allen Parker answered they will be permanent signs. Councilmember Clark asked if the installation is reviewed by the building inspector. Allen Parker stated yes and indicated that they are required to have a building permit and submit a site plan. Mayor Norton opened the public hearing, and explained they are discussing allowing signs to be placed in front of mobile home parks. There were no public comments and the public hearing was closed. Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve Ordinance No. 2014-36. Councilmember Bert Clark 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.*

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Transportation Funding:

Ken Bassett explained that as the 2015 legislative session gets closer, the Utah League of Cities and Towns and the Utah Association of Counties have come together to promote revenue sources for transportation systems for the State and local governments. Media press conferences will be held throughout the State, including Vernal, to promote additional revenue for transportation. The Vernal conference will be held on Friday at 11:00 in the community room. The Mayor, Senator VanTassell, and Commissioner Raymond will all speak and share concerns for funding.

Christmas Dinner:

Ken Bassett asked the Council to check their calendars for December 10<sup>th</sup> to attend the annual Christmas dinner at 6 pm at the Quarry.

Appreciation Dinner:

Ken Bassett reminded the Council that the employee appreciation dinner is scheduled for tomorrow night in the community room.

Student participation:

Councilmember Ted Munford voiced his appreciation for the high school students attending the meeting and asked them to consider participating in the political process and giving feedback. Mayor Norton agreed.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business, Councilmember Ted Munford moved to adjourn. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan 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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