

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD, DECEMBER 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main, Vernal, Utah 84078.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Ted Munford, JoAnn Cowan, Dave Everett, Samantha Scott and Bert Clark 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 DECEMBER 3, 2014: *Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to approve the minutes of December 3, 2014. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Cowan, Everett, Scott and Clark voting in favor.*

RECOGNITION OF GLADE ALLRED FOR HOLLY DAYS CELEBRATION – MAYOR NORTON: Mayor Norton stated that the City would like to recognize the work done by Glade Allred throughout the year for the Holly Days festival. He has been spearheading this event for the last eleven years with the help of his family. Glade Allred stated that his son, Dale Allred, has been the co-chair and through their tireless efforts the community is able to enjoy this show. Mayor Norton presented a poster to Dale and Glade for all their hard work. The Council and Mayor thanked the Allred’s for their contribution to the community.

REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP OF DINO TRI – KATIE BULLOCH: Erin Bradley stated that she and Katie Bulloch have taken over the dino-triathlon and requested the City sponsor the event in the amount of \$5,000. Councilmember Clark noted that the City contributed \$2000 last year. Erin Bradley stated they are hoping to have this event become a regional qualifier within the next few years. Councilmember Bert Clark asked what the schedule is for this event. Erin Bradley answered it is scheduled for the last weekend in June. *Councilmember Cowan stated that she appreciates Ms. Bradley and Ms. Bulloch’s work to keep this event going and moved to continue to support the Dino-tri with a \$2000 sponsorship, the same as in the past. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

Mayor Sonja Norton requested they report back to the Council after the event.

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
DECEMBER 17, 2014**

AMENDMENT TO THE VERNAL CITY PERSONNEL POLICIES & PROCEDURES - PROBATIONARY TIME FOR EMPLOYEES SELECTED OFF THE REAPPOINTMENT REGISTER RESOLUTION NO. 2014-21: Ken Bassett explained that the City has established a reappointment register for quite a long time, however, this is the first time that an employee who has left employment and then came back has asked that their probationary time be shortened to take in the amount of time they were originally employed. The reappointment register is for employees leaving in good standing, and their name remains on that hiring roster for a year. If a position is available and they want to come back, the Department Head can take them off the register if they are qualified. Recently a police officer resigned and within days he decided he wanted to come back. His year probation was almost completed so he questioned why he would have to start over. The current policy requires him to start over which sometimes policy gets in the way of good reasoning. Resolution No. 2014-21 allows an employee that is hired from the reappointment register for the same position, to not have to go through another probationary period. If that person has not finished their initial probationary period, they will be required to finish it. This policy will also apply to merit increases. *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve Resolution No. 2014-21 as presented. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Cowan.....aye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Scott.....aye
Councilmember Clark.....aye.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF ASHLEY ESTATES PHASE II TRANSFER OF IMPROVEMENTS: Allen Parker presented the request to accept the transfer of public improvements for Ashley Estates phase II completed by Kimball Glazier. The improvements were inspected and signed off by the City departments. These improvements are located at 1000 South on the east side of 500 West and include the cul-de-sac. Councilmember Bert Clark asked what the warranty period is. Allen Parker stated it is two years under the City code for all public infrastructure. Mayor Norton asked if the private drive meets the minimum access. Allen Parker stated it is 24 feet wide and does meet City standards. After further discussion *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to accept the transfer of the public infrastructure for Ashley Estates Phase II. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Cowan, Clark and Scott voting in favor.*

APPOINTMENT TO UINTAH IMPACT MITIGATION SSD – MAYOR NORTON: **Mayor** Norton stated that she has been serving on the Board for the Uintah Impact Mitigation Special Service District and would like to continue. *Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to accept the recommendation to reappoint Sonja Norton to the Uintah Impact Mitigation SSD Board. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Cowan, Munford, Everett, Scott and Clark voting in favor.*

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
DECEMBER 17, 2014**

REQUEST TO AMEND THE VERNAL CITY MUNICIPAL CODE – BUSINESS LICENSE REGULATIONS, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE & REGULATORY PROVISIONS- ORDINANCE NO. 2014-42:

Ken Bassett explained that the alcoholic beverage licensing provisions need to be revised to require applicants to comply with all federal, state and local regulations. If the businesses does not comply, that is grounds to revoke their business license. The second part of this ordinance eliminates the requirement for the City Council to approve alcohol licenses. Over the years the Council has gotten away from having to approve each and every license that came before the City. There is still one area where City Council reviews the license and can revoke it without good reason and that section should be changed. Mr. Tyler Orr asked for clarification on what this Ordinance will change. Ken Bassett explained it will change the language so when an applicant applies for a liquor license they have to comply with certain provisions through the State as well as the City. The staff handles the licensing process, and once the applicant has completed all the requirements, the license is issued. In the past the application went to the Council first. This ordinance changes one section that still required review by the Council. Councilmember Clark asked if there is any enforcement with the State or do they rely on Vernal City. Councilmember Everett stated that the Liquor Commission does annual and regular inspections for establishments and does a thorough job. Tyler Orr asked if the number of liquor licenses issued is based on population. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan answered yes - the State only allows so many liquor licenses with the majority of those being on the Wasatch Front. The City has not denied any licenses. *Councilmember Samantha Scott moved to approve Ordinance No. 2014-42. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Cowan.....aye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Scott.....aye
Councilmember Clark.....aye.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF SEWER RATES INCREASE VIA SEWER MANAGEMENT BOARD INCREASE – RESOLUTION NO. 2014-20:

Ken Bassett explained that the City received a notice from the Sewer Management Board that effective January 1st their fees will increase by 5% which is approximately \$45,000 to the City. That additional fee has been included on Resolution No. 2014-20 to keep up with what is needed to run the sewer utility. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan asked what the increased fee represents. Councilmember Bert Clark explained that the sewer treatment plant is at maximum capacity so the next section of the plant will need to be opened soon which will double the costs. Also, the plant is now twelve years old and some of the equipment is due to be replaced. Ken Basset asked if the Sewer Management Board funded depreciation. Councilmember Clark noted that with the downslide in the economy, they have not been able to fund all the depreciation. Councilmember Cowan asked if the increase applies to all three entities. Councilmember Clark answered yes, that Maeser, Vernal City and Ashley Valley will all receive fee increases. Councilmember Dave Everett stated that the EPA is also initiating new restrictions for phosphorous levels which is expensive to monitor. Councilmember Clark noted that the sewer rate will increase by 69 cents per household. Mike Davis asked the Council to round off the rate so it is easier to calculate. Councilmember JoAnn Cowan agreed that the sewer rate should be rounded to the 5 cent increment. Councilmember Everett noted that there has not been a rate

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
DECEMBER 17, 2014**

increase from the Sewer Management Board for seven years. After further discussion, *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve Resolution No. 2014-20 with the rates rounded out. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Cowan.....aye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Scott.....aye
Councilmember Clark.....aye.

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF TRANSPORTATION FUNDING SUPPORT –
RESOLUTION NO. 2014-22:**

Ken Bassett reminded the Council of the Unified Transportation Coalition which has been formed throughout the State in an effort to make residents as well as the Legislature aware of transportation funding needs for local and State governments. The citizens want well maintained roads, bridges and trails, and funding has been dwindling to take care of these needs. This year there is an effort by the Utah League of Cities and Towns and Utah Association of Counties as well as private businesses to approach the Legislature to pass legislation to provide more funding options for roads for local governments as well as the State. The main proposal is to increase the gas tax that the State imposes with that increase being used for State roads. In exchange, the Legislature would allow local governments to impose a .25% sales tax for maintenance and construction of roads in cities, towns and counties. Back in the 1990’s, Vernal City was fortunate to have a bond election voted on by the residents that allowed the City to impose a 1/4% tax and pay off a loan for road projects. Councilmember Clark stated this will equalize the funding for residents that drive the more expensive hybrids cars. Mayor Norton agreed that there are many different modes of transportation that do not use motorized vehicles and do not pay for the use of the roads through a gasoline tax. For Vernal, the money received from the gas tax only pays about 20% of the costs to maintain the roads. Therefore, it is important to support this funding request to the Legislature. *Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to support the transportation initiative with the Legislature and adopt Resolution No. 2014-22. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Cowan.....aye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Scott.....aye
Councilmember Clark.....aye.

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION 2015 MEETING
SCHEDULE – ORDINANCE NO. 2014-43:**

Ken Bassett explained that there is a statutory requirement for the Planning Commission and the City Council to adopt an annual meeting schedule every year. Although the Planning Commission has not forwarded a recommendation for their 2015 schedule yet, Ordinance No. 2014-43 has been drafted to set their 2015 schedule to be the same as 2014. If they determine a different time is needed, then the Council can change it. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve Ordinance No. 2014-43 setting the 2015*

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
DECEMBER 17, 2014**

meeting schedule for the Planning Commission. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL 2015 MEETING SCHEDULE –
ORDINANCE NO. 2014-41:** *Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to approve Ordinance No. 2014-41 setting the City Council meeting schedule for 2015. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS: Mayor Sonja Norton explained that several names have been brought forward to fill open positions on the Planning Commission. Those names are: Paul Boren, Zack Blackam, Forest Harris and Cam Pope. Councilmember Cowan suggested a female be appointed. Mayor Norton asked if the alternates should be moved up to the regular position and then appoint new members as alternates. Allen Parker stated that some of the alternates have a tough time meeting the schedule requirements. Councilmember Clark explained he spoke with Cam Pope, and he is interested in serving and recommended he be appointed. Mayor Norton stated that he is on the Recreation District Board as well. Allen Parker noted that Mr. Blackam is younger. Ken Bassett stated that Mr. Harris is the manager of AT & T. *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to appoint Cam Pope to the Planning Commission. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. There was some discussion regarding appointing Mr. Pope as a regular member or an alternate. Councilmember Clark amended his motion to appoint Mr. Pope as an alternate member of the Planning Commission. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Clark, Munford, Scott, Everett and Cowan voting in favor.*

The consensus of the Council was to contact the alternates to see if they would be willing to serve as regular members and contact the other people mentioned to see if they had the time to serve. Councilmember Ted Munford recommended contacting Scott Gessell with Tri-County Health as well. Allen Parker noted that the Planning Commission members are required to attend 80% of the meetings while alternates do not have that same requirement. However, they need to have the same amount of training and be prepared to vote. It was suggested that alternates members have the same attendance requirement.

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
DECEMBER 17, 2014**

Administrative Reports:

Road Department:

Councilmember Clark praised the road department for their quick work after the last storm in sanding the roads.

Christmas Holiday:

Roxanne Behunin expressed the employee's appreciation for the extra time off to celebrate Christmas.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, Councilmember Ted Munford 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)