

MINUTES OF THE JOINT VERNAL CITY COUNCIL AND UINTAH COUNTY COMMISSION, SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 15, 2015 AT 3:30 P.M. IN THE UINTAH COUNTY CONFERENCE ROOM AT 147 EAST MAIN ST, VERNAL, UTAH.

PRESENT:

Uintah County: Commissioners Bill Stringer, Mark Raymond and Mike McKee.

Vernal City: Councilmembers Samantha Scott, Dave Everett, Bert Clark and JoAnn Cowan and Mayor Sonja Norton.

Staff and Guests: Steve Evans, Laura Brummond and Kevin Yack with Uintah Basin Association of Governments, Mayor Dean Baker - Naples City, Jessica Bowden with Chamber of Commerce, Adam Massey - Special Service District, Ken Bassett and Roxanne Behunin - Vernal City, Nick Jarvis, Utah League of Cities and Towns.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING: *Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to approve the special meeting of June 15, 2015. Commissioner Mark Raymond seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Stringer, Raymond & McKee and Councilmembers Scott, Everett, Clark and Cowan voting in favor.*

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 11, 2015: Commissioner Raymond asked that the direction for the truck route show east to west as the beginning point. With that correction, *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of May 11, 2015. Commissioner Bill Stringer seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Raymond, Stringer & McKee and Councilmembers Scott, Everett, Clark and Cowan voting in favor.*

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AGREEMENT: Steve Evans, past-president of the Vernal Area Chamber of Commerce, updated the elected officials on the funding agreement for the Chamber. He noted that without the support of the local government entities, the Chamber would not be able to provide the needed services to the business community and visitors. He explained that a presentation was made to Naples City for funding as they provide services to businesses in their community as well. Also, a new director has been appointed - Mr. Joel Brown who was working for Anadarko. Commissioner Raymond thanked Mr. Evans for his years of service on the Board of Directors of the Chamber and his input on the new funding agreement. John Stermer, Uintah County Attorney, stated he has been working on this agreement, however, with the change in State law that requires additional transparency, an interlocal agreement would actually create another entity where the funds are transferred from government agency to government agency. He stated the agreement can also be drafted as an MOU with a justified donation going to a private entity which then eliminates the public meeting requirements for the Chamber of Commerce. Steve Evans stated the Chamber will do whatever is decided by the City and the County.

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VERNAL CITY APPROVAL:

After further discussion, *Councilmember JoAnn Cowan moved to use an MOU to enter into an agreement with the Chamber for funding purposes. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Cowan, Clark, Everett and Scott voting in favor.*

Adam Massey explained that the Chamber of Commerce is actually a 501C-6 organization which is a special category allowing for membership. The City and the County have the right to ask the Chamber to provide specific services, as well as the membership.

UINTAH COUNTY APPROVAL:

Commissioner Mark Raymond moved to use an MOU to enter into an agreement with the Chamber of Commerce for funding purposes. Commissioner Bill Stringer seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Raymond, Stringer and McKee voting in favor.

Mayor Dean Baker stated that Naples City is interested in participating and will discuss the funding at their next meeting.

AIRPORT UPDATE:

Commissioner Mark Raymond explained they have been in constant contact with Great Lakes to get a firm date on when they will start air service to Vernal. Unfortunately they are still unable to give a start date, but are optimistic that they will be able to start providing service next week. There was some discussion regarding the requirements for pilots. Commissioner Raymond explained Sky West exercised their termination clause in their contract to provide air service to Vernal once the FAA denied the request for them to use jets in Vernal.

Commissioner Raymond stated that the attorneys are still working on an Interlocal Agreement to transfer the management of the airport to the Uintah Transportation Special Service District. Loren Anderson stated he is working on the agreement with Gayle McKeanchnie, attorney for the District, and Dennis Judd, attorney for Vernal City, and is close to a final draft. The hope is to have the agreement finalized by July 1st.

UBTA PRESENTATION - BUS ROUTE:

Commissioner Mark Raymond explained that a few years ago the decision was made to implement the Basin Transit System with UBAG managing the program. Laurie Brummond explained that both Duchesne and Uintah Counties pay for the program, and there are a lot of people traveling to Vernal. The program has had a slow growth with more use on the Vernal loop now that there is no fare being charged. Commissioner Mark Raymond stated the Vernal loop has a lot of use from the disabled or handicapped residents. Also, one unintended benefit is the area can show steps are being taken to improve air quality. Councilmember Bert Clark noted that the benches have helped a lot for patrons to have a place to wait for the bus. Commissioner Raymond stated more benches are needed and possibly organizations will be willing to purchase outside benches as their way of supporting this program. Councilmember Dave Everett asked if

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there are maps available for the bus routes. Kevin Yack answered that the map is on their Facebook page and web page. Jessica Bowden stated the Chamber of Commerce also has the maps and passes.

TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX - HB 362:

Nick Jarvis, with Utah League of Cities and Towns, explained that House Bill 362 has two parts. The first section deals with gas tax reform changing the 25.4% tax to a 12% tax on the rack price of gas in the State. This change actually created a 4.9 cent tax increase with 30% of those funds going to local governments in the form of B & C road funds. Commissioner McKee stated that change is effective in January. Nick Jarvis stated that the second part of that bill is to allow the counties to levy an additional .25% tax after approval of the voters with the funds being split between the cities, county and any transit system in place. These funds have different rules and an expanded definition of transportation including trails, parking structure etc. The amount of money currently budgeted for the maintenance of transportation in the general funds for local governments must continue through 2020. Some counties want to place this issue on the ballot this year, and some are waiting to see if Salt Lake County will approve it this year. The Transportation Coalition has a handout and funds to help finance a campaign and will likely use those funds the year Salt Lake County puts this issue on the ballot. The transit system in the Basin is unique as it is in two separate counties. The questions concerning this tax is can those funds be used in the entire service area or only within the boundaries of the county where the tax has been approved by the voters. Several attorneys have weighed in on this issue and have different opinions. Commissioner McKee stated that a meeting was held with the Uintah County elected officials on this ballot issue, and although Uintah County does not gain a lot with this tax, the County is willing to put it on the ballot and let the voters decide this year. The County is also considering another provision on this ballot. Duchesne County has also indicated they will put this issue on the ballot this year. Laurie Brummond stated that UBAG will have to keep track of the tax funding per county. The current route does not include Naples City, however, they are thinking of expanding into that area. Mayor Dean Baker stated that would be a big factor for the voters of Naples to support this tax. Councilmember Cowan stated that getting taxpayers to sign on for a tax increase is tough and asked who would educate the public. Adam Massey stated that he understood that the entities involved cannot lobby for this tax. However, the Transportation District may be able to coordinate with the Transportation Coalition as it is in the best interest of the District to maintain roads and transportation. Councilmember Cowan asked if BTA or the Special Transportation District is prohibited from campaigning. Nick Jarvis stated that no public funds can be expended once the issue is on the ballot. Councilmember Cowan stated the Uintah School District had an ad hoc committee to help with their last bond issue. Adam Massey suggested that the Transportation Coalition do a public presentation to explain the need for this measure to pass. He stated that the SSD Board can expend funds. Councilmember Dave Everett asked if this proposition does not pass, can it be placed on the ballot again. Nick Jarvis answered yes. Mayor Dean Baker asked what the deadline is to put it on the ballot this year. Nick Jarvis stated the counties must make a decision in August. Commissioner McKee stated it would be valuable to have the city's request that this be placed on the ballot.

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ADJOURN: There being no further business; Commissioner Mark Raymond moved to adjourn. Commissioner Bill Stringer seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote and the meeting was declared adjourned.

Ken Bassett, City Recorder