

**M**INUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD  
JANUARY 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main,  
Vernal, Utah 84078.

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

**WELCOME:** Mayor Sonja 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 Councilmember Samantha Scott.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 16, 2015 REGULAR MEETING:** Councilmember Bert Clark asked that the minutes reflect why he abstained from voting to approve the Council committee assignments, as he was not contacted by the Mayor. *Councilmember Samantha Scott moved to approve the minutes of December 16, 2015. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Allan, Everett, Scott, and Clark voting in favor for a unanimous vote.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 4, 2016 SPECIAL MEETING:** *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the minutes of January 4, 2016. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Allan, Everett and Scott voting in favor. Councilmembers Clark and Munford abstained as they were not at the meeting. The motion passed with a majority vote.*

**CDBG PRIORITY LIST FOR 2016 PROJECTS:** Ken Bassett explained that the Community Development Block Program was initiated by the federal government for local governments to make improvements specifically for low income residents. The emphasis for this funding is for low to moderate income housing improvements, and the City has been focusing on these type of projects utilizing these funds. In the past the funds were used to purchase the women's shelter, remodel existing low-income housing owned by the Uintah Basin Assistance Counsel, and purchased property where Vernal Garden apartments were developed. Councilmember Bert Clark asked how much money the City received. Ken Bassett stated the City received approximately \$100,000 for the women's shelter with the City also contributing toward that project. The Uintah Basin only receives approximately \$400,000 a year, and all entities have to compete for the funds. The City needs to submit a priority list to the Uintah Basin Association of Governments for these funds, and the only project so far is to renovate and improve housing owned by the Uintah Basin Assistance Counsel. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if the list can be expanded once it is submitted. Ken Bassett stated yes, although another meeting will need to be held to amend the list. Councilmember Clark asked if the funds could be used to help low income individuals with furnaces, windows, fix bathrooms etc. Councilmember Dave Everett noted those types of repairs would fall under low income housing which is on the list. Ken Bassett explained that type of work is more of a challenge with qualifying the homeowners.

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*Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the list for the CDBG program as presented. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Everett, Allan, Scott and Clark voting in favor for a unanimous vote.*

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF UDOT SAFETY SIDEWALK GRANT:** Mayor Norton explained that this project would be next to Discovery Elementary and would include curb, gutter, sidewalk and a bike lane. Ken Bassett explained that UDOT has limited funds for safety sidewalk projects or in this case, projects associated with safe pedestrian flow of students to and from schools. The most notable instance of the use of these funds in Vernal is on 500 North by the park along State Road 121. The last few years, The School District has reduced the number of students that are bussed to Discovery requiring kids to walk, ride bikes or have parents transport them. When school lets out, there is a lot of traffic for a 15 minute period where kids are walking through cars to get where they want to go. The City has been working with the Principal and Superintendent to create a better traffic flow and walking pattern for the students. Ken Bassett introduced Sarah Gray, who works for Workforce Services, and took on this challenging issue, volunteering her time to help come up with a plan for Discovery Elementary. She applied for the grant with UDOT, and the funds were awarded for this project with an estimated cost of \$200,000. There is a matching requirement of 6.77% which is approximately \$14,000. Sarah Gray explained that she had two children attending Discovery and still has one there who likes to walk. There is around 100 vehicles traveling through a small subdivision and 200 to 250 kids walking after school. She noted that with her experience in policy, she was able to coordinate crossing guards, and now apply for this grant which required a complete plan on how many kids from each direction are walking in this area. Clint Allen, engineer for this project, explained the sidewalk will be 4 feet wide with a half foot curb and gutter. Councilmember Travis Allan asked if the sidewalk would be placed on both sides of the street. Clint replied that it would be on the south side of 1200 South off 500 West. After further discussion, *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve and accept the grant from UDOT with the necessary matching funds. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Dinosaur Inn report:

Allen Parker stated that the code enforcement officer is looking at this property and is working with the property owner to clean it up.

Vernal City Excitement

Councilmember Samantha Scott explained that an implementation meeting will be held on

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February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4 pm at Spoof's Coffee Shop and invited everyone to join in. This program sponsors free events each Thursday night through June and July at the park by the library.

Open House

Councilmember Everett reminded everyone of JoAnn Cowan's open house on the 13<sup>th</sup> from 4 pm to 6 pm here at City Hall

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business, *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to adjourn. Councilmember Dave Everett 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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