

1. 4:30 P.M. Special Joint City / County Meeting

Documents:

[2019-02-25 JOINT CITY-COUNTY MEETING AGENDA.PDF](#)  
[2019-02-25 JOINT CITY-COUNTY MEETING PACKET.PDF](#)

# **NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**TO THE RESIDENTS OF UINTAH COUNTY AND VERNAL CITY:** Notice is hereby given that the Vernal City Council and the Uintah County Commission will hold a Special Joint Meeting on *Monday, February 25, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. in the Vernal City Community Room - 374 East Main St, Vernal, Utah.*

## **A G E N D A**

**4:30 P.M.**

### **STANDING BUSINESS**

1. ACKNOWLEDGMENT & APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2019

### **SCHEDULED PUBLIC BUSINESS**

1. BTA SERVICES AND FUNDING IN UINTAH COUNTY

### **ADJOURN**

\*NOTE: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations during this meeting should notify Quinn Bennion at 374 East Main St, Vernal, Utah 84078, telephone: (435) 789-2255.

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1 **M**INUTES OF THE JOINT VERNAL CITY COUNCIL AND UTAH COUNTY  
2 COMMISSION MEETING HELD JANUARY 28, 2019 at 4:30 pm in the Uintah  
3 County Conference room 147 East Main, Vernal UT 84078

4  
5 **PRESENT:**

6 **VERNAL CITY:** Councilmembers Bert Clark, Dave Everett, Ted Munford, Travis  
7 Allan and Mayor Doug Hammond.

8  
9 **UINTAH COUNTY:** Commissioners Bill Stringer, Brad Horrocks and Bart Haslem.

10  
11 **STAFF:** Quinn Bennion, Roxanne Behunin, Cheryl Meier, Mike Wilkins, Mike Davis,  
12 Barbara Simper, Wendy Long, Brenda McDonald and John Stermer.

13  
14 **GUESTS:** Dan Dilsaver, Steve Evans, Josh Bake, Robin O'Driscoll, Alicen Hatch,  
15 Brian Gorum, Jeremy Raymond, Kent Bunderson, Bob Abercrombie, Hillary Price, Jim  
16 Readhead, Tina Williams, Cam Pope, Ed Zurbuchan, Pam Cinch, Dean Baker, Joel  
17 Brown, Sonja Norton,

18  
19 **WELCOME: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING:**  
20 *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve this special meeting. Councilmember Dave*  
21 *Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Stringer, Horrocks &*  
22 *Haslem and Councilmembers Clark, Everett and Munford voting in favor. Councilmember*  
23 *Travis Allan was not present for the vote.*

24  
25 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 26, 2018:** *Commissioner Brad Horrocks*  
26 *moved to approve the minutes of November 26, 2018. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the*  
27 *motion. The motion passed with the motion passed with Commissioners Stringer, Horrocks &*  
28 *Haslem and Councilmembers Clark, Everett and Munford voting in favor. Councilmember*  
29 *Travis Allan was not present for the vote.*

30  
31 **SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICTS BUDGET AND OUTLOOK:** Commissioner Bill Stringer  
32 reported that the most recent calculations for the mineral lease funding shows a shortfall of  
33 \$250,000 from the budgeted amount of \$13 million dollars. Another payment was received;  
34 however there is still a shortfall. In 2014 the funding was \$36 million dollars and each district  
35 received a percentage which was more than enough to fund each District, put money in reserve  
36 and pay for capital improvements. Those funds fell to \$18 million dollars the next year and the  
37 Districts continued to spend. In 2016 the funding fell to \$9 million dollars. That year the  
38 Animal District would run out of funding in November and the Fire District would only last  
39 through the following March so the Commission found it necessary to make changes to the  
40 allocations and the percentage was changed to a fix amount for those two Districts along with the  
41 Health Care District. In 2017, the Animal District was set at \$61,000 a month, the Fire District  
42 at \$116,000 a month and the Health Care at \$100,000. Those fixed amounts were taken out of  
43 the equation and the remaining Districts receive a percentage of the remaining funds.  
44 Unfortunately with those fixed amounts, the Districts cannot purchase equipment and the other  
45 Districts are using reserve funds to balance their budgets. The Fire District cannot put resources  
46 toward replacing necessary equipment to protect the community so the fixed amounts are not a

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47 permanent solution. He noted that in order to continue to provide services, funding may be  
48 needed from other sources, spending has to be reduced or services may need to be moved back to  
49 the County or Cities. Another option to consider is to change to taxing districts. Also this year  
50 the fund disbursement was changed from one State agency to another and they are still struggling  
51 to get the funds dispersed on time.

52  
53 Tina Williams, Director of the Animal Services District, stated that the Animal District is the  
54 only one that has been considered to be disbanded even though they have remained under  
55 budget.

56  
57 Commissioner Stringer stated that the question is what happens if the numbers continue in a  
58 downward direction. Even if the Animal District is dissolved there is not enough funds from that  
59 District to fix the problems. He noted that all the Districts and agencies need to start thinking  
60 about how to fix the financial issues and what happens to the debt. Councilmember Ted  
61 Munford asked now that the airport has met the enplanement goal, will the funds for that help  
62 offset the expenses at the airport. Dan Dilsaver, Transportation District Board member,  
63 answered that those funds cannot be used for airport operation expenses.

64  
65 Cheryl Meier, Transportation District Director, stated that they received \$4.519 million dollars,  
66 but they have four bond payments that total \$2.1 million dollars. The other obligations for the  
67 District include the BTA and the airport. Dan Dilsaver stated the airport is costing \$831,000 a  
68 year to operate. Cheryl Meier stated with the airport debt the cost is closer to \$1.6 million  
69 dollars.

70  
71 Commissioner Stringer emphasized that this discussion cannot be put off as every District can  
72 make their case for funding to provide services. He asked the Districts to look at projects that  
73 possibly they have committed to that they should not be doing right now. Cheryl Meier agreed  
74 there are projects they will not be able to do unless they receive grant funding. Dan Dilsaver  
75 stated they used \$600,000 in reserves to balance the 2019 budget.

76  
77 Robin O'Dricoll, director of the Recreation District, stated that they have a deficit of \$488,000  
78 that came out of savings last year. Three loans are outstanding requiring a payment of \$366,000  
79 per year. There are many services that the community wants such as the splash park, arts  
80 council, recreation center, golf course and parks.

81  
82 Commissioner Stringer asked at the current rate of spending, when the Districts would run out of  
83 fund balance. Cheryl Meier stated the Transportation District could run for 3 or 4 years. Robin  
84 O'Driscoll stated the Recreation District, with no catastrophic items, would survive less than 5  
85 years. Commissioner Haslem clarified this is going off current budgets. Robin answered yes.

86  
87 Jeremy Raymond, Director of the Fire District, stated that the current financial situation for this  
88 District is unsustainable and unappropriated funds will be gone in three to four years. The Fire  
89 District does not have any debt except the ladder truck. The main expense for the District is  
90 paying the fire fighters. There has not been any capital project funding so they have not been  
91 able to rotate equipment such as the SCBA - breathing apparatuses and fire suits. Brian Gorum,  
92 Fire District Board member, explained that it is mandatory to replace that equipment every ten

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93 years. Jeremy Raymond noted that the pumper trucks, water tenders and other vehicles also need  
94 to be replaced as some of them are over 20 years old. Commissioner Stringer stated that with the  
95 current fund balance, the Fire District was almost insolvent. Jeremy Raymond stated they have  
96 \$500,000 in savings.  
97

98 Kent Bunderson, Impact Mitigation District Director, stated that their role is to promote higher  
99 education and they work with USU and UBTECH toward that goal as well as the air quality  
100 studies. He noted that their story is similar to the other Districts with the greatest challenge  
101 being the bond debt which is close to \$1.5 million per year. This year \$75,000 of saving was  
102 needed to balance the budget and they can go another 2 to 2.5 years. The bonds for USU and  
103 UBTECH will be paid off in 4 to 5 years. The conference center will take longer.  
104

105 Alicen Hatch, Director of the Health Care District stated that this District is unique as it runs  
106 both the Care Center and the Golden Age Center. The annual allotment for funding is usually  
107 around \$1.2 million dollars with \$804,000 of that funding for the Golden Age Center. The Care  
108 Center had a shortfall this last year although it does not have any debt. There is funding in an  
109 account for the Care Center from the former tax, but those funds can only be used by the Care  
110 Center.  
111

112 Sonja Norton asked if there is any federal funding available. Alicen Hatch responded that they  
113 do receive federal funding with Medicare, and State funding for the Golden Age Center for  
114 specific programs such as the buses and home delivered meals. Commissioner Stringer stated  
115 that will be part of the strategy to look for grant funds.  
116

117 Tina Williams stated that the Animal District only has one debt for the shelter building in the  
118 amount of \$70,000 with a payment of \$10,000 a year. A number of capital projects have been  
119 put on hold although vehicles need replaced. The hope is with careful management to end the  
120 year 5% under budget.  
121

122 Commissioner Stringer asked the officials to consider how to avoid getting to a threshold of  
123 needing major help before one of the Districts fail. He asked all the members to strategize ideas  
124 and come up with options before running out of funds over the next three to four years. If one of  
125 the Districts has to charge taxes, he does not want to tell the residents that is the only option. He  
126 noted that some of the Districts have been more frugal than others, and there are essential  
127 services that it is going to be hard to provide with no funding. Councilmember Ted Munford  
128 stated he appreciates the work of the Special Service Districts and their Boards with limited  
129 funding and noted that the City is in the same situation. Also, as a local business owner, he  
130 understands that certain business strategies do not work for all and staffing is always the largest  
131 cost. Commissioner Stringer stated that the District Boards make the decisions and need to  
132 realize the gravity of the situation and work together to solve the problem or it will get severe.  
133 He suggested a small committee work together and discussion options as one of the biggest  
134 impacts will be on the Cities. Mike Davis suggested the financial people get together and  
135 discuss options also. Commissioner Stringer displayed a spreadsheet produced by the State  
136 Division of Financial Services showing how the funds are split between federal, state and local  
137 entities. He asked each entity to send him a name of who will be representing them on this

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138 funding committee. Commissioner Horrocks asked that they report back. The consensus was to  
139 add this to the March agenda for the joint City / County meeting.

140  
141 Dean Baker, Naples City Mayor, stated he remembers when the Special Service Districts were  
142 set up and one question was what happens when the funding gets tough and there was no answer.  
143 The Community Impact Board also does not have a lot of funds in the grant pool so they are  
144 pushing loans. Bob Abercrombie, Ballard Mayor, agreed that these are trying times. Mayor  
145 Doug Hammond thanked the Commission for holding this meeting so everyone can see what is  
146 happening.

147  
148 **PUBLIC NOTICES:** Commissioner Stringer explained that the County noticed that many of the  
149 public notices no longer have to be placed in the newspaper or can be shortened to refer to the  
150 entities website. John Stermer suggested there be enough information to meet the requirement of  
151 the law and extended information be on the website. For example, if the County wants to rebuild  
152 a roof, the newspaper notice should show the deadline for submission of a bid, but the  
153 specifications will be on the website. Tina Williams asked if they can simply refer them to the  
154 State public notice website. John Stermer stated it depends on the notice as some require enough  
155 information in the paper so when someone reads it they can easily see the dates, times and  
156 locations. Jeremy Raymond stated if there is a fee increase for a District there are specific  
157 directions for the notice. John Stermer agreed there are times the notice must be more concise in  
158 the newspaper. Quinn Bennion stated that the City looked at the costs and it has increased  
159 slightly over the last few years.

160  
161 **DISCUSSION ABOUT WATER SITUATION FOR IRRIGATION - RECREATION**  
162 **DISTRICT:** Robin O'Driscoll stated that as they look at the Recreation District budget, they  
163 noticed that they pay \$300,000 a year for utilities. One question is if there is no irrigation water  
164 this year how do they water the park. Cam Pope stated that about \$200,000 of that cost is water  
165 for the Vernal City parks. He noted that the City will not allow them to regulate fireworks so  
166 who is in charge of the park and is there a cheaper way to water the lawn. Quinn Bennion stated  
167 that culinary water is too expensive. Robin O'Driscoll stated they know they will not have  
168 enough irrigation water this year with the work on Steinaker Dam. Quinn Bennion asked if the  
169 School District is paying anything for their use of the culinary water through the irrigation  
170 system. Robin answered no, that they will be installing a meter to take care of that issue. She  
171 stated that they maintain 9 parks and will be going back to each entity asking for help. Quinn  
172 Bennion stated that this issue has been discussed before and from the City's perspective the  
173 District is asking Vernal City water users to cover the cost for the entire community who utilizes  
174 the park. Councilmember Bert Clark stated that the City can help maximize what irrigation  
175 water they use, but there is a cost to the City for culinary water. Councilmember Ted Munford  
176 agreed that the City has to pay for the water and does not make money on it. Commissioner  
177 Horrocks agreed there will be more costs to pump water next year.

178  
179 **DISCUSSION ABOUT DOWNTOWN BIKE LANES AND PARKING,**  
180 **CONFIGURATION ON 100 EAST:** Quinn Bennion explained that there is a downtown  
181 partnership with the Trails Committee to install bike lanes in the downtown area. The idea is to  
182 install lanes on 100 South and 100 North, and also on 100 East. That area is currently striped for  
183 parallel parking and possibly will be changed to angled parking. The users are mostly County

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184 employees so the City would like to know how they would respond to a different configuration,  
185 and possibly backing in. Brian Gorum asked how many additional parking spaces would be  
186 added. Quinn Bennion stated he did not know yet. Mr. Gorum stated he sees issues with  
187 requiring vehicles to back in.

188  
189

190 **ADJOURN:** There being no further business, Councilmember Bert Clark moved to adjourn.  
191 Commissioner Brad Horrocks seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote  
192 and the meeting was adjourned.

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196 Quinn Bennion, City Recorder

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202  
203

*Awaiting Formal Approval*