

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, July 22, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. in the Uintah County Conference Room, 2nd Floor - 147 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 JUNE 24, 2019

SCHEDULED PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION ABOUT TRANSPORTATION TAX (UTAH CODE 59-12-2219)
2. UPDATE ON CENTRAL CANAL PIPING PROJECT
3. DISCUSSION ABOUT USE OF PUBLIC TRAFFIC CONTROL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR AREA RACES
4. UPDATE ON THE BALANCE UTAH INITIATIVE

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.

1 **M**INUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL AND UINTAH COUNTY
2 COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING HELD JUNE 24, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. in
3 the Vernal City Planning & Zoning Conference Room at 374 East Main Street,
4 Vernal, Utah 84078.

5
6 **PRESENT:**

7
8 **VERNAL CITY:** Councilmembers Dave Everett, Travis Allan, Bert Clark, Ted
9 Munford and Mayor Doug Hammond. Councilmember Samantha Scott was excused.

10
11 **UINTAH COUNTY:** Commissioners Brad Horrocks and Bart Haslem. Commissioner
12 Bill Stringer was excused.

13
14 **STAFF:** Quinn Bennion, John Stermer, Sylvia Wilkins and Sherri Montgomery.

15
16 **GUESTS:** Tina Williams, Tyson Todd, Kent Bunderson, Geoff Liesik, Jeremy
17 Raymond, Robin O'Driscoll, Joel Brown, Cheryl Meier, and Naples City Mayor Dean
18 Baker.

19
20 **WELCOME:** Mayor Hammond welcomed everyone to this meeting.

21
22 **ACKNOWLEDGMENT & APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING BY UINTAH COUNTY**
23 **COMMISSION:** *Commissioner Brad Horrocks moved to acknowledge and approve the special*
24 *meeting. Commissioner Bart Haslem seconded the motion. The motion passed with*
25 *Commissioners Brad Horrocks and Bart Haslem voting in favor.*

26
27 **DISCUSSION ABOUT TRANSPORTATION TAX (UTAH CODE 59-12-2219):** John
28 Stearmer, Uintah County Attorney, gave a report that he has been working with the Uintah County
29 Commissioners, Quinn Bennion, and Dennis Judd to go through the State statute as to what the
30 financial impact would be under different scenarios in regards to Utah Code 59-12-2219. Mr.
31 Stermer stated that this has been an issue for several years on the State Sales and Use Tax
32 specifically tied to the transportation needs. It has been to the voters in different jurisdictions, and
33 the State has passed another version of the law that was effective June 30, 2019 and then a new
34 statute that would take effect July 1, 2019. Mr. Stermer explained that there was a meeting with
35 himself, Quinn Bennion, Dennis Judd, Mike Wilkins and Mike Davis to discuss both scenarios on
36 what it would mean if they acted before July 1st and if they acted after July 1st. It became apparent
37 from a County's perspective that the ability to use this money for airport purposes was a prime
38 reason to even consider this Sales and Use Tax, and because of the changes the State Legislature
39 made that could only occur after July 1, 2019. Therefore, the Commissioners agreed to slow it
40 down if they wanted to spend this money on airport services. Mr. Stermer stated that they wanted
41 to start having joint meetings with other government entities such as the County and municipalities
42 to go over the State statute, the financial impacts and how the money is divided as per State law, as
43 well as what the money could be spent on. Quinn Bennion discussed the draft figures for the
44 Transportation Option Sales Tax that was put together with the help of Mike Wilkins. Mr.
45 Bennion reiterated that these figures were strictly draft figures only and will need to be refined in
46 the future. Mr. Stermer mentioned that the starting numbers had to come from somewhere, and
47 these drafted numbers were from the computation from 2017 during the first time that it went to
48 the voters and then based on the new numbers that was coming in. These are very conservative

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL AND UINTAH COUNTY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING HELD JUNE 24, 2019**

49 numbers used in different scenarios. Mr. Stermer refers to Title 59 (Revenue and Taxation)
50 Chapter 12 (Sales and Use Tax Act) Part 22 (Local Option Sales and Use Taxes for Transportation
51 Act) and the core of it is in section 22.19 and explained that this part is effective July 1, 2019. Mr.
52 Stermer reads the definition of “eligible political subdivision”. Vernal City, Naples City and
53 Ballard would be an “eligible political subdivision” to the extent that they are or would contribute
54 to BTA or public transit. Uintah County does not have a public transit district; however, they do
55 provide services.

56
57 Mr. Stermer explained that there are several sections in 22.19 that do not apply to our local entities.
58 In Section 7, we have Subsection 7(a) and this one goes off of the total number collected of
59 \$1,655,200 found in the draft estimates under 6(b)(3). Mr. Stermer explained that in any given
60 year an amount of sales tax is generated and under 7(a) explains how it is distributed under a 50/50
61 formula with 50% based off population and 50% based off of point of sale on the first .1% which is
62 basically the first 40% of the tax. Under that scenario, Uintah County would receive \$231,000,
63 Vernal City \$264,800, Naples City \$139,000 and Ballard \$26,500. Mr. Stermer stated that the
64 money is strictly for the purposes as outlined in State Code, such as Class B and Class C roads and
65 in addition, airport services which is a new addition effective July 1, 2019. Mr. Stermer referred
66 to 8(d) which determines that the County legislative body makes a determination on how much is
67 going to transportation services to Uintah Basin Association of Government (UBAOG) for transit
68 service at the estimated number of \$262,000 which is a complete approximation that would be
69 used for the bus service. The remainder of the money is distributed just like in 7(a) with the 50/50
70 formula. Uintah County would receive \$70,900, Vernal City \$80,000, Naples City \$42,000, and
71 Ballard \$8,000. The other 50% remaining goes directly to Uintah County.

72
73 Councilmember Bert Clark asked if the money distributed to UBAOG would be for the transit
74 system to operate in Uintah County only or for the whole system. Mr. Stermer stated within
75 Uintah County only. Commissioner Horrocks asked what the money could be used for from
76 Uintah County, Vernal City, Naples City, and Ballard. Mr. Stermer explained that it would be the
77 same as in Section 7(a) for Class B and Class C roads. Mr. Bennion mentioned that the \$200,000
78 to Uintah County is unrestricted, and they can do anything they want with it. Commissioner Bart
79 Haslem confirmed that the \$262,000 to UBAOG funds the BTA and bus routes that are already
80 established. Cheryl Meier mentioned that currently they are spending \$190,000. Commissioner
81 Haslem stated that they need to set money aside to buy new buses. Commissioner Horrocks
82 mentioned that the new buses currently are funded out of revitalization; however, that fund is
83 becoming depleted. Therefore, new buses going forward will need to come out of this money.
84 Mr. Stermer explained that the \$200,000 that would go to Uintah County under Section 8(d) could
85 go either way. Section 6(b)(3) is clearly for unrestricted purposes; however, for Uintah County,
86 most of the money spent will be for transportation services anyway, so basically it is a non-issue at
87 this point. Mr. Stermer stated that the numbers deal with the top 80%, and the remaining 20%
88 under Section 6(b)(3) goes to the Uintah County legislative body which has been projected at
89 \$331,000. Commissioner Horrocks asked what that money could be used for. Mr. Stermer
90 mentioned that the money is completely unrestricted. Commissioner Horrocks asked if Mr.
91 Stermer is unsure about the \$200,000 under Section 8(d). Mr. Stermer explained that it is binding
92 the distribution to eligible subdivisions and is still secured to that transportation component.

93

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL AND UTAH COUNTY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING HELD JUNE 24, 2019**

94 Mr. Stermer explained that with the other scenario, the County has until July 1, 2020 or the cities
95 can, on their own, impose a Sales and Use Tax, which is a whole other distribution that sends a lot
96 more money by statute to UBAOG for transit services. Mr. Bennion added that the distribution
97 would be 50% to the City and 50% to UBAOG. Commissioner Haslem mentioned that they
98 discussed that the \$262,000 under Section 6(b)(3) could actually be a percentage instead of
99 number to UBAOG. Mr. Stermer stated that he believed based on the statute that it could be a
100 percentage based figure, which would mean the money would fluctuate based on the sales tax
101 coming in. Mr. Bennion mentioned that whether it is set at a dollar amount or a percentage, once
102 it is set and not at 100%, it cannot be changed without a public vote. Mr. Stermer stated that is
103 correct. Commissioner Horrocks mentioned that his concern is that the right formula is in place
104 to set aside for buses. There is no public bus service in Uintah County; therefore, the usage of the
105 BTA will continue to increase. Ms. Meier pointed out that they are constantly looking for new
106 bus routes. Commissioner Horrocks stated that Naples City and Ballard may want a route, and
107 the \$262,000 also needs to cover the care center's bus system; therefore, that figure is really hard
108 to guess. Mr. Bennion stated that it is difficult to predict what that BTA will look like in 15 or 20
109 years. Mr. Bennion added that it makes sense to set the figure really high, and the UBAOG board
110 members could give it back to the cities if not needed and if there becomes a need in the future,
111 Vernal City, Naples City and Ballard could share in those costs. Mr. Stermer suggested setting a
112 figure looking into the future 5 to 10 years and then reaching out to Representative Scott Chew and
113 Winterton asking for more flexibility on allocation. Mr. Stermer reads the definition of restrictive
114 statute. Councilmember Clark asked if this is mostly for motorized vehicles. Mr. Stermer
115 explained that it also includes sidewalks, safety features, traffic lights, trails, and active traffic
116 facility for non-motorized vehicles.

117

118 4:40 p.m. Councilmember Travis Allan arrived to the meeting.

119

120 Commissioner Horrocks encourages everyone to get out and start discussing the issue and clarified
121 that the County would like it to be a joint effort between the County and the cities.
122 Councilmember Clark stated that he appreciated that and hoped all entities would go to their
123 legislative bodies and make sure all the bases have been covered. Commissioner Horrocks
124 suggested to Mayor Dean Baker that he contacts Laurie Brummond with UBAOG on their needs
125 and costs for a busing route in Naples City. Mayor Baker mentioned that they did have a
126 proposed route with estimated costs at one time. Mayor Hammond asked if the route looped
127 through the airport. Mayor Baker stated yes, and on into Vernal with different pick up locations.
128 Councilmember Clark stated that the hours of operation are very important to get the peaks and
129 what is and what is not viable. Commissioner Horrocks asked what the time lines are to proceed
130 with this tax. Mr. Stermer explained that the deadline is July 1, 2020, before the cities can move
131 forward on their own. The consensus was to have answers, wants, needs, and set numbers from
132 all the entities by the next Special Joint City/County meeting that is scheduled for Monday, July
133 22, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. at the County Building. Mr. Stermer reminded Vernal City, Naples City,
134 and Ballard that to become an "eligible political subdivision" they need to be currently providing
135 public transit services or provide written notice to the County Commission stating that they intend
136 to. Mr. Stermer added that the Transportation Special District has already given notice that they
137 will not be providing the airport anymore, and the airport is a transportation service. Therefore,
138 the County will already be an "eligible political subdivision". Commissioner Horrocks asked if

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL AND UINTAH COUNTY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING HELD JUNE 24, 2019**

139 they also need to provide written notice regarding the BTA. Ms. Meier stated no, that is between
140 BTA and the Transportation District. Commissioner Horrocks wanted to verify that the County
141 was covered, because although they fund the airport, the BTA is funded by the Transportation
142 District. It was the consensus that all entities write a letter to the State Tax Commission.

143
144 With Councilmember Travis Allan now in attendance, there is a quorum to conduct the following
145 business:

146
147 **ACKNOWLEDGMENT & APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING BY VERNAL CITY**
148 **COUNCIL:** *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to acknowledge and approve this special*
149 *meeting. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with*
150 *Councilmembers Dave Everett, Travis Allan, Ted Munford and Bert Clark voting in favor.*

151
152 **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 29, 2019:** *Commissioner Brad Horrocks moved*
153 *to approve the minutes of April 29, 2019. Councilmember Travis Allan seconded the motion.*
154 *The motion passed with Commissioners Brad Horrocks and Bart Haslem voting in favor and*
155 *Councilmembers Dave Everett, Ted Munford, Travis Allan and Bert Clark voting in favor.*

156
157 **DISCUSSION REGARDING MINERAL LEASE RECEIPTS:** Commissioner Bart Haslem
158 updated everyone on the direction of the Districts after having several meetings. Commissioner
159 Haslem reported that the mineral lease money is decreasing, and with the way the Districts are
160 structured and operating currently, they need around \$13 million dollars to keep everyone
161 breaking even. Councilmember Clark asked if the \$13 million was for general expenses.
162 Commissioner Haslem stated yes, and for maintenance and debt that has been put into place.
163 Commissioner Haslem mentioned that even at \$13 million, some Districts are spending some of
164 their fund balance every year. Commissioner Haslem stated that at the last meeting, it was
165 reported that the Districts really need \$13.5 million to get back to being even. As far as
166 projections this year, all the Commissioners are estimating between \$10.5 to \$11.5 million dollars
167 for revenue. Commissioner Haslem mentioned that this figure is the lowest they have ever seen.
168 The Districts are doing an excellent job at how they are operating and the needs of what they offer
169 is a necessity; however, the money is not coming in like it was in the past to sustain them.
170 Commissioner Haslem stated that the reason for this discussion is to find a way to bring them back
171 into the black and to take a look at what can or cannot be removed to function at that price.
172 Councilmember Clark asked what percentage is received from what is produced and extracted
173 from Uintah County. Cheryl Meier stated that there is a formula. John Stermer added that they
174 get 50% of the 49% from Uintah County. John Stermer added that 49% is returned back to the
175 State. Ms. Meier stated that 51% goes to the Federal Government. Mr. Stermer added that then
176 50% of that goes back to the County of origin. Mr. Stermer mentioned that this does not include
177 any funding for projects from the Community Impact Board (CIB). Commissioner Horrocks
178 stated that the Districts are losing money already this year and come August 1st, there needs to be a
179 midline to where they are not living off fund balance. Ms. Meier reported that at the end of April,
180 the Transportation District alone is down \$50,000 a month and all three Districts that get a
181 percentage are in the same situation. Commissioner Haslem mentioned that some of these
182 Districts are committed to massive payments of \$2.5 million a year, and they are receiving \$1.5
183 million a year. It is just the way it was set up when money was good; however, it currently needs

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL AND UINTAH COUNTY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING HELD JUNE 24, 2019**

184 addressed, because if something does not change, the Districts will be broke. Councilmember
185 Clark stated that he assumed that the Districts have considered paying off the debt that
186 predecessors created. Commissioner Haslem explained that they have reviewed all the debt that
187 is out there that needs to be paid off. Commissioner Haslem added that the Districts have always
188 examined the money in savings versus the debt owing, and at the beginning of his term, they had a
189 little more in savings than they had debt. Commissioner Haslem mentioned that savings have
190 since decreased, and it is a scary situation that the Districts are currently in. Councilmember
191 Dave Everett asked when the next meeting is for all the Districts. Ms. Meier stated that the
192 meeting is on July 9, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. Commissioner Horrocks mentioned that there also needs
193 to be a team of representatives at the Tax Task Force meeting in Roosevelt that same day at 6:00
194 p.m. Commissioner Haslem mentioned that they are open for ideas. This tax will come back to
195 Uintah County and Vernal City and help absorb the costs of the airport. Councilmember Clark
196 asked if the University has been approached to see if they could contribute any money for the
197 college facilities. Commissioner Haslem explained that the agreement for those facilities was put
198 into place before the current Commissioners were elected. Quinn Bennion asked Kent Bunderson
199 if the loans are paid off in two years. Mr. Bunderson stated yes, they owe about \$6 million for
200 those two facilities combined. Commissioner Horrocks asked if only one will be paid off in two
201 years. Mr. Bunderson explained that both facilities will be paid off in 2022. Commissioner
202 Horrocks asked about the conference center debt. Mr. Bunderson stated that it is barely under \$4
203 million with a 0% interest loan due in 2045, and there is no benefit to paying it off early.
204 Commissioner Horrocks asked if that was in addition to the lease agreement. Mr. Bunderson
205 explained that the lease agreement also helps pay for the building.
206

207 **DISCUSSION ABOUT STATE LEGISLATURE’S TAX REFORM COMMITTEE:** Quinn
208 Bennion reported that House Bill 441 was introduced last year and Representative Quinn from
209 Heber was involved in drafting the bill which came late in the session. This was a very lengthy
210 bill that broadened the sales tax on services and would increase the local counties and cities sales
211 tax receipts. The formula to be implemented was going to reduce the amounts cities would
212 receive. There was a lot of debate and discussion over the ten days of the session and ultimately
213 did not go out for vote and was put into an interim situation. Mr. Bennion stated that now there is
214 a Tax Reform Committee that has been formed, and they are doing a statewide listening tour with
215 eight locations and Roosevelt is one of them on July 9, 2019. The open house is at 6:00 p.m. and
216 the town hall is at 7:00 p.m. at the Crossroads Center. Mr. Bennion encouraged everyone to
217 participate. Commissioner Horrocks suggested forming a working group to be united and
218 possibly holding a conference call with Lincoln and the working group to get better organized for
219 the meeting. Mr. Bennion reported that the Utah Association of Counties (UAC) was going to
220 create some talking points that would be beneficial to review; however, he reiterated that this is a
221 comprehensive tax reform for the State and not a city tax reform; however, there could be some
222 cross over. Councilmember Clark mentioned that usually the rural areas get hindered, and the
223 mass metropolitan areas are the recipients of the money. Commissioner Horrocks reiterated that
224 the entities need to be organized. Commissioner Horrocks stated “could you imagine adding
225 \$600,000 sales tax to a drilling rig and what that will do to the oil and gas field out here in the
226 Basin?” Mayor Banker gave the list of the eight locations of the tour. The first one starts
227 tomorrow in Brigham City, Salt Lake City is on June 27th, Richfield is on June 28th, St. George is
228 on June 29th, Davis County is on July 8th, Roosevelt is on July 9th, Moab is on July 20th, and last

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL AND UTAH COUNTY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING HELD JUNE 24, 2019**

229 Utah County is on July 30th. Commissioner Horrocks suggested that someone attend the one in
230 Richfield to see how it works. Mayor Baker attended the rural caucus sponsored by the Utah
231 League of Cities and Towns (ULCT) with around 20 entities there. Mayor Baker mentioned that
232 he expressed his opinions and concerns at this meeting regarding the 50/50 split. Mayor Baker
233 added that now is the time to address this, be united and make sure that it is fair across the board.
234 Mr. Bennion mentioned that the ULCT will have a representative at each meeting to give
235 feedback. The consensus was to hold a conference call on Monday, July 1, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.to
236 discuss how to be prepared and unified for the July 9, 2019 meeting in the upstairs conference
237 room at the County. Councilmember Clark asked what the intent of the State is, and do they want
238 more money? Mr. Bennion explained that in the State's constitution, it declares that all income
239 tax be spent for education, and with the way the State's economy has been over the last several
240 years, it has ballooned to the point where some people say more is needed for public education and
241 some would argue that the dramatic increase is sufficient. However, what the State's restrictions
242 are is they have that income tax coming in very solid, predictable and increasing, but the general
243 fund which is subsidized out of sales tax, property tax, and all other miscellaneous is not as
244 predictable and may even be declining in some cases. Mr. Bennion stated that is where they are
245 really tight on their budget; therefore, the State is looking at that portion of the State Tax Reform.
246

247 **UPDATE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS: UINTA BASIN RAILWAY,**
248 **JORDAN COVE (COOS BAY) AND RURAL CO-WORKING AND INNOVATION**
249 **CENTER GRANT:** Quinn Bennion explained that he placed this on the agenda to keep
250 everyone updated on what is occurring in the Basin on the Railway, Jordan Cove and Rural
251 Co-Working and Innovation Center Grant. Commissioner Brad Horrocks stated that most
252 everyone has heard something about the railroad discussions with the Community Impact Board
253 (CIB) a week ago. Commissioner Horrocks added that \$21.4 million was approved for the
254 planning and study on the Uinta Basin Railway. Commissioner Horrocks mentioned that the
255 railroad is looking very positive and has a good chance of happening. Drexel Hamilton put some
256 impressive figures together, and he wants to fund it, put it out there, and sell it within 10 years to
257 make money. Commissioner Horrocks added that if you were to take the highest estimates and
258 cut them in half, it is still achievable. The figures were estimated by shipping 350,000 to 400,000
259 barrels a day out of Uintah County. However, even at the bare minimum of 150,000 barrels a day,
260 it would still pay without anything coming back into the County. Commissioner Horrocks stated
261 that it is very positive and thanked Mayor Baker for his support with the CIB. The final vote was
262 9 to 1. The Ute Tribe is also positive and wants to be involved. Cheryl Meier mentioned that the
263 Ute Tribe Business Committee's support was publicized on the radio, which was hopeful and
264 beneficial to the public.
265

266 Commissioner Haslem reported on the Jordan Cove pipeline where they want to build a
267 compression station to compress the gas in Coos Bay. The main portion of the gas will come
268 from the Uintah Basin and Wyoming and will feed the plant. It has been approved and is on the
269 third owner now. Commissioner Haslem stated that it has been approved once, declined once,
270 and is going for a third time to get through this 140 mile section called the Jackson County.
271 Commissioner Haslem mentioned that he along with Mayor Hammond, Economic Development,
272 and the Transportation District will testify this week in hearings in Oregon. Commissioner
273 Haslem asked everyone to send letters of support, including anyone in the public that will write a

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL AND Uintah County Commission
SPECIAL MEETING HELD JUNE 24, 2019**

274 letter for Uintah County, Vernal City, Naples City, and Ballard. Commissioner Haslem
275 mentioned that this is bigger than the railroad for the mineral lease money in the Basin for long
276 term sustainable economic growth. It is a necessity to have representatives from the County and
277 the City. Councilmember Clark asked if other counties will be there. Commissioner Haslem
278 stated yes, and all of the Rockies from this side of Denver will be going, Duchesne County, and
279 Coalition from Wyoming. There will be four hearings with 500 interviews per hearing. Mr.
280 Bennion mentioned that the letters are due before July 5th, and there is a person you can email them
281 to. Commissioner Haslem stated that every letter counts as a point. The letters can be sent from
282 individuals and entities. This will help get natural gas to the Asian market and the air quality will
283 be better. Commissioner Haslem mentioned that what the County does not fill, Russia will and
284 they are already moving forward.

285
286 Commissioner Haslem reported on the group working on Balance Utah, which falls into
287 transportation. This would allow flights from Uintah County to where the jobs are located, such
288 as Provo or Salt Lake City. The concern is how expensive the flights would be; however, bids so
289 far have been \$75 or less for a round trip ticket per day. Commissioner Haslem stated that they
290 have had companies willing to pay for it to get employees from Uintah County to the Wasatch
291 Front to do their jobs. Currently there are 21,000 or more jobs available on the Wasatch Front that
292 cannot be filled, and they are good paying jobs. There has been a lot of interest from businesses,
293 government agencies, charter companies, and SkyWest. However, SkyWest does not have
294 enough planes at this time, and it would be a year before they would be able to participate.
295 Commissioner Haslem explained that they are trying to put it all together, because it is growing
296 fast enough and was even presented at legislation last week. This program would help with clean
297 air transportation, road traffic, jobs, and affordable housing. Commissioner Haslem stated that
298 the exciting part is that once the hub is working, it can work both ways. The concept came about
299 when North Dakota boomed and everyone from Uintah County that was going there were leaving
300 their families here, and the divorce rate increased 35-40%. Even at \$75 a round trip flight, it is
301 still cheaper than a \$200- \$250 a day per diem. Commissioner Haslem mentioned that another
302 solution to decrease the cost would be to get air freight into the Basin for Fed Ex, UPS, and maybe
303 even the Postal Service. Mr. Bennion reported that UBAOG asked him to give the presentation at
304 the meeting on Thursday in Daggett County. Mr. Bennion mentioned they have a one minute
305 video clip to share that shows the program statewide. Ms. Meier mentioned that Doug Brown
306 would be there. Councilmember Dave Everett asked what happens if an individual works late and
307 misses their flight. Commissioner Haslem stated that it does not work for everyone.

308
309 Sylvia Wilkins reported that at the last legislation session, there was a bill that went through that
310 was for the rural co-working innovation center grant. The grant will be open from July 1st to
311 September 1st, and the whole amount of the grant is \$500,000 for the entire State. It can be used
312 for infrastructure to build a center and also the equipment for the center such as computers. This
313 will help people work remotely. Ms. Wilkins stated that it could be bigger than that and be more
314 like a business incubator with sewing machines, kitchens, etc. where people can come and try out
315 their ideas before opening their own business. Ms. Wilkins mentioned that with only a budget of
316 \$500,000, it would have to be a project that would take place over several years to make it
317 something big. It would have to be a joint effort, and this is something we see working in our
318 community. The \$500,000 is reallocated every year. Commissioner Horrocks asked if the

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL AND UINTAH COUNTY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING HELD JUNE 24, 2019**

319 County is on top of the grant application. Ms. Wilkins stated that they are as far as they can be.
320 Mr. Bennion mentioned that he was under the impression that this program was to encourage home
321 based businesses and a telecommuting center for those who are unable to purchase a computer or
322 their home does not have fast internet, and they want to work from home. Ms. Wilkins stated that
323 it is for that as well. Kent Bunderson stated that it is broad and does not just have to be a home
324 based business center. The primary concept was to have co-working areas with a collaborative
325 space and several different businesses that could be generated. This would help everyone in that
326 kind of environment. There is a lot of flexibility. Mr. Bunderson stated that the money is
327 supposed to be available come July 1st, and they are thinking about generating a proposal;
328 however, there are still a lot of questions to determine if it would be feasible for the community.
329 It is only for rural communities and excludes urban counties.

330
331 **ADJOURN:** There being no further business; Councilmember Bert Clark moved to adjourn.
332 Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote
333 and the meeting was declared adjourned.

334
335

336

337

338

339

340

341

342

343

344

345

346

Mayor Doug Hammond

ATTEST:

Quinn Bennion, City Recorder

(S E A L)