

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
JANUARY 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main,
Vernal, Utah 84078.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Dave Everett, Ted Munford, Samantha Scott, Bert Clark, Travis Allan and Mayor Doug Hammond.

WELCOME: Mayor Doug Hammond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT: The invocation was given by Councilmember Dave Everett.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Samantha Scott.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF JANUARY 2, 2019: *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the minutes of January 2, 2019 as written. Councilmember Samantha Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Everett, Scott, Allan and Clark voting in favor.*

REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT OF DIAMOND MOUNTAIN SPEEDWAY – ALLEN HACKING: Mayor Hammond stated this item will be postponed as Mr. Hacking is not available.

PRESENTATION OF FY2018 AUDIT: Mayor Doug Hammond noted that Mr. Rasmussen, CPA, was not able to drive over the pass from Price, Utah with the snow fall so Mike Davis will present the audit. Mike Davis explained that the auditors come each year for four days and look at the City's finances. The majority of the City's revenue comes from taxes, particularly sales tax, which increased slightly from the prior year. However, the innkeeper tax and franchise tax decreased. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if the City's highway funds have increased with the new tax that was approved a few years back. Mike Davis answered yes, those funds are being received, however, they are not as high as expected. He noted that the City's revenue is not stable even though sales are up. The unexpended general fund balance is at \$2.8 million dollars or 25% which is the maximum amount that can be unreserved. Councilmember Bert Clark asked what the minimum amount is. Mike Davis stated 3% and the City would get written up for that amount. The goal is to stay around 18%. The utility funds have a deficit of \$120,000 for water with depreciation as the auditors figure we lost that much in value for that system. The rates for the water system are good as long as there is not a large repair needed. One item that affected the budget was the refinance of the bonds. The old bonds had to be paid before the City could show the revenue from the new bonds which affected this budget. Another issue is the balance shown in the court bail trust records and the City's financial system. These entries did not match requiring the City to make a correction. Also, the finance department needs to give the elected officials a financial statement and that will be done each month with a full detailed statement quarterly. Overall the audit was a fair presentation of the finances of the City. The Council thanked Mike for the report

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**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO REZONE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 955 WEST
500 SOUTH AND 975 WEST 500 SOUTH FROM R-2 AND RA-1 RESIDENTIAL ZONES
TO R-4 AND R-3 RESIDENTIAL ZONES - ORDINANCE NO. 2019-02 - GENE
ANFINSON / ALLEN PARKER:**

Mayor Hammond reminded the Council that a public hearing was held during the last meeting on this rezone request. Allen Parker stated that after concerns voiced during the public hearing, the property owner has agreed to amend his rezone request to change the northern 150 feet of the property from a R-2 zone to a R-4 zone and the remainder of the property to a R-2 zone rather than an R-3 zone. This will require only one parcel of property to be rezoned to a R-2 zone from a RA-1 zone. Councilmember Ted Munford stated this matches what was discussed. Councilmember Dave Everett asked for clarification on what happens to the horses if the property is rezoned. Allen Parker stated that he is not aware of any legal arrangement with the owner for the horses. However, City code allows a legal non-conforming use for the horses as they are a legal use in a RA-1 zone so they are “grandfathered” and will be allowed to remain on the property until they discontinue that use for a year. Councilmember Bert Clark stated he is concerned that the storm water not drain into the gulch as this area has a high water table. Allen Parker stated that the R-4 zone will require the owner to retain the storm water on their own property. *After further discussion, Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve Ordinance No. 2019-02 rezoning the north portion of this property to a R-4 zone and the other parcel from a RA-1 to a R-2 zone. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

- Councilmember Ted Munford.....aye;*
- Councilmember Travis Allan.....aye;*
- Councilmember Dave Everett.....aye;*
- Councilmember Samantha Scott.....aye;*
- Councilmember Bert Clark.....aye.*

Mr. Alex Steback asked the Council to look at the speed limit signs posted on that roadway and suggested more signs be posted so the motorists see the speed limit. Chief Dylan Rooks stated that would be easy to review and add signs where necessary.

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AIRPORT GRANT AMENDMENT - RUNWAY
DEMOLITION, RSA GRADING AND DRAINAGE PROJECT – DOUG BROWN:**

Doug Brown explained that the FAA grant amount needs to be amended to cover the final phase of the runway which required more layers of dirt and asphalt than expected. The increase to the cost of the runway is \$136,046 and 95% of that is reimbursable from the FAA. *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the airport grant amendment in the amount of \$136,045. Councilmember Travis Allan seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

- Councilmember Ted Munford.....aye;*
- Councilmember Travis Allan.....aye;*
- Councilmember Dave Everett.....aye;*
- Councilmember Samantha Scott.....aye;*
- Councilmember Bert Clark.....aye.*

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REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE 2019 PLANNING COMMISSION SCHEDULE – RESOLUTION NO. 2019-01: Allen Parker reminded the Council that every year they need to set the schedule for the Planning Commission. This resolution keeps the same schedule which is 7 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. *Councilmember Samantha Scott moved to approve Resolution No. 2019-01 as presented. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

- Councilmember Ted Munford.....aye;*
- Councilmember Travis Allan.....aye;*
- Councilmember Dave Everett.....aye;*
- Councilmember Samantha Scott.....aye;*
- Councilmember Bert Clark.....aye.*

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE 2019 PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR: Allen Parker stated that the Planning Commission is recommending Joni Crane remain the chairman and Jim Linchelton be appointed as the vice-chairman. These appointments must be ratified by the City Council. *Councilmember Samantha Scott moved to appoint Joni Crane as the Chairman of the Planning Commission and Jim Linchelton as the vice-chair for 2019. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Scott, Everett, Allan, Clark and Munford voting in favor.*

DISCUSSION ABOUT PROCESS AND FEES FOR REGISTERING TAXI-CAB BUSINESSES AND OPERATORS: Quinn Bennion explained that he wanted to inform the Council about discussions he had with taxi-cab owners who voiced their concerns about the fees for taxi-cab drivers who are simply looking for a job and cannot afford a \$75 fee. Currently the taxi-cab business owner pays a \$65 license fee for the year, and then each operator pays a fee for the background check which is a deterrent for the taxi companies to hire drivers or they do not bother to come in to get a license. Possibly a temporary license can be issued for 30 days to see if they want to remain a driver and then pay an annual fee. Councilmember Ted Munford stated he would be in favor if the backgrounds are still completed. Quinn Bennion stated he would bring a recommendation to the Council next month.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Sewer Board Meeting:

Councilmember Bert Clark explained the sewer board is working on a master plan update. Councilmember Dave Everett stated the plan will help all the entities be on the same page and will map out the sewer lines so it can be determined how a development will affect the lines or if there is capacity.

Council work session:

Quinn Bennion reminded the Council that the next meeting will start at 5 pm in the planning conference room to discuss the vision and projects for 2019.

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Homeless Bill:

Quinn explained that legislation has been drafted to modify the homeless bill that was passed last year, and Representative Chew will be filing that draft legislation although it does not go as far as the County wanted it to.

Joint City / County meeting:

Mayor Doug Hammond stated that a joint City/County meeting has been scheduled for Monday, January 28th at 4:30 pm at the County building to discuss mineral lease funds being used to run the Special Service Districts. All the SSD directors have also been invited. The next joint City / County meeting will be held February 25th at the City in the community room to discuss the bus system and funding options.

ADJOURN: *There being no further business, Councilmember Samantha Scott moved to adjourn. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote and the meeting was declared adjourned.*

Mayor Doug Hammond

ATTEST:

Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

(S E A L)