

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
JANUARY 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main,
Vernal, Utah 84078.

This will be an electronic meeting with the anchor location being held at the Vernal City Council Chambers, 374 East Main St, Vernal, Utah. Those in attendance will be required to wear a mask unless they are speaking. Because of gathering restrictions put in place by Governor Herbert, the anchor location will only have ten participants in attendance. The meeting will be streamed live via Facebook and broadcast on the Vernal City YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvGzca67KY_BIQwmNfNyzEQ

PRESENT: Councilmembers Nicholas Porter, Dave Everett, Ted Munford, and Bert Clark and Mayor Doug Hammond. Travis Allan was excused.

WELCOME: Mayor Doug Hammond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT: The invocation was given by Councilmember Bert Clark.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Nicholas Porter.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 6, 2021: *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the minutes of January 6, 2020. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Porter and Clark voting in favor.*

RECOGNITION OF KYLE REYNOLDS FOR THE ROADS SCHOLAR ACHIEVEMENT – CLINT MORTON: Clint Morton, Street Interim Superintendent, explain that Mr. Kyle Reynolds achieved the roads scholar certification, which requires extensive training through USU and took around nine years to achieve. He stated that Kyle is the first one in the Streets Department to receive this certification. The Mayor and Council congratulated Kyle on a job well done and his latest achievement.

CITY COUNCIL BOARD APPOINTMENTS: Mayor Doug Hammond stated he would not be making any changes to the Council Board assignments for 2021. *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the assignments as presented. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Porteraye;
Councilmember Clark.....aye.

REQUEST TO AMEND THE VERNAL CITY PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, CHAPTER 8.02 POLITICAL ACTIVITY – RESOLUTION NO. 2021-02:

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Quinn Bennion explained that he was approached by a City employee who was interested in running for public office and the City personnel policies do not prohibit an employee from serving as the Mayor or Council. He noted there are many reasons why that should not happen and Resolution No 2021-02 requires the employee to take a leave of absence to campaign and then to resign before taking office. Councilmember Ted Munford stated he spoke with an employee who was interested and he understood the conflict. *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to approve Resolution No. 2021-02 as presented. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Porteraye;
Councilmember Clark.....aye.

PUBLIC HEARING: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

VERNAL CITY FIRST PUBLIC HEARING: Allen Parker, Vernal City Assistant City Manager, explained that the federal CDBG grant is allocated to the States for very specific projects, benefitting low and moderate income residents. The Uintah Basin Association of Governments (UBAG) is the primary entity for the three-county area to administer this grant which includes Vernal City. The City is considering applying for a grant this year, and there is \$240,000 available. Mr. Parker presented a list that identifies all the eligible activities that can be accomplished using these funds. Mayor Doug Hammond opened the public hearing to receive feedback from the public on the types of projects they are interested in proposing utilizing CDBG funds. Allen Parker noted that the City has taken steps to pre-qualify a street in the community for curb, gutter and sidewalk and it is eligible for funding. Mr. Parker gave examples of other projects that can be considered. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if the City is continuing to construct handicapped accessibility areas on the sidewalks and if these funds can be used for that purpose. Allen Parker stated the City is still making ADA improvements; however these funds can not be used for ADA improvements on sidewalks alone. He explained it is difficult to tie that project to low and moderate income residents. Mayor Doug Hammond asked if this funding is strictly for the Uintah Basin. Allen Parker clarified that the funds are allocated Statewide, with \$240,000 being available for the Uintah Basin. There being no further public comments, Mayor Hammond closed the public hearing.

Allen Parker indicated there would be a second public hearing once a project is selected.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH BIRD RIDE FOR SCOOTERS:

Quinn Bennion reminded the Council of the discussion for scooters in the downtown area. Bird Rides Inc. is willing to provide a minimum of 50 electric scooters. Mayor Doug Hammond asked how the use of the scooters will be patrolled. Quinn Bennion stated it will take some educating. He stated the company has asked for a letter allowing the use of the scooters in the public right-of-way along with the Memorandum of Understanding.

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The City will approach the County for approval to use the scooters near USU and UBTech. Councilmember Bert Clark asked what the minimum age to ride the scooters is. Quinn Bennion answered 14. There was some discussion regarding the boundaries such as to the golf course and schools. Quinn Bennion stated the geofence has not been defined yet. Councilmember Dave Everett stated everyone he spoke to about this has been very favorable and Vernal is getting more into the groove of City life. *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to approve the MOU with Bird Rides for scooters in Vernal. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Everett.....aye;
Councilmember Porter.....aye;
Councilmember Clark.....aye.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION ABOUT WATER CONSERVANCY EFFORTS AND WATER BANKING IF NECESSARY: Quinn Bennion asked the Council for the authorization for the staff to negotiate with WetX to catalog the City’s water assets, (phase 1) and provide mapping of the water and sewer systems (phase II) from the earlier meeting. *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the staff negotiating with WetX. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Everett.....aye;
Councilmember Porter.....aye;
Councilmember Clark.....aye.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

UB Railroad:

Mayor Doug Hammond stated that the State has given preliminary approval for the railroad. There are still a lot of agreements that will be necessary; however the hope is to have those completed in April

Joint City / County meeting.

Quinn Bennion reminded the Council of the upcoming joint City / County meeting on Monday, January 25th to discuss the airport master plan. The meeting will be at 4:30 pm in the City’s community room.

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ADJOURN: There being no further business; *Councilmember Dave Everett 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)