

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
FEBRUARY 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main,
Vernal, Utah 84078.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Nicholas Porter, Dave Everett, Robin O’Driscoll, Ted Munford, and Corey Foley 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 Nick Porter.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2021 REGULAR MEETING: *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the minutes of January 19, 2022. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Foley, O’Driscoll and Porter voting in favor.*

RATIFY SELECTION OF ROBIN O’DRISCOLL AS NEW COUNCILMEMBER – COUNCIL: *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to ratify the selection of Robin O’Driscoll to fill the vacant Council seat. Councilmember Corey Foley seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Porteraye;
Councilmember Foley.....aye.

SWEAR IN NEW COUNCILMEMBER ROBIN O’DRISCOLL – JUDGE RAY RICHARDS: Judge Ray Richards acknowledged that Robin O’Driscoll is a great addition to the Council. He administered the oath of office and congratulated her on this appointment.

UPDATE ON COMBINING JUSTICE COURTS – JUDGE RAY RICHARDS: Judge Ray Richards reported that the justice courts were combined into one court and have been operational since July to try to save money for each of the entities. Mayor Doug Hammond asked how the combined court is doing. Judge Richards stated there were a few hiccups to start; however, he has a great staff working to make things work. Hiring a part-time clerk adding to the three full-time clerks has been very helpful to maintain and keep the court functioning. Although the goal was to reduce spending and help cover expenses, that cannot be the goal of the court. The court needs to provide the best justice to those being served. There has been an increase in citations and referrals to the court of around 20% so they are on track to average 4000 to 4500 cases this year. When the entities first discussed combining the courts, it was thought it would take five months to complete the roll over. Instead it happened in three weeks causing a lot of stress that first month. The City staff were great in helping get things moved and set up.

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
JANUARY 2, 2022**

Councilmember Ted Munford asked if more cases are being heard virtually. Ray Richards responded that the majority of cases are being handled on-line and possibly will remain that way except for trials. Quinn Bennion reminded the Council that the interlocal agreements with the other entities for the revenue and expenses of the court is based on case load. Initially the City was the highest, and now the County is higher. It is anticipated that it will balance back out. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if he is able to find options such as community service and fines over jail time. Ray Richards stated there are a number of sanction options that benefit the community and provide the same type of accountability on a case-by-case basis. Quinn Bennion stated another factor is the court is now housed in the County building freeing up space for UBAG in City Hall. He asked the judge to share with the clerks that the administration appreciates their service as City employees and the hope is they do not feel isolated. The Judge thanked the Council for the support.

**REQUEST APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH CRS ENGINEERING FOR
DOWNTOWN ZIONS BANK BLOCK PARKING LOT AND WALKWAY PROJECT –**

KEITH DESPAIN: Keith Despain explained that the City requested proposals from local engineers to provide professional services for the upcoming downtown projects. The City Committee reviewed the proposals and is recommending CRS Engineers who has a landscape architect on board with a unique visual concept to complete the work. The first project, the Zions Bank block, is estimated to cost \$1.3 million with the engineering being \$175,210 of that cost. He introduced three members of the engineering team, Greg Nelson, project manager, Jay Bollwinkel, landscape architect, and Olivia Sorensen, design engineer. They indicated they were excited to work on this project to make Vernal thrive. Keith Despain reported that the challenge on this project is the timing with the funding applications and plan to start this summer. Councilmember Dave Everett commented that the community will see this project move forward and that will generate excitement. Quinn Bennion reported that the City was recently awarded a \$275,000 economic development grant that will help this project. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the contract with CRS Engineering for the downtown Zion’s Bank block projects. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote;*

- Councilmember Munford.....aye;*
- Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;*
- Councilmember Everettaye;*
- Councilmember Porteraye;*
- Councilmember Foley.....aye.*

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH CRS ENGINEERING FOR CDBG
PROJECT FOR 100 EAST SIDEWALK– KEITH DESPAIN:**

Keith Despain explained the City is ready to begin the sidewalk installation project along 100 East from 100 South to 400 South. The funds were received through the CDBG Program in the amount of \$194,000. He recommended the City contract with CRS Engineering for this project at a cost of \$17,000 for

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
JANUARY 2, 2022**

the design work. Councilmember Dave Everett asked what the projected start date is. Keith Despain answered the design will be completed in March, be bid out in April, and constructed this summer. Councilmember Ted Munford stated this area has been a long term issue next to Western Park that gets a lots of use. Councilmember Nick Porter agreed. Councilmember Dave Everett commented that this will be impressive to see several projects being completed simultaneously. Councilmember Nick Porter moved to approve the contract with CRS Engineering in the amount of \$17,000 for the sidewalk project. Councilmember Corey Foley seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Porteraye;
Councilmember Foley.....aye.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS – MAYOR HAMMOND: Mayor Doug Hammond presented the 2022 Council Committee assignments. *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to ratify the Council Committee assignments as presented. Councilmember Corey Foley seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Porteraye;
Councilmember Foley.....aye.

**REQUEST APPROVAL OF AIRPORT RESCUE GRANT AGREEMENT
#DOT-FA22NM-K1026 – KEN CAMPBELL:**

Ken Campbell, airport manager, reminded the Council the airport received ARPA funds from the federal government in the amount of \$1.62 million dollars and another \$10,800 for concessions. He recommended the Council approve the grant and have the Mayor sign the agreement electronically. Councilmember Corey Foley asked what happened to the car rental business. Ken Campbell answered that they left some time ago and there is not enough enplanements to bring in another one. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if there was any progress on a Salt Lake City route. Ken Campbell stated that there are a few organizations that will be approached to see if there are any connections, however, currently it is fiscally irresponsible to do it. *Councilmember Corey Foley moved to approve the airport rescue grant agreement as presented. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Porteraye;
Councilmember Foley.....aye.

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD JANUARY 2, 2022

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF USE OF CITY ARPA FUNDS – QUINN BENNION:

Quinn Bennion presented a list of recommendations for the use of ARPA funds that will be issued to the City. He noted that the City will receive \$1.2 million dollars to help recover from the pandemic economic and health impacts. Originally the use of those funds was restricted to ventilation or sanitation with the addition of water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. Now the final rule, allows \$10 million dollars to be used for lost public sector revenue for any governmental service. The City is below that amount so the funds can be used for any need. The department heads have given their input and the Administrative Committee reviewed those needs to come up with this list for Council approval. He strongly urged the Council to not use these funds for ongoing costs. Items on the list include the following items:

1. The police department has to transition to 800 MHz radios to remain compatible with other agencies. The cost to replace the entire fleet is \$125,000. At some point the car radios will also need to be upgraded. The body cam equipment is also aged and needs replaced. The request is to do a 70% replacement now and use future revenue to complete the upgrade.
2. The emergency generator for City Hall has failed even though it should have lasted a lot longer. The cost to replace it is estimated to be \$70,000 from a local vendor.
3. The next project is the security of the water supply from Ashley Springs. The City partially budgeted to install power and fiber up to the Ashley Springs to add telemetry, scada, security and upgrades at that site. The cost will be shared with Ashley Valley Water and Central Utah Water District. The cost to the City to install these underground utilities is \$125,600.
4. The water and sewer department needs new equipment for safety including noise cancelling headsets that can be used to talk to each other when doing water line repairs, and gas monitoring system so when they are in trenches they remain safe.
5. Adding a GIS system to the City infrastructure to start mapping and get accurate information will help with future needs and give accurate data to upgrade and maintain those systems.
6. The Court already upgraded the window with glass partition and that cost will come out of these funds.
7. The recommendation is the remainder of those funds be used for the infrastructure within the downtown projects.

Councilmember Corey Foley asked if any of these items were already in the budget. Quinn Bennion answered there was partial funding to start upgrading the radios, and the security for Ashley Springs. Councilmember Foley asked if there was any funding for the green dinosaur. Quinn Bennion stated there is \$10,000 for the green dino in the budget. Carl Morton stated there will be a single audit for the use of these funds. Councilmember Nick Porter stated this is a

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
JANUARY 2, 2022**

great list and excellent way to use these funds. *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the list of requested expenditures using ARPA funds as presented. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Porteraye;
Councilmember Foley.....aye.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF PROPOSALS FOR ASHLEY SPRINGS CONSTRUCTION PROJECT INCLUDING ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER AND STRATA NETWORKS:

Keith Despain explained that bids were received from Rocky Mountain Power and Strata Networks to install fiber and power to the springs to help protect the City’s most critical water asset. The timing is important on this project as Strata only has a short window to complete this project as they have other infrastructure projects set for the next two years. Quinn Bennion presented the bids and contracts with Rocky Mountain Power in the amount of \$88,272 and Strata in the amount of \$192,840. *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to approve the bids and contracts with Rocky Mountain Power and Strata to add fiber and power up to Ashley Springs. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Porteraye;
Councilmember Foley.....aye.

Councilmember Dave Everett asked when this project will begin. Keith Despain answered in April, if Rocky Mountain Power is able to obtain the necessary materials.

DISCUSSION ON DOWNTOWN VISUAL PLANNING: Quinn Bennion explained that the City is receiving interest from developers for the downtown plan and thought it would be good to get input on the Council’s preference for the type of buildings they would like to see in that area based on the new mixed use zone. He presented a list of buildings and asked the Council to rank them from 1 to 5, showing that a 1 means this type of development doesn’t fit, up to a 5 meaning this is what they would like to see. He noted that these will still be private developments so hopefully the City will have some influence on design guidelines. These suggestions are for property at 100 East and 100 South, potentially along Main Street that is currently a car storage lot, and 100 South and Vernal Avenue. Quinn displayed pictures and renderings of potential living quarters and possible commercial units on the bottom floor. The Council individually ranked the type of housing units they preferred for downtown. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll asked if some of these were townhomes. Allen Parker stated

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
JANUARY 2, 2022**

they are called row houses. Quinn Bennion stated that the third site is 300 West and 100 South that has enough space for 12 small homes or possibly 6 to 8 larger homes. This is a new concept for Vernal to have a restaurant or coffee house downstairs and living quarters upstairs. Housing is going to be a much needed item in the next few years so any type of housing product will sell or lease. Councilmember Corey Foley stated there is currently a lack of inventory for affordable housing and these concepts give diversification of housing. Allen Parker stated this is not just affordable housing as some of the components are more luxurious living spaces. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll stated she liked the concept of another alternative. Councilmember Nick Porter agreed, and stated there are people who prefer this type of housing over more traditional single family housing. Councilmember Corey Foley stated this will also bring foot traffic to downtown and will fit well in certain locations. Quinn Bennion explained the goal of this plan is to spark activity and introduce residential units downtown. He thanked the Council for the feedback.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

CRA:

Quinn Bennion stated he is scheduled to meet with Uintah School District and Mosquito Abatement District Board to talk about the downtown CRA project. Also, two grants applications were submitted.

National Warranty program.

Allen Parker stated the letters have gone out for the national warranty program and any questions should be directed to them.

CLOSED SESSION: *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to convene into closed session to hold a strategy sessions to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property, including any form of a water right or water shares and reconvene into open session once the discussion is completed. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

- Councilmember Munford.....aye;*
- Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;*
- Councilmember Everettaye;*
- Councilmember Porteraye;*
- Councilmember Foley.....aye.*

RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION ADJOURN: *The Vernal City Council reconvened into open session. There being no further business; Councilmember Nick Porter moved to adjourn. Councilmember Corey Foley seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote and the meeting was declared adjourned.*

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
JANUARY 2, 2022**

Mayor Doug Hammond

ATTEST:

Roxanne Behunin, City Recorder

(S E A L)