

**M**INUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD  
MARCH 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main,  
Vernal, Utah 84078.

**PRESENT:** Councilmembers Nicholas Porter, Robin O’Driscoll, Ted Munford, Dave Everett, and Corey Foley and Mayor Doug Hammond.

**WELCOME:** Mayor Doug Hammond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**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 MARCH 1, 2023:** *Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll moved to approve the minutes of March 1, 2023. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, O’Driscoll, Munford, Foley and Porter voting in favor.*

**REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SHOW:** Cindy Birchell explained the Junior Livestock Show brings a lot of visitors to the area with 350 participants each year with around a third of them being from out of the area. Some of the youth also get to practice judging and last year they competed in Denver. She asked the Council to consider helping with this event again this year. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if this item had been budgeted. Quinn Bennion answered yes in the amount of \$750 and the request is for more than that. Councilmember Ted Munford asked why they are asking for more than last year. Cindy Birchell stated their costs have gone up. *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the Junior Livestock sponsorship in the amount of \$750. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

*Councilmember Munford.....aye;*  
*Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Everett .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Porter .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Foley.....aye.*

**REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR YOUTH GIRLS FAST PITCH EVENT:** Tad Richards, community relations director with D-1 prospects, explained that they host girls sporting events which will bring 2700 visitors for the weekend in July. This brings a large economic value to the City. Uintah County provided marketing support last year and they recommended the City be approached for support as well. Tad Richards stated they are asking for \$2500 to be close to the break even point. The total cost to produce and host this event is \$31,000. The entry fees cover around 80% of that cost. The biggest expense is umpires. Councilmember Ted Munford noted that the \$2500 request would wipe out the budget. Tad Richards stated any amount would be beneficial. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to support the girl’s softball*

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*tournament in the amount of \$750. Councilmember Corey Foley seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

*Councilmember Munford.....aye;*  
*Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Everett .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Porter .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Foley.....aye.*

**REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR ROCK THE RIDE EVENTS – SHANE COOK:** Shane Cook reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> year for this event averaged around 300 people for each concert. The purpose is to give local talent a place to perform and this year the time frame will be expanded by a month. The location has to be changed due to the construction on Vernal Avenue so it will be moved to the outdoor stage at the library. The funding has been set up as a non-profit, and the funds are used to pay the sound engineers and headliner bands. Shane Cook asked the Council to support this event in the amount of \$1000. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if it will be moved back to Vernal Avenue next year. Shane Cook answered yes as it is more fun as a street show. *Councilmember Nick Porter stated this is a cool event that brings diversity and talent to the area and moved to support this event in the amount of \$1000 as requested. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

*Councilmember Munford.....aye;*  
*Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Everett .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Porter .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Foley.....aye.*

**MINOR SUBDIVISION REQUEST FROM BRAD MURRAY FOR PROPERTY AT 987 SOUTH 500 WEST:** Gabby Blackburn explained that agricultural property can be split and recorded as long as it remains agricultural and no structures can be built. In this case, the property owner does want to allow it to be a buildable lot. The Planning Commission is recommending approval of this lot split from one parcel to two parcels. The back lot does not have the frontage requirement, however, the RA-1 zone does allow flag lots and the entrance will be 54 feet wide. Councilmember Corey Foley stated he spoke with Brad Murray and he is excited to have a home built there. Councilmember Ted Munford stated he is in favor of letting property owners do what they wish with their property as much as possible. *Councilmember Corey Foley moved to approve the minor subdivision for 987 South 500 West. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

*Councilmember Munford.....aye;*

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*Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Everett .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Porter .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Foley..... aye.*

**DISCUSSION REGARDING INSTALLATION OF A LED PEDESTRIAN ACTUATED CROSSING SIGN AT ROBINWOOD LANE AND 500 WEST:** Quinn Bennion explained the Public Safety Committee looked at this item to help with the safety of the students walking to Discovery School. There have been multiple discussions on the traffic issues caused by parents picking up and dropping off their children. Several items will be implemented to help including the Discovery trail. Adding an LED pedestrian actuated crossing sign will help with the children walking from the north of the school. The cost is about \$4000 each. Councilmember Ted Munford stated he is on the Public Safety Committee and is in favor of this light as it is a safety issue for the kids. One concern is making sure the kids know how to use the signs. Councilmember Corey Foley stated he wants this project and is willing to put the first \$1000 toward this project. Councilmember Nick Porter stated he would rather see private funds used for traffic control or the volunteer crossing guard and the City should pay for the sign. Carl Morton stated this capital project can be added to the upcoming budget. Quinn Bennion noted that other schools want similar things and one approach is to have the neighborhood partner with the City. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll stated this is a unique situation with a main street and a new subdivision adding more school age kids walking to school. Councilmember Nick Porter agreed that the other schools are on streets where the speed has to be lower while Discovery is off 500 West where the traffic goes faster. Councilmember Corey Foley suggested the City pay a certain amount, say \$4500, and the neighborhood pay the rest. Quinn Bennion explained that the current signage meets the standard crossing requirements so this new signage would be extra. Councilmember Ted Munford noted this is a mechanism to add a greater benefit and this is a unique situation where the road does not border the school. Councilmember Nick Porter agreed with community participation, as long as the City pays a larger amount. After further discussion, *Councilmember Corey Foley moved to approve the purchase and installation of an LED pedestrian actuated sign across 500 West by Robinwood Lane with the intention if the bid is over \$8000 to consider the option to have the community help pay as this is an upgrade to the signage already there. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

*Councilmember Munford.....aye;*  
*Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Everett .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Porter .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Foley..... aye.*

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Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll asked who does the crossing guard duties. Cassie Robins answered that the Community Council for the Discovery PTA has volunteers who help.

### **REQUEST TO AMEND THE VERNAL CITY MUNICIPAL CODE, SECTIONS 16.26.110 - PARKING SPACE REQUIREMENTS – DWELLINGS, 16.27.060 – MINIMUM NUMBER OF TREES AND 16.27.070 – MINIMUM AREA REQUIREMENTS - ORD NO 2023-02:**

Gabby Blackburn explained that this ordinance only addresses the parking and landscaping in the R-4 zone which is the most dense residential zone. It was brought up that Vernal City has a higher parking requirement than the standard which is two cars per household. The City’s requirement is 2.5 spaces per unit. The Planning Commission thought maybe there should be a little give on both the parking and landscaping. The proposal is for developments with over four units to require at least two parking spaces per unit. Gabby Blackburn displayed the calculations for the parking if the required spaces are reduced. She noted that visitor parking is still needed. Another option is to change the landscaping requirement although open space is needed to deal with issues with density. The higher the density, the more green space is required. The City’s standard of 30% is a little high compared to other cities in the State of Utah. The proposed change is to go to 25%. Examples were displayed to show the difference. She suggested the Council consider other amounts such as 28%, or leave it at 30%. Councilmember Ted Munford stated a lower green scape and less parking benefits the developer. It is not fun trying to find parking and this area has great outdoorsy recreation so less green space does not work for the dynamic of the community. Councilmember Nick Porter stated that Brandon Parker, the chair of the Planning Commission and manager of Silver Pines condos, would be very interested in the numbers being presented tonight. He stated he lived in Silver Pines and the landscaping is very important. Councilmember Corey Foley agreed this is a good minimum standard. Gabby Blackburn suggested the Planning Commission look at these regulations again. Mayor Doug Hammond tabled this item and asked the Planning Commission to review it again.

### **Staff Reports**

#### Budget:

Quinn Bennion presented the schedule for the FY2024 budget meetings. The first work session will be April 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### Rural Community Broadband Grant:

Quinn Bennion explained the City was awarded \$15,000 from GoEd and Utah Economic Development for a broadband plan. The proposal is to explore what will be needed to add public wifi in the downtown area.

#### Abby’s Café request.

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Councilmember Dave Everett explained that Abby’s Café brought in gravel and spread it with the use of a skid steer in the City’s parking lot at a cost of \$1000. She is asking if the City will consider reimbursing her.

**CLOSED SESSION:** *Councilmember Corey Foley moved to go 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 return to open session once the discussion is completed. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

*Councilmember Munford.....aye;*  
*Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Everett .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Porter .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Foley.....aye.*

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Doug Hammond

ATTEST:

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Roxanne Behunin, City Recorder

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