

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
APRIL 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council Chambers, 374 East Main,
Vernal, Utah 84078.

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

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 MARCH 17, 2021: *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to approve the minutes of March 17, 2021. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Allan, Porter and Clark voting in favor.*

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF FUNDING FOR ENERGY SUMMIT - SYLVIA WILKENS: Sylvia Wilkins reported that she has been planning the Energy Summit for the 24-26th with a total budget of \$90,000. The hope is to add an education event for students to come together with different issues from the new presidency. She asked the Council to continue to support this event. Councilmember Dave Everett asked if there was \$1000 in the budget for this event. Quinn Bennion answered yes. *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve \$1000 sponsorship for the Energy Summit. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF FUNDING FOR DINO DAYS – BECCA SUMMERS: Becca Summers reminded the Council that the Dino Days Balloon Festival was moved to the last week of August last year due to the pandemic and to their surprise, it ended up being a great date for this event. The plan is to keep it in August where the weather is more predictable and the students are still out of school bringing in more visitors. Becca requested the City Council consider sponsorship in the amount of \$1000 to help bring pilots in. *Councilmember Travis Allan moved to approve a \$1000 sponsorship. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Allanaye;
Councilmember Everettaye;

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Councilmember Porteraye;
Councilmember Clark.....aye.

UPDATE REGARDING MARVELOUS XTREME BULL MADNESS EVENT – TONJA LOFTHOUSE: Ben Lofthouse stated the Bull Madness Event went really well. The events went on for four nights and had the top eight bull riders and four bulls from the national PCRA finals. Several world winners competed in Vernal. Saturday night had the best attendance and one project they are working on is to add more seating at the south end of the arena. Tonya Lofthouse stated having an air flight in and out of Vernal helped get the participants here and off to Florida making it more attractive to attend. There was also recognition on the Cowboy Channel. The cost of the event was \$68,000 and the revenue with ticket sales came in at \$75,000 so there is \$3500 to start the next year. She thanked the Council for their support. Councilmember Travis Allan thanked them for hosting such a successful event especially in such a stressful time. Councilmember Dave Everett also thanked them for the level of professionalism that will build momentum. The Council thanked them for the report.

PUBLIC HEARING; REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO THE VERNAL CITY MUNICIPAL CODE - CHAPTER 16.28 SIGN REGULATIONS – ORDINANCE 2021-02:

Allen Parker explained that the purpose for this change is to address two sections in the sign code. The first section deals with signs on school properties which currently does not have any regulations. In the past this was not seen as an issue, however, School Districts are not exempt from following sign regulations and there are a number of schools in the City. The Planning Commission reviewed these proposed changes and are forwarding a positive recommendation. The second change is on pole signs in the central commercial zone so they more closely match signs that extend off of buildings. Currently one pole sign is allowed per property with a setback of six feet and a maximum area of 100 square feet. Councilmember Ted Munford clarified that Discovery Elementary approached the City to install a sign. Allen Parker answered that they are requesting to install an informational pole sign. He noted that there are specific hours of operation because most schools are in residential zones. Also, the height of the sign is being lowered from 14 feet to 10 feet when they projects over areas for pedestrians. If the sign is over a road, or where vehicles travel, the height stays at 14 feet. The reason for this is to be more consistent. Mayor Doug Hammond opened the public hearing for any public comments. Cindy Scott, representing the Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum, asked if they purchase a new sign can they install it. Allen Parker suggested she contact him and he will go over all the specifications. Quinn Bennion asked if they wanted to put it right in front. Cindy Scott answered yes. There being no further comments, the hearing was closed. *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve Ordinance No. 2021-02 as presented. Councilmember Travis Allan seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Allanaye;
Councilmember Everettaye;

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Councilmember Porteraye;
Councilmember Clark..... aye.

PUBLIC HEARING: REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO THE VERNAL CITY MUNICIPAL CODE - REPEAL CHAPTER 16.23, ADD SECTION 16.20.695 URBAN FARMS – ORDINANCE NO. 2021-03: Allen Parker explained that this Ordinance simply moves the regulations for urban farms from its own independent section code and puts it into the uses section that is more logical. Councilmember Bert Clark clarified that selling from these farms is seasonal. Allen Parker answered that is typically how they operate and they can have a farm stand on the property where the produce is grown. Mayor Doug Hammond opened the public hearing. Councilmember Ted Munford clarified this Ordinance is not changing any regulations, just moving them. Allen Parker answered yes. He stated the Planning Commission reviewed this and is forwarding a positive recommendation. Cindy Scott stated she did not have any comments now that this Ordinance has been explained. There being no further comments, Mayor Doug Hammond closed the public hearing. *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-03 as presented. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

PUBLIC HEARING: REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO THE VERNAL CITY MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 16.40.035 “R-2 USE TABLE” – CHANGING URBAN LIVESTOCK FROM CONDITIONAL USE TO PERMITTED USE – ORDINANCE NO. 2021-04: Allen Parker stated this change comes from a request from a property owner in an R-2 zone who wanted to have 4-6 chickens on their property. The current code does allow this use; however, they would need a conditional use permit to make sure there is not a significant impact. There is a fee of \$200 which they thought was excessive. The code already restricts the square footage and the type of animals, so there is no reason for more restrictions which seemed overly burdensome. The Planning Commission held a public hearing and is forwarding a positive recommendation. Mayor Doug Hammond opened the public hearing. Cindy Scott stated that her home was annexed into the City and their property always had livestock. They still have goats there in the winter and chickens. She asked if they have to get a permit to have their animals. Allen Parker stated not necessarily depending on the zone and the land use rights when the property was first annexed. He stated it will be considered as grandfathered in. There being no further comments, Mayor Doug Hammond closed the public hearing. *Councilmember Travis Allan moved to approve Ordinance No. 2021-04. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;

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Councilmember Allanaye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Porteraye;
Councilmember Clark..... aye.

PUBLIC HEARING: CDBG SMALL CITIES PROGRAM FOR YEAR 2021 – 2ND PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS FINAL PROJECT: Allen Parker explained that this is the 2nd public hearing prior to finalizing the application for CDBG funds to consider installing sidewalk in moderate to low income housing areas. The City has been tentatively awarded funding for that project in the amount of \$195,000 and the funds will be used in an area that is historically under served. A survey was conducted of the area to pre-qualify for the funds. A map of the area was displayed showing the residents who were contacted. The project will include sidewalk and accessible corners. Mayor Doug Hammond opened the public hearing. Councilmember Dave Everett asked what the cost would be to the City. Allen Parker stated it will be staff time and a small match of up to \$15,000. Councilmember Ted Munford stated he used to live on this street and knows the sidewalk will serve more than the low to moderate housing residents and will be beneficial to the entire neighborhood. Councilmember Travis Allan asked if the vacant land is overflow parking owned by the City or the County. Quinn Bennion stated it is owned by the County. Cindy Scott stated this will be a good program that enhances the City. Councilmember Ted Munford stated he has had questions from residents on that street, particularly the top corner property. Councilmember Travis Allan stated he has been approached as well. Allen Parker stated he would look into that property. There being no further comments, Mayor Hammond closed the public hearing.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH NAPLES CITY AND UTAH COUNTY FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE CENTRAL CANAL TO A PUBLIC STORM DRAIN CHANNEL – RESOLUTION NO. 2021-07: Quinn Bennion explained that this Resolution is a follow-up to the piping of nine miles of central canal that has been relied on over the years as a storm water channel. The central canal runs through the County, Vernal City and Naples City and includes Kid’s canal which raises a number of resident concerns. He noted that the City has been really clear that the canal belongs to the irrigators, and that section will not have the amount of water in it that is there now. Councilmember Dave Everett voiced his concern for the trees along the route of the canal. Quinn Bennion stated it is his understanding that the irrigators have to address how those trees are maintained although some of them will have to be removed to install the pipes. Also, they have committed to keeping the trail where it is now. Naples City is taking the lead because they want to do work along 2500 South that is very expensive. Initially the Community Impact Board was not as favorable as hoped with this project, so their funding was appealed and they finally provided a 75% grant 25% loan. This Interlocal Agreement outlines the funding from each entity based on the number of outlets and street crossings within each entity. The reason the funding was tied to the street crossings is because currently the canal runs through culverts under the streets. The canal company wants to put there

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pipes into those culverts. Councilmember Bert Clark asked who will maintain the canal. Quinn Bennion stated he will verify who is responsible, although he thought the County agreed to do it. He noted that the cost to Vernal City is \$25,000 and it would have been millions to put in a new system. Mayor Doug Hammond stated that there is a tree falling over by Kid’s Canal. Quinn Bennion answered right now it is the responsibility of the canal company; however, in the future, it could be a government entity responsibility. Cindy Scott asked when the piping will start. Quinn Bennion stated this fall after the irrigation season. After further discussion, *Nick Porter moved to approve Resolution No 2021-07 and the Interlocal Agreement. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH RUNTASTIC FOR BUS SERVICE FOR HALF MARATHON and CONSIDER APPROVAL OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH UINTAH SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR BUS SERVICE FOR HALF MARATHON – RESOLUTION NO. 2021-08:

Allen Parker reminded the Council that these agreements are the City’s participation in the Dino Marathon that is held each year. The first agreement is with the organization Runtastic to pay for the buses to get the participants from the staging area to the start of the race up Dry Fork Canyon. The reason the City agreed to do this is because there are no commercial carriers and they anticipate up to 700 runners. The buses belong to the School District who can lease them to another government agency, not a private business. After further discussion, *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the agreement with Runtastic and the Interlocal Agreement with Uintah School District, Resolution No. 2021-08. Councilmember Travis Allan seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH 8TH DISTRICT COURT FOR JUVENILE WORK PROGRAM:

Allen Parker explained that this agreement with the court system provides juveniles to work on landscaped areas owned by the City. This agreement is similar to the agreement of two years ago with an added statement for the pandemic. The work will commence this month and end October 31st at a cost of \$800 a month. Councilmember Bert Clark asked the staff to remind them when they mow or weed-eat, to not put the clippings in the street or the curb especially by the green dinosaur and the courts. Allen Parker stated he will remind

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the supervisor, Brandon Putnum who manages this program. *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the agreement with 8th District Court for landscaping services. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES PROPOSAL FOR DESIGN WORK FOR THE SAFE SIDEWALK PROJECT ON 500 W.:

Quinn Bennion explained that is a minor scope of work using professional services to design the safe sidewalk project from 350 North to 400 North on 500 West. This will be coordinated with the other projects being completed in this area. The other cement project is 100% UDOT on Hwy 121. The cost is just under \$15,000 for the engineering contract with Jones and Demille who are the engineers working with Uintah Basin Health for their development and the safe sidewalk project by the walking park. *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to approve the agreement with Jones and DeMille for design work for the Safe Sidewalk project along 500 West. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

UCMA Appointment:

Quinn Bennion stated he has been appointed to the UCMA board representing rural cities. He attended the conference in St. George and it was very informative.

Grant Funding:

Quinn Bennion stated he is preparing a funding application to Congressman Blake Moore’s office for help with downtown and Main Street work. 10 letters of support have been received to submit with the application.

Sewer line repair:

Councilmember Bert Clark reported that the sewer line from 500 North to where it diverts on 1500 East must be replaced within the next 5 years. This is a jointly owned line and it will be expensive to reline it.

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Meetings:

Quinn Bennion reminded the Council of the upcoming Joint City / County meeting and the CDRA meeting scheduled for next Monday and the special budget workshop scheduled for next Wednesday at 5:30 pm.

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ADJOURN: There being no further business; *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to adjourn. Councilmember Travis Allan 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)