

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
MAY 5 , 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 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 Ted Munford.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2021: *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the minutes of April 21, 2021 as presented. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Allan, Porter and Clark voting in favor.*

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 28, 2021: *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to approve the minutes of April 28, 2021. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Allan, Porter and Clark voting in favor.*

PUBLIC BUSINESS:

Mayor Doug Hammond explained that he received a request from Danette Bryce to address the Council and he is granting the request.

Dannette Bryce explained that she owns a small business in Vernal City called the Country Bear. At the beginning of February fellow business members began reaching out to each other to see if they had received a renewal notice for their business license with the City. Most businesses said they did not receive an invoice when usually they do. Further, Ms. Bryce stated she then contacted Quinn Bennion, explained the situation, and understood that the City is pushing for license renewal to go on-line, although that did not happen this year. The beauty shop owner also did not receive a notice and came to the City and was told there were three notices sent out and had to pay a late fee. Again, they contacted Quinn feeling it is not fair to have to pay a late fee when they did not receive an invoice and Mr. Bennion asked if anyone had reached out. There has not been any communication from anyone except Mr. Bennion. Dannette Bryce stated she is willing to pay her business license fee, but is not willing to pay a late fee as she knows she did not miss three mailings. Councilmember Bert Clark asked what the amount of the late fee being assessed is. Danette Bryce stated she did not know. Councilmember Ted Munford stated he had the same issue and called the City when he did not receive a renewal notice. He asked how many businesses are late this year versus previous years. If the City caused the issue somehow there needs to be a solution to rectify it. Danette stated she understand it is her responsibility to pay the license fee, however, there has always been a reminder. Councilmember Travis Allan agreed that he just puts

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it with the other bills to be paid when it comes in. Allen Parker explained that there was a problem with the billing, so additional notices were sent out by e-mail. If the business did not list an e-mail address, they may not have received a reminder. He indicated that a proposal will be brought to the Council to consider for the late fees. Councilmember Bert Clark stated the City does need to address the late fee. Allen Parker noted that there are 147 businesses that have not paid their renewal. The Council thanked Danette for bring this to their attention.

PRESENTATION OF ROAD STRIPING BID AND REQUEST TO AWARD CONTRACT:

Clint Morton presented the only bid received for the road striping project. The project consists of three applications of paint to put lines on the major roads with one application each year. The bid is \$73,400 from Straight Stripe. The other road symbols will be completed in-house. Councilmember Bert Clark asked what the time frame is to do this work. Clint Morton answered they will start in June and complete it before July each year. *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to award the contract to stripe the roads to Straight Stripe for the next three years. 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.*

PRESENTATION OF FY2022 TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SETTING PUBLIC HEARING DATE:

Mike Davis presented the FY2022 budget and explained the budget process. He noted that last year the City paid the last payment on a street bond and cut down the workforce which which still required the use \$192,000 of unreserved fund balance to break even. This budget is not as tight so the City Council may be able to consider purchasing some necessary items that have been placed on hold. Many of the departments have requested capital items and this might be a budget where those items can actually be funded. He noted that the park budget has been moved over to the streets department so the Class B & C road funds and transportation tax can be utilized properly. The revenue has been projected to be the same as last year although it is hard to tell with COVID and stimulus payments. Businesses are opening up which is helping. *Councilmember Ted Munford stated the past few years have been tough. He moved to approve the tentative budget as presented. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

- Councilmember Munford.....aye;*
- Councilmember Allanaye;*
- Councilmember Everettaye;*
- Councilmember Porteraye;*

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Councilmember Clark..... aye.

Mike Davis reminded the Council that they needed to set a public hearing for the FY2022 budget. *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to set the public hearing for the budget on June 2nd during the regular City Council meeting. 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.

PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES WATER AND SEWER WARRANTY PROGRAM: Allen Parker explained that there is a company called Home Serve USA who has partnered with the National League of Cities and Towns to provide a residential home warranty service for water and sewer laterals. This program will pay, up to a certain amount, to repair a water or sewer line lateral. In some situations the homeowner may have a long lateral and the cost is quite substantial to fix it when it fails. The cost to the homeowner is \$5.25 for external water, or \$9.49 for interior. They warranty company will utilize the City’s logo in their marketing so the Council would need to endorsement this program. He noted that the City Attorney does want specific language making it clear it is not the City that is offering the service. The contract would be for a three year period. Councilmember Dave Everett clarified that this program is only available for homeowners. Allen Parker answered yes and noted that it is not available for his home because the line is owned by the HOA. Councilmember Ted Munford stated he liked the idea that this is not mandatory; however, with the age of some of the lines it would be a wise investment. Quinn Bennion stated there are a few drawbacks such as the cap, and it rare for a government agency to endorse a program. Also, this company does use local contractors. Councilmember Dave Everett stated he would welcome this program. Allen Parker stated he would work out the remainder of the details and bring this agreement back for approval.

REQUEST CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF UDOT FEDERAL AID AGREEMENT CONTRACT: Quinn Bennion explained that the City applied for a small urban Grant through UDOT to reconstruct 500 North from Vernal Avenue to 500 East. That application was successful so the City can begin the design work and then a year from now move forward with construction. The City’s financial commitment is 7% of the project which equals \$277,076. The federal grant is for \$1.6 million dollars. A notice will go out to the residents in this area so they will be aware of what is going to happen. The project includes the addition of curbs and sidewalk on one side of the street. Once this agreement is approved, the City will work with UDOT to procure a design firm. There are four qualified engineering firms. Quinn Bennion

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stated this contract does commit \$277,000 for this project. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the agreement with UDOT for the small urban grant. 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Downtown Plan:

Quinn Bennion reminded the Council that today was the beginning of the planning workshop to come up with a master plan for downtown. The turnout, interest and energy were really good with a lot of feedback and discussion. There were seventeen people that took the trip to Steamboat Springs and Casper, Wyoming to see their downtown efforts.

CLOSED SESSION: *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to go into closed session 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 concluded. 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.

RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURN: The meeting reconvened into open session. There being no further business; *Councilmember Travis Allan 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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2021**

Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

(S E A L)