

**M**INUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD  
MAY 19, 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 Ted Munford.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Travis Allan.

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2021:** *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the minutes of the regular May 5, 2021 Council meeting. 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 MAY 5, 2021:** *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the minutes of the special May 5, 2021 Council meeting. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Allan, Porter and Clark voting in favor.*

**REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR OUTLAW TRAIL FESTIVAL – JAY HASLEM:** Jay Haslem explained that the Outlaw Trail Festival was started 30 years ago by the Uintah Arts Council. The Litton family took over around 20 years ago and even used their own funds along with ticket sales to cover the costs. Last year with COVID the numbers were so far down the costs could not be covered and the Litton's retired. A board was formed to continue the production and the hope is to collect \$60,000 in ticket sales over ten nights. The theatre holds 600 people so it is possible. Mr. Haslem indicated that \$10,000 in donations has been raised so far and the hope is to be self sufficient in the next few years. Mr. Haslem stated they are in need of help for this year to make sure this community event does not disappear. The production for this year is Hello Dolly and will be performed by over 60 actors. Councilmember Ted Munford confirmed that once established they anticipate this event will be self sustaining. Jay Haslem answered yes. Councilmember Bert Clark stated that the Recreation District has funds to help with events and the Litton's approached them in the past. Jay Haslem indicated that there is not any cash contribution as those funds have not been budgeted. The County contributes by not charging for the use of the facility. Councilmember Ted Munford noticed the form was marked not-for-profit and for-profit. Jay Haslem stated it was originally created as for-profit, and now is being amended to be non-profit through the Friends of Ashley Valley or the Foundation for the Arts. Councilmember Travis Allan stated this is a worthy cause and asked if there were any funds available. Quinn Bennion stated there is funding in the miscellaneous funds set aside for events. Also, some events that were budgeted were cancelled so those funds are available. *Councilmember Travis Allan moved to approve a \$3500 sponsorship for the Outlaw Train*

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*Festival. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

**PRESENTATION BY ROCK ART ASSOCIATION – STEVE AND DIANA ACERSON:**

Diana Acerson explained that the Rock Art Association has around 400 members and they partner with the State History and Archeology for the purpose of preserving historical rock art. Federal agencies also help with educational materials. This area has a lot of visitors interested in seeing the petroglyphs so the Association wants to bring awareness to what has happened and educate the youth to preserve it. She suggested the City add a community guideline to the website or on the water bill to help prevent vandalism. The rock art is thousands of years old and was important to those that wrote it. If someone is caught vandalizing, there are fine and penalties. A program called “Respect and Protect” has been formed to educate everyone for all kinds of archeologic items. Mrs. Acerson presented a brochure and a PowerPoint presentation showing how to behave around rock art. She noted that on July 31<sup>st</sup> an educational program will be presented at the library. Councilmember Bert Clark suggested they contact the Governor who gives a weekly speech to add something about this when he addresses the citizens. Diana Acerson acknowledged the State supports tourism and agreed that is a great idea. She stated they host an annual symposium and this year it will be held in Vernal. They will also visit twenty to thirty City Councils to spread their message. Allen Parker asked if they have specific media that the City can link to through social media. Steve Acerson stated they do have a website. Mr. Jeff Sweeney stated a lot of people go to Nine Mile and spend an extra day in the area because someone mentions it to them. The Council thanked the Rock Art Association for the presentation.

**PRESENTATION BY ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER – DON WATTS AND BRANDON ANDERSON:** Quinn Bennion stated this item will be placed on the next agenda.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS FY2021 BUDGET REOPENER NO. 1 – ORDINANCE NO. 2021-05:**

Mayor Doug Hammond opened the public hearing to discuss the budget reopener. Quinn Bennion explained that the budget has to be adjusted as items changed especially with COVID and CARES Act funds. The general sales tax is up from what was anticipated along with building permits which is good encouragement of investment in the community. The largest change to revenue is the CARES Act funding in the amount of \$578,500. The first payment was in last year’s budget. The joint chip seal program with the Uintah Transportation was in the FY2020 budget and did not get expended so that expense of \$447,000 has to be added to this budget. There are some additional minor changes to expenses with less travel due to the pandemic and the separation agreements. There being no public comments, Mayor Hammond closed the public hearing.

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*Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve Ordinance No. 2021-05 approving FY2021 budget reopener #1. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

**REVIEW OF BIDS AND REQUEST APPROVAL FOR SAFE SIDEWALK PROJECT:**

Quinn Bennion explained that the City received one bid for the Safe Sidewalk Project planned near Discovery Elementary. The bid was from Burdick Paving in the amount of \$251,000 which is \$60,000 over budget. One of the items that seems high is the \$68,000 for traffic control and the engineer is looking into that. The Council can consider several options including scaling back the project, using City resources for traffic control, or finding a way to fund the extra \$60,000. Burdick Paving has indicated that they use a subcontractor for traffic control and do not have the plan. They agree the City can provide traffic control as long as the crew follows their plan. Councilmember Ted Munford stated the City will want to see the plan first. Quinn Bennion stated it is the City’s street so it will need to follow City specs. He suggested the Council approve a notice of award with the adjustment of the City crew providing traffic control. Councilmember Travis Allan asked why there was only one bidder. Quinn Bennion stated that Burdick worked with Stearns Construction to provide this bid. Councilmember Nick Porter stated everyone in that industry is very busy. After further discussion, *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve a notice of award only to Burdick paving for the Safe Sidewalk Project. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FINAL CONTRACT WITH NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES WATER AND SEWER WARRANTY PROGRAM:**

Allen Parker reminded the Council that there is a company recommended by the National League of Cities to provide a warranty program to residential properties for water and sewer lateral lines. A few details had to be worked out and those changes are highlighted in the contract. He noted that another option is for the City to come up with their own program. Councilmember Ted Munford stated he is comfortable with the contract as there are areas that need it. Councilmember Travis Allan stated there are areas with certain type of piping and the staff should let those specific neighborhoods know about this program. Councilmember Dave Everett asked how soon this program will be implemented. Allen Parker stated twelve weeks after the contracts are signed they will produce

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materials and get the campaign ready. Councilmember Travis Allan stated he would like to see something for businesses, especially for water loss. There was some discussion regarding if this warranty would cover from the main line to a sprinkler line. Allen Parker stated he thought it would be covered. Quinn Bennion asked if the billing should be added to the water bill. Mayor Hammond stated he would prefer they do their own billing. Councilmember Nick Porter agreed it would cut down the complaints. After further discussion, *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the contract with HomeServe to provide a utility line warranty program. Councilmember Travis Allan seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

**PAINT STRIPING:** Quinn Bennion informed the Council that the contractor claims he bid a one-year price of \$80,000 rather than three years. Last year the City paid \$19 a gallon for street striping and now this bid would \$82 a gallon. He suggested this project be rebid with clear understanding that it is for three years.

**BUSINESS EXPO:**

Quinn Bennion stated that the Business Expo went well with 200 people in attendance. The business pitch contest was held and the winner was Trisha Sorensen, who presented her plan of a consignment business of Vernal made produce and bakery in downtown Vernal.

**UDOT:**

Quinn Bennion reported that the downtown drainage project being managed by UDOT will be done by Memorial Day.

**PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR;**

Quinn Bennion stated that interviews were held and he will make an offer to one candidate tomorrow. Councilmember Dave Everett stated there were several qualified applicants.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business; *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to adjourn. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote and the meeting was declared adjourned.*

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Mayor Doug Hammond

ATTEST:

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Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

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