

**M**INUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD MAY 20 , 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main, Vernal, Utah 84078. *Because of gathering restrictions put in place by the Utah Department of Health, only fifty participants would be allowed in attendance.*

**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 THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2020:** *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the special budget minutes of May 6, 2020. Councilmember Nicholas Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Allan, Porter and Clark voting in favor.*

**APPROVAL OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2020:** *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting held May 6, 2020. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Allan, Porter and Clark voting in favor.*

**REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP OF THE JR. LIVESTOCK SHOW:** Cindy Birchell explained that she is here to ask for funding for the Junior Livestock Show. With the pandemic situation this year, most of the shows were closed and cancelled. This show has been working with Tri-county Health to host this show for just Uintah Basin residents and there are 156 entries. She stated they understand the budget restraints and appreciate any sponsorship the City could offer. Quinn Bennion explained that this event has been budgeted in the amount of \$750. *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve \$750 for the Junior Livestock Show. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

**PRESENTATION REGARDING THE POSSIBLE ADDITION OF BIKE LANES ALONG SR-121 AS PART OF THE UDOT RESURFACING PROJECT – CIVCO ENGINEERING:** Brett Reynolds explained that UDOT is doing a project from the gravel pit to 500 West on SR121, and they want to comply with the trails master plan. Highway 121 has been designated as a top priority for a bike trail system and there is enough room to add a bike lane from 3500 West down to the clinic. However, there is one stipulation – there cannot be any parking along that road which will have to be enforced. Quinn Bennion explained this is a resurfacing and restriping project. He stated that although the Trails Committee is supportive

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of bike lanes, it is a difficult decision to eliminate parking thereby remove one person's benefit for another person's benefit. This would also add to the City's commitment to sweep this area more often to keep the rocks off the bike lane. Brett Reynolds stated this is not an option for the County since they do not have a street sweeper. Councilmember Ted Munford stated he would rather wait until this project can be done correctly like widening the shoulder. Councilmember Travis Allan stated that although he appreciates UDOT acknowledging the plan, this does not seem like the right time to remove parking. Councilmember Dave Everett agreed. After further discussion, the consensus of the Council was to thank UDOT for considering the plan, and keep it in mind for a later date. Brett Reynolds stated he would convey that the City wants the trail, just not yet.

**PUBLIC HEARING: FY2021 BUDGET:** Mayor Doug Hammond opened the public hearing, and explained that now is the time for anyone to bring up any items in reference to the upcoming budget. So far the City has held three budget workshops to try to come up with a balanced budget. There were no public comments and the public hearing was closed.

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A MINOR SUBDIVISION FOR TYLER AND MARILEE SHINER FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 261 WEST 500 SOUTH, VERNAL, UTAH:** Allen Parker explained that the City received a request to subdivide a parcel of property on 500 South 260 West. The property currently has a home on it, and the request is to split the house property from the remaining property making the second parcel a flag lot. The Planning Commission reviewed the request and is forwarding a positive recommendation. The staff has reviewed the lots and finds them to be compliant with City code. Councilmember Bert Clark asked what the width of the lot will be at the entrance on 500 South. Allen Parker answered that the drive entrance is 24 feet. There was some discussion regarding the irrigation line and pump and protecting that infrastructure. After further discussion, *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the Shiner minor subdivision. Councilmember Travis Allan seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

**RATIFICATION OF CARES ACT GRANT AGREEMENT FOR \$1,043,853 FOR PURPOSES OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE AIRPORT:** Quinn Bennion reminded the Council that he previously spoke with them about the funding through the CARES Act from the FAA for the airport. That funding is just over \$1 million dollars and must be used for the operation and maintenance and immediate capital expenses of the airport. The funds will be used to purchase the \$550,000 sweeper and pay the operation expenses for 2020. *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to ratify the approval of the grant agreement from the CARES Act for the airport. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO GRANT AGREEMENT (AIP GRANT NO. 3-49-0037-037-2020) FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OF THE AIRPORT FENCE:** Quinn Bennion explained that this funding also comes through the CARES Act with the FAA offering to cover 100% of this recent project, although it is still unreimbursed. There will be no local match requirement which would have been \$32,000. Uintah County paid for most of that cost and will be reimbursed when the funds are paid by the FAA. *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to approve the grant agreement with the FAA for the fence at the airport. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH NAPLES CITY AND UTAH COUNTY FOR PARTICIPATION IN A JOINT STORM WATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM PROJECT – RESOLUTION NO. 2020-05:** Quinn Bennion explained that this agreement is the next step in the storm drainage project working with Naples City and Uintah County. Naples City will be the applicant for funding to the Community Impact Board and this agreement outlines the obligations of each entity. Vernal City’s commitment is \$25,000 if funding is secured as proposed to the CIB Board. Councilmember Travis Allan asked if a decision had been made to pipe the entire channel and give up Kids Canal. Quinn Bennion stated it will not be the same as now, however, there are some decisions ahead of the City to allow some water in the channel. Councilmember Travis Allan stated that the canal has a lot of foliage and trees that will not have any water anymore. Councilmember Bert Clark stated the central canal president knows they still need to maintain the canal. Dean Baker, Mayor of Naples City, stated he understands the canal company, along with the County will maintain the canals. Councilmember Travis Allan asked if this was addresses in the environmental impact study. Quinn Bennion stated he did not know if that was part of the study. Councilmember Ted Munford stated they may remove some of the trees when they lay the pipeline. After further discussion, *Councilmember Travis Allan moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement for the storm water project, Resolution No. 2020-05. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

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*Councilmember Porter .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Clark..... aye.*

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A STATEWIDE UTILITY LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH UDOT FOR USE OF THE STATE’S RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR UTILITIES:**

Quinn Bennion explained that every five years the City must renew an agreement with UDOT to use the right-of-way in the State roads for City utility lines. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the agreement with UDOT for the utility license. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

**RATIFICATION OF CITY EMPLOYEE’S HEALTH INSURANCE:**

Quinn Bennion reminded the Council that he spoke with them about the health insurance renewal as the benefits coordinator needed to know what direction to take for next year’s plan. The cost was negotiated with UHC, and in order to keep the rate the same some changes had to be made to the plans. The traditional plan will have an increase in the cost of office visits, and the high deductible plan will have the out of pocket maximum increase from \$3000 for single coverage to \$3500 and for families from \$6000 to \$7000. This was discussed by the department heads and even though there were a lot of different views, they understand keeping the cost the same so there is not increase to the City or the employees. *Councilmember Travis Allan moved to ratify the decision to change the health insurance plan slightly and keep the rate at zero percent increase in cost. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

**DISCUSSION REGARDING EXEMPT EMPLOYEES (FIRST READING) –**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-04:** Quinn Bennion explained that he would like to add four positions to the exemption, or salaried, list of positions for the City. Two of those positions are not currently filled, however, in the event in the future they are funded, those positions should be salaried. Those two positions are the City Recorder and the Public Works Director. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if it is common in the public sector to have these positions exempt. Quinn Bennion answered yes, it is common, and allowed by Fair Labor Standards. He noted that this is the first reading so additional information can be obtained before finalizing this resolution.

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**UPDATE OF COVID-19 CRISIS:** Quinn Bennion explained that he had been extremely busy with State meetings to decide how the CARES Act funding will be released. The decision was finally made to release the funds in three segments. The first release will be in June, the next will be later in the summer and the last one will be in October. The concern is the rules may change after the first release. The first allotment will be distributed based on population, and the funds can only be used for COVID related items. Councilmember Ted Munford suggested a letter be drafted saying the City appreciates the work on this issue and there is no reason to change the distribution. Quinn Bennion stated the City will receive around \$300,000 and the County will receive around \$1.2 million dollars. The employees have been keeping track of their work related to COVID, however it will be a stretch to use those funds for that purpose. There is a proposal to use those funds for business grants. Also, UBAG received an additional allotment of \$430,000 for CDBG funds, however, the use of those funds is very restrictive.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Dinosaur:

Mayor Doug Hammond stated he received phone calls about dressing up the dinosaur for graduation and the crews are willing to do that.

**CONTINUATION OF FY2021 BUDGET WORKSHOP (IF NECESSARY):** Quinn Bennion asked the Council to reconvene into the budget work session.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business; *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to adjourn. Councilmember Travis Allan 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

( S E A L )