

**M**INUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD  
JUNE 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main, Vernal,  
Utah 84078. *With Social Distancing rules still in place by the Tri-County Health  
Department, only 50 people will be allowed at the meeting location.*

**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 Travis Allan.

**APPROVAL OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2020:** *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of the Special Budget Meeting held May 20, 2020. Councilmember Nicholas Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Allan, Porter and Clark voting in favor.*

Councilmember Bert Clark asked Quinn Bennion to update them on the grant writer. Quinn Bennion explained he and the Mayor met with Commissioner Horrocks and although it is not completely resolved, the County employee will be committing more time to the City's needs.

**APPROVAL OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2020:** *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the minutes of May 20, 2020. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Allan, Porter and Clark voting in favor.*

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FAA GRANT AGREEMENT FOR AIP 38 RELATED TO THE WATER MITIGATION PROJECT:** Quinn Bennion explained that he toured the airport and looked at the water mitigation project before it started and saw all the items that need to be resolved. This is the second allotment of funds for this project, so the City needs to accept the grant funding for this next phase. Cheryl Meier explained that this is similar to the funding for the fence, with the FAA paying the total cost of the water mitigation project. Quinn Bennion stated that they will cover 100% of the cost. *Councilmember Travis Allan moved to approve the grant agreement for the airport water mitigation project. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmember Allan, Clark, Porter, Everett and Munford voting in favor.*

Quinn Bennion explained that there is also a change order on this project, as the engineer decided there needs to be extra piping from the irrigation water. The additional cost is estimated at \$22,000 and will be covered by the contingency funds. Ben McMickell stated that the piping includes a French drain so an area of the airport is not deemed wetlands. Usually there is a 5% match for funding. With the approval of the CARES Act, the funding will be 100% FAA. Cheryl Meier stated the risk with the contingency is if there is another issue, there may not be

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enough funding left.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING THE AIRPORT INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE AIRPORT – RESOLUTION NO. 2020-06:** Quinn Bennion reminded the Council that they have discussed this issue on a number of occasions, and the Council recognizes the importance of the airport for the community. The airport has been managed by the Uintah Transportation Special Service District for the last five years and they have formally notified the City and County that they no longer want to manage it. At the joint City / County meeting on Monday, the Council agreed to make a decision at this meeting. An Interlocal agreement has been drafted to formalize the arrangement between Vernal City and Uintah County for whichever entity manages the airport. There are some immediate staffing concerns with the manager leaving on Friday for another job, and another employee leaving for military duty on June 15<sup>th</sup> and he will be gone for 9 months. The remaining two employees will try to keep the airport running with the use of volunteer fire fighters. There is also an FAA audit the end of June that is critical. An airport board needs to be appointed to develop policies and regulations to help resolve concerns from user groups, draft a wildland inspection plan, maintain grant funding, and provide proper training for the staff. Long term plans are to look at revenues and try to reasonably look at leases to try to reduce government subsidy. Cheryl Meier stated that the 10,000 enplanements does not look possible with the COVID-19 reduction of people flying and hopefully the FAA will work with all the airports to waive that requirement this year. Quinn Bennion stated that the airport is not a simple operation, and will require the right manager. Councilmember Ted Munford stated he appreciated the comments from the County Commission and thinks it is very plausible and possible for the City to manage the airport. He asked the staff if they could handle the additional work load. Quinn Bennion stated that there will be several things to work through, although the HR and financial duties have already shifted to the City with the special service district. He noted that it will be a heavy load at first with the management, however, the City staff can do it. Councilmember Ted Munford stated that Vernal City is a good choice to manage the airport. Quinn Bennion stated that his only concern with the agreement is the out clause. He asked the Council to consider a six month notice rather than a year notice so the transition would not be so drawn out if it is necessary. After further discussion, the consensus of the Council was to change the out clause to six months. Councilmember Ted Munford stated that Commissioner Horrocks made it clear that if the City manages the airport they would not have any say except for expenditures over \$10,000 that do not fall within the budget. Councilmember Dave Everett stated that will alleviate any conflict of interest. Councilmember Bert Clark asked about the funding. Quinn Bennion stated that the Finance Director, Mike Davis, has been doing a lot of prep work on the airport and will create an airport fund with revenues from the City and County. The funds from the CARES Act and enplanements will also be put in that fund. The snow groomer is the only capital expenditure at an estimated cost of \$530,000. Cheryl Meier stated that even if the FAA does not approve the \$1 million funding due to not getting the 10,000 enplanements, that funding would only be dropped to \$850,000, not \$150,000. However, if the enplanements drop lower than 8000 in two years, the amount will drop to the \$150,000 the following year. Quinn Bennion asked the Council if they were prepared to accept the management of the airport.

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Councilmembers Munford, Clark, Porter and Everett answered yes. Councilmember Travis Allan answered no. After further discussion, *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-06 approving the Interlocal Agreement with Uintah County to manage the airport with the amendment to the op-out clause changing it to six months.* Councilmember Travis Allan asked if the County makes any changes to the amendment would it come back to the City Council. Quinn Bennion answered yes. *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*

**UPDATE OF RESPONSE TO COVID-19 CRISIS:** Quinn Bennion explained that a meeting was held with the County, Naples City, and Ballard officials to discuss the CARES Act funding. The initial funds will come from the State in about 2 weeks, and the City share will be approximately \$309,000. These funds can only be used for actual COVID-19 expenses that are not budgeted, or for small grants. A small business grant is being drafted prioritizing what businesses are eligible for funding that will help the entire community. Also, UBAG received additional funding through the CDBG program which has a lot of stipulations on these funds. Several local events are still being planned such as the rodeo and 4<sup>th</sup> of July Freedom fest.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

Cemetery:

Councilmember Bert Clark stated he received complaints about the cemetery with vandalism and negligence with the mowing down of grave decorations. The cemetery manager has been notified and is working to resolve the problem.

Shooting:

Quinn Bennion stated that a press release has been issued on the call for medical assistance where the officers found out a person had been shot. The suspect was identified and eventually taken into custody. The suspect and victim’s names have not been released at this time.

ATV Jamboree:

Mayor Doug Hammond stated that the ATV event was a huge success with double the number of people as last year.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business; *Councilmember Bert Clark 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

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