

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
SEPTEMBER 1, 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 and Bert Clark and Mayor Doug Hammond. Councilmember Travis Allan was excused.

WELCOME: Mayor Doug Hammond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT: The invocation was given by Councilmember Dave Everett.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Nick Porter.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2021: *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of August 18, 2021. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Porter and Clark voting in favor.*

INTRODUCTION OF MISS UINTAH COUNTY ROYALTY: Ms. Olivia Haws explained that she is the Ms. Uintah County Teen for this year and will be representing our area. Her platform is to give everyone the change to dance. She thanked the elected officials for all they do for the community. Mayor Doug Hammond thanked Ms. Haws for coming to the meeting.

PRESENTATION AND CAMPAIGN TO WEAR BIKE / SKATE HELMETS – NATALIE STONE: Natalie Stone explained that during the first part of March her grandson was riding a skateboard without a helmet and was practicing a new jump. He fell and his life was cut short. The family has started an organization to try to educate all generations of the importance of wearing a helmet and honor the legacy of Barrett. Statistics show that five children every hour are injured or killed by activities where they should have been wearing a helmet. Natalie presented a sign to the City to be placed at the skate park. Bert Clark stated that EOG Resources will be donating more signs. He noted that some communities are rewarding the youth for wearing a helmet by giving them a free ice cream or treat from a local retailer. Natalie Stone stated this gives a positive message to the youth. Natalie presented information packets to the City for families to be better informed of the importance of helmets. The Council thanked Natalie for her presentation.

REPORT ON 2021 DINOSAUR ROUNDUP RODEO: Carson Young, Vice President of the Rodeo Committee, expressed his appreciation of the continued support of the City for the Dinosaur Roundup Rodeo. He presented a plaque to say “thank you” for helping the rodeo be successful. He presented highlights from the 2021 rodeo which hosted over 700 contestants. Ticket sales were sold in 35 States with Utah and then Florida being the highest attendees. There were 2600 more people in attendance this year over last year. Also, they partnered with the junior rodeo and held a qualifier in June with 550 entries. The rodeo was broadcast live on the Cowboy Channel nationwide. One goal is to improve the Western Park facility by adding

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3000 more seats. Carson Young thanked the City and the airport again for their sponsorship and support of the rodeo. The dates for next year are July 7-9, 2022. Councilmember Dave Everett explained that he helped with interviews today and one of the applicants from California mentioned that Vernal is known for having the biggest rodeo. Carson Young stated this rodeo has a better production than anywhere else. Councilmember Bert Clark thanked Carson for the hard work and asked him to convey his thanks to all the volunteers.

AMENDMENT TO THE VERNAL CITY MUNICIPAL CODE, SECTIONS 2.28.050 – POWERS AND DUTIES OF CITY MANAGER & 2.32.010 – APPOINTMENT – AD HOC DEPUTIES FOR CITY RECORDER – ORDINANCE NO. 2021-17: Quinn Bennion explained that this code amendment is needed in order to make it official to appoint a City Recorder who is not the City Manager. For many years, if not forever, the City Recorder official designation was the city manager. This is the right time and is way overdue to transition this position to the deputy recorder who is doing 98% of the duties of the city recorder. The salary adjustment was approved at the last meeting to put this position salaried. Councilmember Ted Munford agreed this is timely and necessary. *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to approve Ordinance No. 2021-17. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

APPOINTMENT OF VERNAL CITY RECORDER – MAYOR DOUG HAMMOND: Mayor Doug Hammond explained that he is appointing Roxanne Behunin as the Vernal City Recorder. Mayor Hammond read the oath of office to Roxanne Behunin and she took the oath of office and was officially appointed as the Vernal City Recorder.

UPDATE OF JUSTICE COURT SPACE IN CITY HALL: Quinn Bennion explained that with the combining of the courts the best location for the court is at the new public safety building. There were a few issues that had to be worked out and the court is doing well in the new location. With that court space being vacant in City Hall, Mr. Bennion proposed the City lease the space to UBAG. They provide a variety of governmental services throughout the tri-county area and are leasing spaces in Vernal. City Hall would allow them to have a space for meetings, the heat office, and it is ADA accessible. A team from UBAG toured the building and is excited and interested to move. They also need some inside space for the BTA bus computers and electronic equipment. Councilmember Dave Everett asked how many offices are available. Quinn Bennion stated there are four offices and two private spaces off the lobby. Minor details will need to be worked out with the phone system, janitorial etc. Councilmember Bert Clark asked how many days a week they will be in the building. Quinn Bennion answered

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that currently they have two full-time employees and several part-time so they will be here all week. Mayor Hammond thanked Mr. Bennion for the update.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Election:

Quinn Bennion stated that the ballots are being printed for the upcoming municipal election.

ULCT conference

Quinn Bennion reminded the Council of the upcoming conference in Salt Lake City.

Balloon fest

Quinn Bennion reported that thousands of people came to Main Street for the annual balloon festival which is a favorite for the community. The balloonists were able to fly all three mornings. Councilmember Dave Everett stated the date change was a plus for this event. Councilmember Clark stated it was amazing how many people were out in their yard and in the streets watching.

Phenomecon :

Quinn Bennion reminded the Council of the upcoming Phenomecon event scheduled for next weekend. There has been a lot of attention with Skin Walker Ranch and Blind Frog Ranch and the tickets have been sold to people from 22 States.

Google maps:

Quinn Bennion stated it is an issue with google maps that sends travelers off Highway 40. A solution is being looked into.

OPEN MEETINGS TRAINING: [HTTPS://TRAINING.AUDITOR.UTAH.GOV/](https://training.auditor.utah.gov/)

The Council listed to the recording from the Utah Auditors office and took the required test for the open meetings training.

ADJOURN: There being no further business; *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to adjourn. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote and the meeting was declared adjourned.*