

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
SEPTEMBER 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East
Main, Vernal, Utah 84078.

PRESENT: Mayor Doug Hammond and Councilmembers Bert Clark, Dave Everett, Ted Munford, Travis Allan and Nicholas Porter.

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 AUGUST 19, 2020: *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the minutes of August 19, 2020. Councilmember Travis Allan seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Allan, Porter and Clark voting in favor.*

APPROVAL OF FUNDING FOR THE MAYOR’S WALK AT RECREATION DISTRICT: Quinn Bennion stated this event is in the budget at the rate of \$500. Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the Mayor’s Walk funding in the amount of \$500. 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.*

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF SOFTWARE PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH IWORQS: Allen Parker explained that his department has been using IWORQS software for code enforcement and building permits and would like to add the module for business licensing now that it is being administered out of the planning office. This software is an on-line product that will allow business licensing to be managed electronically. The annual cost for the software is \$9730 including permit management and code enforcement. Mike Davis stated the current process for a business license is for the owner to fill out a paper form, call for inspector who has to pick up the form and complete his section, and then bring it back for the planning office to review. Allen Parker stated the new system will send information out electronically to everyone that needs to review the business; they check it off and return it electronically. Councilmember Ted Munford stated he likes the on-line workings, but is concerned there is no backup. He suggested they request a backup regularly. Allen Parker stated he will make certain that happens. Quinn Bennion stated there is a fleet management component that will be looked at in the future. *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the agreement with*

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
SEPTEMBER 2, 2020**

IWORQS as presented. Councilmember Nicholas Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

REQUEST TO AMEND THE VERNAL CITY MUNICIPAL CODE – NUISANCE ABATEMENT – ORDINANCE NO. 2020-08: Allen Parker explained that this draft ordinance adds two small sections to the nuisance sections of the code. The main reason for this ordinance is to address the failure to remove animal excrement that causes odor to permeate onto adjacent property causing a health and welfare issue. The ordinance lists that the property should be cleaned every seven days, however that time frame may be problematic. Councilmember Ted Munford agreed and asked how that time frame could be identified. Allen Parker stated it would have to come from a log from animal control or the neighbors. He stated this ordinance includes urban livestock such as chickens and goats. There was some discussion regarding the wording such as urine, waste, or excrement. The consensus was to go with animal waste, including excrement. Allen Parker stated the next section addresses a weed problem, particularly a plant called dodder weed. This type of plant kills off the host plant and does not respond to normal weed killers. There is a certain acid that will kill them.

There was more discussion regarding the seven day provision for animal waste. Councilmember Dave Everett stated that as cold season approaches, this may not be an issue. Allen Parker read additional language that could be added to section C. After further discussion, *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve Ordinance No. 2020-08 with the addition of Section C, and changing the wording to animal waste including excrement. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS: Quinn Bennion reminded the Council at the last joint City / County meeting the Commission asked the Cities to provide a plan on how to allocate the fund to the special service districts. With the continued decrease of mineral lease funding, there could be a large impact to the City because a number of services being provided by the special service districts are typically provided by city or county government. Mike Davis provided the background of the mineral lease funds and the allocation to the special service districts. In 2018, the Commissioners set the first allocation to the Fire,

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 2, 2020

Health and Animal Districts, and then the remaining funds were split based on percentage. In 2020, all the districts were capped except for Transportation who receives the remaining funds if there is enough to pay all the other Districts their set amount. Also, the Commission wanted them to pay off debt so more funding was given to the Impact Mitigation District. There was extensive discussion regarding the amount of funding projected for 2020. Councilmember Ted Munford indicated that so far the districts have received \$5.3 million dollars with 5 months still remaining, so it is fair to consider the Districts will receive \$10 million dollars this year. Quinn Bennion stated it would be closer to \$9.7 million based on trend. He presented the property tax revenue sources for the School District, County and Cities. He pointed out that the property tax revenue for the County is mostly from the centrally assessed businesses, while the cities rely on sales tax revenue. Councilmember Travis Allan asked about the PILT funds. Quinn Bennion stated those funds are “payments in lieu of taxes” for the County to provide services on federal lands and the County cannot receive both PILT and mineral lease funds so the mineral lease funds are given to the Districts. Councilmember Allan stated if mineral lease funds are only used for transportation, it is not being using for all the citizens and circumvents the reason for mineral lease payments. Councilmember Ted Munford stated he is in favor of using mineral lease funds for oiled roads only. Quinn Bennion recommended he collect all the ideas for the mineral lease funds and have the Administrative Committee refine and put together a plan for the County.

Councilmember Travis Allan stated after the last meeting where the Commission moved to dissolve the Fire District and combine three of the other Districts, he was perplexed how they came to that decision. There was no discussion, no figures given, and no real reason. Later that week the Fire District held their meeting and Councilmember Allan said he was shocked at the support from the fire chiefs to work for free to keep the District functioning. He noted that financially it did not make a lot of sense to dissolve a District that is benefiting all the citizens of the County. Councilmember Ted Munford agreed. He stated that the City Attorney does not think it is legal for them to dissolve that District since they have contracts with other entities. However, they can defund that district. He noted that one Commissioner made the comment that they would move forward anyway. Councilmember Dave Everett stated they already have their minds made up so there is no reason for a plan from the City. He wondered if the Commission would reinstate the Districts if the economy rebounds. Quinn Bennion stated most counties have one or two districts and expand their services as needed. He thought there may be some validity to combine districts to reduce administrative expenses. Councilmember Munford stated the plan should look at dissolving Impact Mitigation and move those services to another district. Councilmember Allan stated the care center has money from a tax that was approved years ago and it should be used rather than sitting in a savings account. Quinn Bennion stated it was initially thought those funds could only be used for capital expenses, but the ballot proposition said it could be used for operations. Councilmember Ted Munford stated another suggestion is to not use savings accounts to pay off debt, rather use those funds for operating capital until the economy rebounds. The Council agreed.

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 2, 2020

Brian Gorum, Chairman of the Fire District Board, stated that if the Board knew what the Commission was thinking, they would not have been so prudent over the years and would have gone into debt. This District has built amazing relationships with other agencies and has worked tirelessly for the betterment of the County fire stations. The fear is the outlying stations will go backwards with no training or equipment and the ISO ratings will increase. He noted that at the last meeting four of the five stations said they would fight fires, take care of equipment, etc. for free until the funds come back – God bless them. He stated he would rather pay \$20 for taxes than \$800 - \$900 for higher homeowners insurance. He asked the City to fight for the Fire District. Councilmember Bert Clark stated he agrees the Fire District is essential. Councilmember Ted Munford stated this is his first priority. Brian Gorum stated he thinks it is disingenuous for the Commission to say they do not want to raise taxes, yet give fire services back to the Cities who will have to raise taxes to pay for it. There was some discussion regarding what expenses could be cut to keep the Fire District running, and the leased firefighter benefits. Mike Davis stated that the districts have kept the budgets pretty tight which works for a few years until they need funds for something major. Councilmember Bert Clark agreed they can cut and cut, but cannot jeopardize safety. Brett Reynolds thanks Ted Munford for speaking out for the Fire District. He noted that the fire stations work better as a team with everything being uniform. He stated that the Naples Fire station would be the least impacted if the District is dissolved, however that is not what is best for the community. Jeremy Raymond stated the District has accomplished a lot and he is recommending the Commission allow the Districts to decrease their budgets even if that means having to cut personnel. The consensus of the Council was to try to salvage the Fire District. After further discussion, the consensus was to have the Administrative Committee meet to draft the plan and have the Council review it before it is presented to the County.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Grant Writer:

Councilmember Bert Clark asked the staff to find out what the grant writer is working on for the City. Quinn Bennion stated he will see what the grant writer is working on and report to the Council. Jeremy Raymond stated he has worked on some grants for emergency management.

Balloon Festival:

Councilmember Dave Everett stated the balloon festival was one of the busiest days in the history of Betty's and everyone was excited to attend the event. The balloonists said Vernal was one of the most welcoming and accepting communities they had been to. Councilmember Travis Allan stated the financial commitment was so minimal, yet the event was so well attended and the businesses were very appreciative.

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
SEPTEMBER 2, 2020**

Cares Act funds

Quinn Bennion stated that the CARES act funds were spent mostly on grants to local businesses and the next allocation is expected anytime. Some police departments were using the funds for their departments and now the State has said you cannot do that. He noted that the City has been very careful how those funds are allocated.

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

Mayor Doug Hammond

ATTEST:

Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

(S E A L)