

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
OCTOBER 6, 2021**

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OCTOBER 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main,
Vernal, Utah 84078.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Ted Munford, Travis Allan, Dave Everett, Bert Clark and Nick Porter 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 Nick Porter.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2021: *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the minutes of September 15, 2021. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Allan, Porter and Clark voting in favor.*

INTRODUCTION OF TRACIE SMITH - ADMIN RECORDS CLERK / SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST: Quinn Bennion introduced Tracie Smith who has been hired to serve as the administrative records clerk and social media specialist for the City. Tracie Smith stated she came to the City after working for six years at the Conference Center and is excited to be here. The Mayor and Council welcomed Tracie to the City.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF ENGINEERING AGREEMENT WITH SUNRISE ENGINEERING FOR 500 NORTH STREET PROJECT: Quinn Bennion explained that the City applied for a grant a few years ago through Small Urban program with UDOT and was successful in receiving funds. This program helps cities with collector road projects with the majoring of the funding coming from the federal government. Once the funds are approved, it takes a few years to select an engineer and complete the design work. The UDOT procurement program was used to select an engineer and now the City needs to approve the agreement with Sunrise Engineering. There is a financial match also required by the City of \$386,000. He noted that one of the first steps will be to connect with the residents along 500 North from Vernal Avenue to 500 East. Mayor Doug Hammond asked how UDOT is involved with this program. Quinn Bennion answered that UDOT manages many different programs using federal funding and the Small Urban program is aimed at communities with less than 50,000 people and more than 10,000. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if the sidewalk will be installed on the north or the south side of the street. Quinn Bennion stated it has not been determined yet if both sides need sidewalk. The plan will begin with concepts for design and drainage and move forward with community engagement. Councilmember Ted Munford noted that this roadway is highly traveled and the

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entire community will benefit. *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the agreement with Sunrise Engineering for the 500 North Street project. Councilmember Nick 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 APPROVAL OF BID AND PURCHASE OF BUCKET TRUCK: Clint Morton reminded the Council that they approved the replacement of the 1984 bucket truck and placed \$100,000 into the budget for that purchase. One of the issues now is the amount of time it is taking to purchase equipment and this truck could take up to a year. Three bids were received and the vehicle they would like to purchase is a Ford F450 with a versa-lift at a cost of \$115,000. The initial bids were less; however, those vehicles are no longer available. The dealership does have the same model with a fiberglass body that costs \$1000 more. He requested the Council consider allowing the staff to pursue purchasing that one. Councilmember Ted Munford questioned if the additional cost is the market rate right now. Clint Morton stated he thought he could get the truck and boom separately at a lower cost, but that is not an option. Councilmember Travis Allan asked if this vehicle is ready now. Clint Morton stated it will be ready in the spring. Quinn Bennion reminded the Council that the red bucket truck was purchased from the BLM for \$10 and already had a lot of use. The original request was for \$120,000 and the Council dropped it to \$100,000. The State contract rate for this vehicle is \$147,000 and the vendor is willing to negotiate down to \$115,000. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the bid of \$115,000 to purchase the bucket truck as presented. 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 APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT: Quinn Bennion explained this agreement was forwarded to the City by Heidi Lumberg with the County Emergency Management office. In order to qualify as an entity for emergency management funds through that office the City has to have this agreement and comply with certain acts, laws and regulations. *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the Emergency Management agreement as presented. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;

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

BUSINESS LICENSE REFUND REPORT: Allen Parker reported that there were 117 businesses that were charged a penalty for paying their business license fees late and those businesses will be receiving a refund as the issue was with the City. The total cost is \$4515 with the businesses receiving refunds ranging from \$22 to \$100. Councilmember Ted Munford agreed that the City needed to send these refunds to resolve this issue and hoped this will not happen again. The Mayor and Council thanked the staff for the report.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mayors Walk: Quinn Bennion reported that the Mayor’s Walk will be moved from the Recreation Center to Main Street. The businesses can bring tables, booths or tents and give out candy along Main Street. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if it will be from 5th to 5th. Quinn answered that the main focus will be from 200 West to 100 East with the Haunt and X94 doing things at the Hotel. The street will be closed starting at 2:30 pm to 5 pm on Saturday, October 30th.

Downtown Plan: Quinn reminded the Council that the downtown plan was reviewed at joint City/County meeting last week and one more effort will be made to receive feedback before the final modifications are made. The Community Redevelopment Agency will be addressed in November.

Trails:

The Dino Trails Committee would like the City to consider putting some of the ¼ cent sales tax money toward trails and will be bringing a proposal forward to the Council.

Energy Summit:

Dave Everett reported that the Energy Summit was very informative and he was impressed with the information presented for the rail system.

DISCUSSION ABOUT THE GREEN DINOSAUR STATUS: Quinn Bennion explained that the T-Rex by the post office is in need of repairs. It has started to age and is scaling so the Council needs to have options to direct the staff how to move forward. Wayne Smith, City facilities technician, stated he has a background with stucco so he was asked to look at the green dinosaur. It is a concoction of rebar and wire mesh that has rusted and melding into the earth. Quinn Bennion stated there is \$10,000 in the budget, however, it is not known what the cost will be to reburish it. Wayne Smith stated it is a three month project with all of the facilities crew and a few from the streets department to grind, patch and recoat with stucco. It would be hard to

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complete and still do all the regular duties. It is iconic and many of the residents would want to keep it. Other options would be to reconfigure it and move it to a better location, or purchase a different dinosaur. It is buried in the trees and one thought is to move it over to the Welcome to Vernal sign with cement. Councilmember Dave Everett asked when the T-Rex was placed there. Councilmember Bert Clark stated around 1963 and it was built by the Millecam's. Wayne Smith acknowledged that it does have history and another option would be to resurface it, fix the arms and bring in a professional to paint it.

Councilmember Ted Munford asked if it is in good enough shape it can be salvaged. Wayne Smith stated it would need to be fixed on the inside, not just a coat of paint. Councilmember Ted Munford questioned the cost of replacing it completely. Quinn Bennion stated that Naples City bought one from China and it took two years to get it. The shipping was as much as the dinosaur. Councilmember Ted Munford asked the staff to gather more options such as the price to re-stucco and get feedback from the community as there are a lot of creative people who may have suggestions. Wayne Smith stated the City could hire someone to do it so the crew is not tied up. Quinn Bennion stated one option is to take it down. Councilmember Nick Porter stated that is not an option.

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