

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD,
NOVEMBER 3, 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, 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 Ted Munford.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Travis Allan,

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2021: *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to approve the minutes of October 20, 2021. Councilmember Bert seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Allan, Porter and Clark voting in favor.*

SWEARING IN OF THE 2021-2022 YOUTH CITY COUNCIL – MAYOR HAMMOND: Mayor Doug Hammond presented the Youth City Council and gave them the oath of office. Heidi Bennion, Youth Council advisor, introduced Youth Council as follows:

Grace Bennett;
Andrew 'Trigvar' Flores;
Halle Hacking;
Alyssa Christine Howell;
Brynna McCormick;
Ashlyn Meier;
Alexa Merrell;
Adam White;
Harlee Woods;
Angelina Luisa Nading Salazar.

Mayor Doug Hammond welcomed the students.

INTRODUCTION AND APPOINTMENT OF NEW FINANCE DIRECTOR CARL MORTON – MAYOR HAMMOND: Mayor Doug Hammond introduced and appointed Carl Morton as the new Finance Director. He welcomed him to the City. Carl Morton explained he came from working at Uintah County in the Clerk / Auditors office. The Council welcomed him to the City.

INTRODUCTION OF OFFICER COLE ROSS KEITH CAMPBELL: Keith Campbell, Assistant Chief of Police, introduced a new Officer Cole Ross. Cole Ross stated he was glad to meet everyone and came to the City from the jail.

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TRAIL FUNDING REQUEST – RESOLUTION NO. 2021-13 – SONJA NORTON / AARON AVERETT: Aaron Averett requested the Council consider use part of the transit tax towards urban trails. The proposal was to make an assessment at the beginning of every year and seek Council input for the funding from the recently approved transit tax. Looking backwards, there was over \$1 million dollars in grants used for public land trails. Now the focus needs to be more on urban trails. Council member Ted Munford commended the Trails Committee for coming before the Council for approval with projects each year and not expecting funds automatically. He questioned if the City had already budgeted this year’s transit tax. Quinn Bennion replied that the City did already budget in July, however, not for trails. The Council can consider this project for next year’s budget. \$300,000 is expected to be received in transit tax this fiscal year with \$200,000 budgeted for the airport. Councilmember Dave Everett asked Aaron Averett what they were requesting. Aaron Averett answered that they would like \$45,000 or 15%. Those funds would be used to seek out matching grants. Councilmember Bert Clark wondered about additional lighting for trails in Vernal City. Councilmember Ted Munford suggested that a stipulation be added that states that other entities that want to participate need to financially support the project. Aaron Averett commented that he would bring this Resolution back for review. Sonya Norton added that her focus has been on all the trails including, hiking and mountain biking trails, however, they didn’t have funding for urban, paved trails. The Mayor and Council thanked the Trails Committee for coming.

APPROVAL OF ENGINEERING CONTRACT FOR 850 SOUTH STREET DESIGN – KEITH DESPAIN: Keith Despain displayed the two entrances going in to the new Maverick Gas Station off Highway 40 and 1000 South, and 850 South by the soccer fields. He went on to mention that Maverick has approached the City about paving part of 850 South going into the North entrance. Vernal City would design the road and Maverick would pay for the pavement. Three different engineering firms were contacted to submit proposals for the design work and two of them responded. The two bids came in at \$9000 from CRS Engineering and \$10,500 from Sunrise Engineering. He recommended the City select the lowest bid. After further discussion, *Councilmember Travis Allen moved to approve the contract with CRS for design work for the 850 South road. 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.*

REQUEST APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO ENGINEERING CONTRACT FOR 500 NORTH SIDEWALK PROJECT – KEITH DESPAIN: Keith Despain presented the amendment to the engineering contract for the 500 North sidewalk project and explained that the project began in the year 2020. UDOT and the City combined funding for sidewalk, curb and

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gutter installation along 500 North running along the edge of the walking park and going east towards the new hospital. The original time frame for the work was 20 days to the end of December of 2020. There were delays with permits and cold weather so the project was paused during the winter and began again in the spring. Because of the length of almost a full year extension, the contract was overspent. He asked the Council to amend the contract with Jones and Demille by \$ 9857.50 to keep the full project within budget. Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the amendment to the Engineering contract for the 500 North project in the amount of \$ 9857.50. Council Member 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.

REVIEW OF DOWNTOWN PLAN – QUINN BENNION: Quin Bennion presented the Downtown Plan. He discussed the movement of retail businesses to the west and to Naples, although there are still productive areas for businesses downtown. Two grants were applied for to fund the downtown plan with the City and County also putting funds in for that project. The goal is for a vibrant downtown that is iconic and memorable. One concept is to have more walkable spaces behind the buildings. Incentives to businesses could be offered encouraging businesses to do something with their back façade and make upgrades. A public gathering space is also being recommended. Quinn Bennion proposed a plan for affordable parking improvements for downtown. One plan would be for the City to own the parking and the other would be to lease it with the City maintaining the parking and business owners paying a maintenance fee. He proposed that phase one of downtown plan begin next summer beginning with the Zions block. The plan has been finalized and can be found online. Councilmember Nick Porter stated that parking improvements would get the ball rolling, therefore attracting more investment in downtown. Quinn Bennion pointed out that the City has a historic area and other cities would like to replicate it. He went over possible funding options. The Council discussed a timeline to complete items from the plan. Councilmember Travis Allan noted that Quinn Bennion is a forward thinking manager and applauded his hard work and vision.

SETTING DATE TO CANVAS ELECTION RESULTS – ROXANNE BEHUNIN: Roxanne Behunin reported that the canvassing of the 2021 municipal election has to be done between November 9th and 16th and asked the Council to look at their calendars to set a date for a special meeting. After discussion, the consensus of the Council was to set the canvassing of the election on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

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Mayor's Walk:

Quinn Bennion reported that the Mayor's Walk was a tremendous success and thanked Tracie Smith for organizing it.

Airport:

Quinn Bennion stated that he needs to purchase a backhoe and has possibly found a used one. The Council may be contacted to discuss this purchase.

500 North street improvements:

Quinn Bennion reminded the Council of a grant to make improvements to 500 North Street from Vernal Avenue to 500 East. Property owners along that street will be receiving a letter inviting to an open house to learn more about the project.

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