

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
NOVEMBER 20, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main,
Vernal, Utah 84078.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Travis Allan, Dave Everett, Ted Munford and Bert Clark and Mayor Doug Hammond. Councilmember Samantha Scott was excused.

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 Dave Everett.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019: *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of November 6, 2019. Councilmember Travis Allan seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Allan, Everett, Munford, and Clark voting in favor.*

SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR YOUTH CITY COUNCIL FOR 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR: Mayor Doug Hammond gave the Youth City Council their oath of office and thanked them for representing the City.

APPEAL OF TAXI-CAB LICENSE DENIAL FOR STEPHANIE RUBENS: Stephanie Rubens explained that she was hired initially to help dispatch and has transitioned to driving a cab not knowing she still had 1 year on her citation before she could qualify for a taxi-cab license from the City. The City issued a 30 day temporary license. Mike Davis responded that the licensing clerk issued the 30 day temporary license while waiting for the Colorado criminal record to be provided. Once that record was received, the license clerk denied the license until the misdemeanor drops off her record in November of 2020. Councilmember Ted Munford clarified if that is the offense date not the conviction date. Mike Davis answered yes. Councilmember Travis Allan asked if she is currently working as a driver. Stephanie responded that she has not worked since Friday as that is when her temporary license expired. Councilmember Ted Munford asked how her situation would fit a waiver of the code. Stephanie Rubens briefly explained her situation and stated she did not realize the five year statute. She stated she has not had any other citations. Councilmember Ted Munford stated that this code was adopted to try to keep the public safe and it is difficult to waive the requirement. He suggested she go to the Colorado authorities to try to get the charges expunged. Councilmember Dave Everett asked her to come back in if she finds some reason to waive the time limit. Councilmember Travis Allan stated that the Public Safety Committee looked at this code several months ago to adjust for certain situations; however this crime does require a five year time limit. Stephanie Ruben stated she could bring in information that led up to this situation happening. Quinn Bennion stated a closed session could be held to discuss the situation in more detail.

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PUBLIC HEARING: REQUEST TO AMEND THE VERNAL CITY GENERAL PLAN - APPENDIX E, HOUSING ELEMENT: Allen Parker explained that the Utah Legislature passed a law requiring cities to update their housing plans. The City intended to amend that section of the General Plan along with more significant updates dealing with transportation, trails and demographics. A grant was received from the Community Impact Board to complete this process. However, the deadline for the housing plan is December 1st. Some of the data is old and will need to be updated during the general plan update; however, this amendment meets the requirements of the State. Also, when the Census is completed next year there will be fresh data to update the plan. Allen noted that Vernal City is the only rural City required to do this update. Mayor Doug Hammond opened the public hearing to hear comments on the housing element of the general plan. There were no public comments and the public hearing was closed.

REQUEST TO ACCEPT AMENDMENT TO THE VERNAL CITY GENERAL PLAN - ORDINANCE NO. 2019-15: Allen Parker explained this is the ordinance to approve the amendment to the general plan. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve Ordinance No. 2019-15 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 Clark.....aye.*

REQUEST TO ACCEPT AGREEMENT WITH CRS FOR WATER SYSTEM MASTER PLAN AMENDMENTS: Quinn Bennion explained the water master plan needs to be updated since a lot has changed over the last ten years. The Community Impact Board approved a grant of \$40,000 and the utility fund will pay \$40,000 for this process. The timing is good with Ashley Valley Water also updating their plan. CRS completed the plan ten years ago and have all the data on the City’s water system so the Public Works Committee is recommending using that firm. Councilmember *Dave Everett moved to approve the agreement with CRS Engineering for the Water System Master Plan update. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

- Councilmember Munford.....aye;*
- Councilmember Allanaye;*
- Councilmember Everettaye;*
- Councilmember Clark.....aye.*

REQUEST TO RE-APPOINT / APPOINT PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS FOR 2020 - Allen Parker explained that several of the member’s terms for the Planning Commission will be expiring. They are all willing to remain on the Planning Commission and he recommended the Council reappoint Ben and Darcy McMickell and Samantha Scott. *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to reappoint the Planning Commission members. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Allan and Clark voting in favor.*

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REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE:

Allen Parker explained that the Planning Commission is requesting a significant change from the schedule from last year as they are more comfortable meeting every other month. If an item comes up that needs attention before their next meeting they can hold a special meeting. *Councilmember Travis Allan moved to approve the Planning Commission meeting schedule. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

- Councilmember Munford.....aye;*
- Councilmember Allanaye;*
- Councilmember Everettaye;*
- Councilmember Clark..... aye.*

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Swearing in Ceremony:

Quinn Bennion reminded the Council that the Swearing in Ceremony for the re-elected and newly elected member will be on Monday, January 6th at noon.

Upcoming Legislation:

Quinn Bennion explained that the State Legislature held an Interim committee meeting to discuss changes to the tax code. Senator Ron Winterton presented his bill to exempt public utilities and oil and gas processes from sales tax. The loss to sales tax in the Uintah Basin would be significant as well as the State. The bill did pass the first committee. Several people in the industry say this is not a consideration when it comes to deciding to drill. Councilmember Travis Allan stated he has also heard that sales tax is not a limitation. Quinn Bennion stated that no public comment was taken. Councilmember Ted Munford asked about the hold harmless clause. Quinn stated it was not even mentioned. He noted that this bill will hit the committee in January.

CLOSED SESSION: *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to go into closed session to hold a strategy session to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation and discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual and reconvene into open session when the discussion is completed. Councilmember Travis Allan seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

- Councilmember Munford.....aye;*
- Councilmember Allanaye;*
- Councilmember Everettaye;*
- Councilmember Clark..... aye.*

RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURN: The meeting reconvened into open session. There being no further business; *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to adjourn.*

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Councilmember Travis Allan 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)