

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING HELD
MAY 5, 2021 at 5:30 pm in the Vernal City Planning Conference Room, 374 East
Main., Vernal, UT 84078

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

WELCOME: Mayor Doug Hammond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING: *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to acknowledge and approve this special meeting. Councilmember Travis Allan seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Allan, Munford and Justice Porter voting in favor. Councilmember Bert Clark was not present for the vote.*

FY2022 BUDGET WORKSHOP:

General Fund:

Justice Court:

Mike Davis noted that Judge Ray Richards is asking for a part-time employee. Judge Richards explained that if the City continues on a path of expanding the jurisdiction throughout the County as a cost saving measure more staff will be needed. Quinn Bennion gave a brief update of the court clerk situation for the County and their policy for hiring if an employee takes the separation agreement. He acknowledged that the Judge has been given authorization to go ahead and hire a full-time court clerk position to help with the expansion. The request for expansion has been submitted to the Court Administrator with the State and once approved the City will handle all justice court services County-wide. Judge Richards stated it will be difficult if there are still two judges, however, the clerks will figure it out. Also, if his schedule is changed to full-time, the salary will need to be adjusted. Roxanne Behunin stated the State will require that. Quinn Bennion stated there is some uncertainty, however as the budget is reviewed keep in mind that the tentative budget primarily repeated last year's not knowing what will happen with the expansion. Judge Richards reminded the Council that there have been no jury trials during the pandemic and they are backlogged which may cause more expenses for jury and witness fees. The State is trying to put together a plan for trials so there will be enough jurors. Councilmember Ted Munford questioned how the County will pay for court services. Quinn Bennion explained that the City will collect the revenue and if a subsidy is needed the County will pay their share based on the number of cases. Mike Davis stated he will add the full-time clerk position into the budget. Quinn Bennion stated it is not known if three clerks is the right answer and there may be a time when more staff is needed.

Motor pool:

Councilmember Ted Munford asked about the supplies and maintenance budget. Shawn Rasmussen, motor pool supervisor, explained that if he receives a new vehicle that line item will go down. The current vehicle is having issues and costing more money to repair. It is a 2001 Ford F250 truck. Quinn Bennion stated a new vehicle has been requested for the past three years so it was left in this budget. This item will be put on the list of budget considerations. Councilmember

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Travis Allan asked about the possibility of keeping a leased police truck for replacement of vehicles like this. Quinn Bennion answered absolutely that would be a good solution. Mike Davis explained how the buy-back option works for the police lease. Councilmember Travis Allan stated the advantage is the City gets a vehicle for \$28,000 instead of \$44,000. Quinn Bennion asked when the City has to notify the dealer. Mike Davis stated before July. Councilmember Ted Munford agreed that is a great way to get a vehicle. There was some discussion regarding repairing large equipment and purchasing fittings etc. before they are needed. The consensus was to follow that plan. Quinn Bennion reminded the Council that motor pool only has one person now so he is using a work order system to track expenses. Shawn Rasmussen stated the expense for that software needs to be added to the budget at a cost of \$3200.

Streets & Parks:

Quinn Bennion stated that these departments were merged together so there will no longer be a specific parks department. However, the expenses for the walking park were moved to government facilities. Clint Morton stated that is why the training and travel budget increased with more employees in this department. Councilmember Ted Munford asked about the supplies and maintenance budget. Clint Morton stated that line item can be decreased to \$80,000. Mike Davis reminded the Council that Class C road funds and the transportation tax need to be used in this budget. Councilmember Ted Munford agreed they cannot be too picky because of those funds. Clint Morton stated it would be wise to put funding toward chip and seal. He noted that the red bucket truck that is used to install banners and Christmas decorations has been in the shop a lot lately and needs replaced. It is a 1984. Councilmember Travis Allan asked if he is requesting a new vehicle. Clint Morton answered yes, and the cost came from the State bid. Councilmember Travis Allan asked if a lease would be more affordable. Clint answered he did not know. He noted that this vehicle is smaller than the other truck and does not swing out into the road. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if there was another option. Clint Morton stated that used ones cost around \$75,000 to \$90,000. The consensus was to put this item on the list to consider with options such as a used rate and a leased rate. Councilmember Bert Clark asked about the grinding machine for sidewalks. Quinn Bennion stated it is in this year's budget. Councilmember Bert Clark stated he appreciates using door hangers so residents know they are working in the area. Clint Morton stated that was Kyle Reynolds's idea. Councilmember Dave Everett asked about the snow removal materials. Clint Morton stated he has some left and that purchase comes out of special highway funds. He noted that the cost to stripe the streets has decreased and he crew will mark some items using stencils. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if they will use oil based paint. Clint Morton stated they will use oil for the markings. The stripes are being done by a private company and they will be using water based paint. Quinn Bennion stated that smaller roads will no longer be striped. There was some discussion on what roads will be striped. Quinn Bennion stated that one item that has not been put into the budget is the repair of the green dinosaur – TRex. Clint Morton stated the problems are simply age and it needs to be taken down to the bones and fixed right. If it is repaired, it could be done so there would be less weight from the crew on the structure itself so it would be easier to decorate. Councilmember Travis Allan asked what the cost was to Naples City for the dinosaur they purchased. Quinn Bennion stated the structure itself was not expensive, however, the shipping from Chia was very expensive and they had to wait two years for it. Councilmember Dave Everett suggested a fundraiser be started to save TRex. Councilmember Nicholas Porter agreed it would be a good marketing tool for the City. Councilmember Ted Munford agreed it has to be saved. There was more discussion regarding the

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community pride for this project.

Weston's Vision:

Quinn Bennion reminded the Council of the presentation of Mrs. Hacking at the last joint City / County meeting to install playground equipment for disabled children. She has already raised a lot of money and approached the government agencies to come up with the remaining \$30,000. Mayor Doug Hammond suggested the City give \$5000, Naples said they would contribute \$10,000, ask the Recreation District to contribute \$10,000 and ask the County to contribute \$5,000. Quinn Bennion stated the Recreation District indicated it has been budgeted. Mike Davis asked where those funds should be placed in the budget. Quinn Bennion stated it would have to be in the current budget.

Finance Department:

Mike Davis explained that the wages are down with the business licensing position being moved to planning and professional services increased for the audit. Councilmember Bert Clark stated he has noticed many departments are adding travel and asked if the departments could emphasize virtual training to keep costs down. Quinn Bennion stated that many of the employees are on State Boards and a lot of those committee meetings are being held virtual. The consensus was if the training was available on-line the staff should take advantage of it.

Attorney:

Quinn Bennion explained that the major change in this budget is to pay an attorney when HR issues arise. Also, the prosecuting attorney reduced his fee last year with less cases so that amount will likely go up with more court cases.

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

Mayor Doug Hammond

ATTEST;

Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

(S E A L)