

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
MAY 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main, Vernal,
Utah 84078.

This meeting was conducted as an electronic meeting with the anchor location being held at the Vernal City Council Chambers, 374 East Main St, Vernal, Utah. Because of gathering restrictions put in place by the Utah Department of Health, the anchor location only had nineteen participants in attendance. The meeting was streamed live vi Facebook.

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 Dave Everett.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Nicholas Porter.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 29, 2020: *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve the minutes of April 29, 2020. Councilmember Nicholas Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Munford, Allan, Porter and Clark voting in favor.*

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW METER TECHNICIAN - CHAD MAJORS: Mike Davis explained that with Dwayne Winkler retiring, the City recruited for a new meter technician and received 101 applications. The decision was made to hire Chad Majors who had been working with his dad, Majors Heating. He lives in Jensen on a farm and the staff is excited to have him working here. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if his father is Kurt Majors. Chad answered yes. The Council and staff welcomed Chad to employment with Vernal City.

REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP OF VERNAL ROD AND GUN CLUB EVENT: Stacey Hawley stated that although she submitted a funding application to the City, they have decided not to ask for money this year. She thanked the City for the many years of support for the gun club. The annual tournament will be held with the support of all the shooters and she asked the City to help advertise the event through digital signs on Highway 40 that say “welcome shooters”. Councilmember Dave Everett suggested she approach businesses such as Wendy’s to post signs. Councilmember Nicholas Porter stated his employer can post a sign. Quinn Bennion stated he would work with Travel and Tourism to put something on the electronic sign. Steve Evans, with Evans Media, offered his services to help the community. Stacey Hawley stated that is why they love Vernal. She asked the Council to let every parent know how important the kids are to this event. Councilmember Bert Clark stated he would help with the corn hole tournament.

REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP OF ALIVE AFTER 5 EVENTS - STEVE EVANS, EVANS FAMILY MEDIA: Steve Evans and Marie Smith presented an application for sponsorship to the City. Mr. Evans explained that he has been partnering with the City for the

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last 17 years to bring this event to downtown Vernal. He noted that there are two objectives. The first is to enhance community pride, and the second is to revitalize downtown commerce. Due to the circumstances of the last 6 weeks, morale in the community is at all-time low shutting down many businesses. One thing that would help calm the fears of everyone in the community is to hold events like Alive after Five and the rodeo to bring back a sense of normalcy. Another issue is the sponsorships will be lighter this year. Marie Smith gave a short presentation on the event and explained that it does get people involved to take part in local talent. The tentative dates for Alive after 5 are each Thursday night beginning July 16th to August 6th. Councilmember Dave Everett agreed that the City needs to approach this as a way to bring back a sense of normalcy, and people are hungry to be a part of this beautiful City and community again. He thanked Mr. Evans for all the years of dedication for this event. Quinn Bennion stated that this request is for \$3500. Steve Evans amended his request to \$3000. Quinn Bennion stated \$3000 has been budgeted in the 2020 budget. Councilmember Ted Munford indicated he had a conflict with this item. *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to sponsor Alive after Five events in the amount of \$3000. Councilmember Nicholas Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

PUBLIC HEARING: FY2020 BUDGET REOPENER NO. 1 - ORDINANCE NO. 2020-03:

Mike Davis explained that the sales tax numbers are two months back so the City has not received current numbers yet. COVID-19 hit the City hard in April, so some items were cut to help with the budget. In the police department, \$60,000 was cut out of some programs, and the paint striping was reduced to one per year. The projection is the City will need to use \$600,000 of unappropriated funds to balance the FY2020 budget. He noted that the largest decrease is the oil and gas revenue. Mayor Doug Hammond opened the public hearing. There being no public comments, the public hearing was closed. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to accept Ordinance No. 2020-03 as presented. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

REQUEST TO PROCLAIM MAY 2020 AS BUILDING SAFETY MONTH:

Allen Parker explained that May is National Building Safety month. To highlight the activities of building officials to make sure a safe supply of housing and buildings are in the City and nation. *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the proclamation. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll*

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call vote:

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

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A 60 DAY EXTENSION OF THE EMERGENCY DECLARATION ORDER FOR COVID-19 CRISIS:

Quinn Bennion stated that the emergency declaration is set to expire and since the emergency is not over, this declaration needs to be renewed. The Mayor can do 30 days, however, the Council needs to authorize a longer time frame. *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to extend the emergency declaration by 60 days. Councilmember Nicholas Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll*

call vote:

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

PRESENTATION OF THE FY2021 TENTATIVE BUDGET:

Mike Davis explained that part of the budget process requires the staff to present a tentative budget to the governing body. He noted that this is a working document and the numbers will not be changed until after the budget workshops. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to accept the FY2021 tentative budget. Councilmember Travis Allan seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll*

call vote:

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

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE CITY’S WATER CONSERVATION PLAN:

Quinn Bennion reminded the Council that every five years the City is required to update and approve the water conservation plan. This plan was drafted with the help of the engineers with the primary goals to detect leaks and implement the meter replacement program to reduce water loss. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if there is a leak detection problem. Quinn Bennion answered that they have been working on it, but the water is still showing up in the sewage system. *After further discussion, Councilmember Bert Clark moved to accept the Water Conservation Plan. Councilmember Travis Allan seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll*

call vote:

Councilmember Allanaye;

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

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH UDOT FOR WAYFINDING SIGNS IN UDOT RIGHT-OF-WAY: Quinn Bennion explained that he has been working on this project for a few years and the signs are now being built. He displayed one of the signs. He noted that the majority of them are in the UDOT right of way and are required to have 6” lettering. The signs are reflective with the three ships and dinosaur on the bottom. This project involves eight entities and utilizes two grants. Each entity with signs in their jurisdiction must have an agreement with UDOT to take responsibility to maintain the signs and Vernal City is responsible for 22 of them. Also, the City has to commit the crews to put them up. The City’s cost commitment will be when the signs are damaged, vandalized or fade out and have to be replaced. *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to approve the agreement with UDOT for the wayfinding signs. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

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

UPDATE OF COVID-19 CRISIS: Quinn Bennion explained that one item for this crisis he is watching closely is the Cares Act that was recently passed by the Federal Government. This Act has a distribution to local governments to cover their costs associated with the pandemic. He acknowledged that he has spent a lot of time going through the numbers to attend meetings to make sure each area of the State receives their fair share. However, these funds cannot be used to replace revenue. They can be used for small business grants, utility grants, rental and mortgage payment grants to help the community. Also, UBAG received an additional \$430,000 for the CDBG program for the Tri-County area. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if certain denominations would qualify. Quinn Bennion stated they do qualify for disaster relief and payroll protection as a non-profit. Quinn explained that another item relates to the graduating seniors and a lot of parents want to provide some sort of celebration within the health guidelines. Two suggestions have been made to celebrate their graduation. One is to place banners over the top of the City banners to display the graduating class pictures along Main Street, and the other is to line up along Main Street and have a procession of the students. That celebration is scheduled for May 22nd. Mayor Doug Hammond stated that the health department has requested the State consider allowing our area to go to yellow stage.

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

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2020**

and the meeting was declared adjourned.

Mayor Doug Hammond

ATTEST:

Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

(S E A L)