

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD JUNE 24, 2020**

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

**PRESENT:** Councilmembers Nicholas Porter, Dave Everett, Bert Clark and Mayor Doug Hammond.

**WELCOME:** Mayor Doug Hammond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING:** *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to acknowledge and approve the special meeting. Councilmember Nicolas Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Porter, Everett and Clark voting in favor.*

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR FY2020 BUDGET REOPENER #2 – ORDINANCE NO. 2020-06**

– **MIKE DAVIS:** Mike Davis reviewed the revenue and expenses of the budget reopener with the Council. There were two changes that were made. One was the general sales tax which decreased from 3.6 million to 3.2 million. The second was the highway tax which decreased from 1.3 million to 1.1 million. Mr. Davis explained that he figured in some Cares Act money coming in; however, there was none, so he zeroed it out. There were some small changes in the court fees under charges for services. Mr. Davis indicated that under contributions and transfers, there is a fund balance that is at 1 million dollars and that is the worst case scenario. Mr. Bennion confirmed that this was for the FY2020 that is closing out. Mr. Davis stated that April's numbers came in the same as the prior year which was not expected. However, year to date, the budget is still down \$40,000. Highway tax was down \$80,000. Mr. Davis explained that in the 1.3 million is where they are expecting to lose more in the next two months. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if the City still receives their portion of the fuel tax that was passed by legislation. Mr. Davis stated yes, that is the .3 highway tax. Mr. Davis stated if you look at the year to date, there is 7.7 million, and he has predicted 10.4 million for May and June which is being optimistic. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if there were any loans being paid off for CIB. Mr. Davis stated that will come next year. Mr. Bennion asked if the City is going to defer one of the loans for 2021. Mr. Davis explained that it has become more work than he anticipated including contacting the other loans, redoing the bond documents, working with lawyers and pushing the City into the open market. Mr. Davis indicated that it is not as simple as just saying you want to defer a loan. The bonds are all mixed together. Mr. Bennion mentioned that the use of beginning fund balance was higher than he thought it would be.

Mr. Davis asked to go through all the expenses first. Mr. Davis indicated that the biggest increase was the City attorney. Mr. Bennion mentioned that the increase is due to personnel issues. Councilmember Bert Clark asked what the \$5,000 is for under Innovation Hub. Mr. Bennion explained that the money was to cover two things for the Innovation Center. One is for the general expenses that might occur there, and the other is to pay the two part-time helpers hired by the County. After the grant was accepted for this project, \$5,000 was placed in there for

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miscellaneous costs such as printers and equipment. Mr. Davis explained that they are not doing the road paint striping; therefore, that line item has been decreased. The chip and seal remains in the budget. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if there were bids on the chip and seal. Mr. Bennion mentioned that the chip and seal is through the Transportation District, and there were bids. Troy Ostler told the Transportation District that he will begin the City projects including Vernal and Naples in the middle of July. Mr. Davis stated that he is still contemplating whether the City will pay for this project this year or next year depending on how the funds go.

Councilmember Bert Clark noted on the street lighting that it is at \$260,000 and asked about the reductions with the removal of some of the lights. Mr. Davis indicated that will not be shown until next year, and this includes the one-time payment for removing the lights. Councilmember Bert Clark asked Mr. Bennion if he could have Rocky Mountain Power come out and give a presentation to the Council. Councilmember Bert Clark mentioned that one year, Rocky Mountain Power reimbursed the City \$25,000 in just outages. The Council agreed that the way the lights were removed and nicely capped, it is hardly noticeable. Councilmember Bert Clark indicated that some of the neighbors noticed in a positive way and people are still out walking as usual. Mr. Davis explained that on the total expenditures, the City spent 9 million year-to-date and in the budget there is 10.5 million. Mr. Davis explained that out of the 1.5 million, the City probably will spend \$500,000 to \$600,000 for payroll and benefits; therefore, hopefully, leaving \$500,000 to \$700,000 of expenses that will not be spent.

Councilmember Bert Clark asked for an update on the small neighborhood park on Robinwood Lane on shutting it down since the lights were run over and there was damage done. Mr. Bennion was unaware of any damage. Mr. Bennion indicated that he has talked to several people in the neighborhood, and the consensus was that the park is rarely used. Councilmember Bert Clark mentioned that the homeowner's had an agreement to maintain that little area park; however, the City ended up having to take it over. Mr. Bennion stated that the Mayor and Council should consider repurposing the park or doing something else with it, because it is not worth the amount of money and time spent to maintain it. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if the tree trimming under parkways has to be done every year. Mr. Bennion stated that there is a \$2,000 a year contract to keep the trees cleaned up and trimmed which is well worth it. Mr. Bennion stated that the City is hoping the sales tax stays up like the months of April and May and that the expenditures are down. Mr. Davis reported that the main local stores are higher than normal. Councilmember Bert Clark mentioned that the big ticketed item stores are out of product such as the RV's and ATV's. The outdoor recreation items seem to be selling quickly. Councilmember Bert Clark stated that he is not sure if this has anything to do with the stimulus package that was sent out. Mayor Doug Hammond opened the public hearing for the FY2020 Budget Reopener #2. There being no comment, Mayor Hammond closed the public hearing. *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve Ordinance No. 2020-06 for the FY2020 Budget Reopener #2. Councilmember Bert Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

*Councilmember Councilmember Porter .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Councilmember Clark .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Everett .....aye.*

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**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF FLOORING BID FOR INNOVATION CENTER – QUINN BENNION:**

Quinn Bennion explained that they are continuing to move forward on the construction of the Innovation Center. Mr. Bennion indicated that there were a couple of bids coming in the next few weeks. This current bid is for the flooring which includes 7,000 square feet of tile and carpet. Mr. Bennion reported that there were three local bids that came in and one was lower than the other two and is appropriate. Councilmember Bert Clark asked if the lowest flooring bid is the same grade and quality of flooring. Mr. Bennion affirmed that the bid specs were detailed with certain quality. Councilmember Dave Everett asked if samples were submitted. Mr. Bennion stated yes. Basin Appliance was considerably lower than anticipated. The grade of the carpet is similar as to the carpet here at the City Hall in grey, black and white. Mr. Bennion stated that they are looking at promo carpets where someone has ordered custom carpet; however, did not use it. This helps in saving a lot of money. They have to grab them quickly as they go fast. Mr. Bennion indicated that they plan to start installing the flooring as soon as they can get it in. Hopefully, the middle of July at the latest. Mr. Bennion stated that they are anticipating opening by the end of July. They will be painting this next week. Mr. Bennion mentioned that the next bid to approve will be the furniture at the July 1st meeting. Then the next bid will be the seal coat in the parking lot and the alternate for painting. Councilmember Dave Everett asked about the process of the furniture bidding. Mr. Bennion mentioned that they handed out the bid information to local firms. They have received a few calls from Colorado. Councilmember Dave Everett brought up Todd at Northeastern Office Supply. Mr. Bennion indicated that Northeastern Office Supply will be placing a bid and has been great to work with. *Councilmember Nicholas Porter moved to approve the flooring bid from Basin Appliance in the amount of \$26,634 for the Innovation Center. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

*Councilmember Councilmember Porter .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Councilmember Clark .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Everett ..... aye.*

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM WITH UTAH COUNTY TO ASSIST BUSINESSES WITH INTERRUPTIONS DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC FUNDED WITH CARES ACT FUNDS – QUINN BENNION:**

Quinn Bennion explained that this topic was discussed in detail at the last meeting, and it is important that the grant program is approved officially. The grant for the Cares Act Funds is almost ready to launch. It could be Friday or Monday. Mr. Bennion stated that Ted Munford and his team did an awesome job with the online process. Mr. Bennion explained that the businesses can submit an application by paper, email or online. Councilmember Nicholas Porter asked if the online submission is currently live. Mr. Bennion explained that you can go to the website now to look at it; however, he mentioned to not submit anything yet. The website is [uintahbusinessgrant.org](http://uintahbusinessgrant.org). Mr. Bennion indicated that the website has all the instructions, and the preferred way to submit an application is online. After the application is submitted, it will be emailed. A W-9 will be required to be attached to receive payment, so that a 1099 can be sent at the end of the year. Mayor Doug Hammond asked if the grant is up to \$10,000. Mr. Bennion stated yes, it can be between \$1,000 to \$10,000. *Councilmember Bert Clark moved to approve*

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*the small business grant program with Uintah County to assist businesses with interruptions due to COVID-19 pandemic funded with Cares Act Funds. Councilmember Nicolas Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

*Councilmember Councilmember Porter .....aye;  
Councilmember Councilmember Clark .....aye;  
Councilmember Councilmember Everett..... aye.*

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF EXEMPT EMPLOYEES – RESOLUTION NO. 2020-04**

**– QUINN BENNION:** Quinn Bennion explained that this resolution is a follow up from several meetings ago to modify the exempt employee schedule for those employees who are salary and not hourly. Added to the list is a Public Works Director which may not actually happen and is still being decided. The City Recorder is currently Mr. Bennion; however, in the future that may be a different arrangement. Also added is a Street Superintendent, Water/Sewer Superintendent, and an Airport Manager. *Councilmember Bert Clerk moved to approve Resolution No. 2020-04 for exempt employees. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

*Councilmember Councilmember Porter .....aye;  
Councilmember Councilmember Clark .....aye;  
Councilmember Councilmember Everett..... aye.*

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

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Mayor Doug Hammond

ATTEST:

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Roxanne Behunin, Deputy Recorder

( S E A L )