

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
JANUARY 17, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main,
Vernal, Utah 84078.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Ted Munford, Robin O’Driscoll, Randel Mills, Edward Long and Corey Foley and Mayor Doug Hammond.

WELCOME: Mayor Doug Hammond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT: The invocation was given by Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Ted Munford.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 3, 2024: *Councilmember Corey Foley moved to approve the minutes of January 3, 2024. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Munford, Mills, O’Driscoll, Long and Foley voting in favor.*

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL SPECIASL MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2024: *Councilmember Randel Mills moved to approve the minutes of January 12, 2024 with one correction. Councilmember Edward Long seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Mills, O’Driscoll, Munford, Foley and Long voting in favor.*

PRESENTATION / INTRODUCTION OF THE FUTURE OUTDOORSMEN, OUTDOOR EXPO – DENISE MAYNARD: Denise Maynard explained that B & D RV and Jon Horrocks would like to introduce an Outdoor Exposition on February 23rd and 24th. An RV show has been done in the past and that is too boring so it is being expanded to promote the outdoors around the Basin. It was decided to call it the future outdoorsman and focus on outreach to get kids interested. The expo will include a blue gill pond managed by the FFA to teach catch and release techniques, and many outdoor vendors in the Western Park banquet hall. She noted that they are not looking for funds from the City, however, they would like the City to bring the plinko board and help the community enjoy the expo. Mayor Doug Hammond asked if the fish pond will be open the whole time. Denise Maynard answered yes although it will be limited to kids ages 12 and under and if not too busy, senior citizens will be allowed. Councilmember Corey Foley asked what the cost is for a sponsorship. Denise stated that the buttons are \$250, a small booth is \$500 and a large booth is \$1000. After further discussion, *Councilmember Corey Foley moved to help with the buttons and fund a booth space for \$500 for the plinko board. Councilmember Edward Long seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Mills.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Longaye;
Councilmember Foley.....aye.

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FUNDING REQUEST - YOUTH GIRLS FAST PITCH - TAD RICHARDS VIA GOOGLE MEET:

Tad Richards addressed the Council to ask for funding assistance with an upcoming girls softball event. The company, D1 Prospects, is a non-profit organization that produces girls fast pitch softball tournaments and they organize the Dino roundup tournament in Vernal. Last year there were 700 players and 2000 spectators for this event. Some of the participants camp, some use hotels, and they all enjoy time around Vernal. Extra marketing is planned for this year and all the fields will be utilized. Quinn Bennion clarified that the amount being requested is \$1500 and the City sponsored in the amount of \$750 last year. Tad Richards answered yes. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll noted that the balance sheet from last year shows a donation to Vernal girls’ softball of \$1750. Tad Richards stated that is the sponsorship to them. He confirmed that the field rental cost increased from \$1400 to \$3900 making it tougher to have the funds for this event. Quinn Bennion stated any sponsorship funds would come out of the miscellaneous event funding. Councilmember Corey Foley noted the largest cost is umpires. Tad Richards stated they do try to use local umpires, however, that is limited although they will be umpiring the local program and training more local talent. There are around 160 games played requiring 320 umpire assignments. After further discussion, *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to sponsor the Girls Fast Pitch Dino Roundup event in the amount of \$750. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Mills.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Longaye;
Councilmember Foley.....aye.

**PUBLIC HEARING: CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE VERNAL
CITY MUNICIPAL CODE, DESIGNATION OF LAND USE AUTHORITY - ORDINANCE NO.**

2024-01: Gabby Blackburn reminded the Council of the major changes to the subdivision code that removed elected officials from the standard subdivision process. This is another section that designates the City Council as the land use authority that is in conflict with State law. Councilmember Ted Munford clarified that rezone requests still have to come to the Council. Gabby Blackburn answered yes. Mayor Doug Hammond opened the public hearing. Councilmember Ted Munford noted that historically subdivision changes are straightforward and this streamlines the process. There being no further public comments, Mayor Doug Hammond closed the public hearing. *Councilmember Ted Munford Ted moved to approve Ordinance No. 2024-01 as presented. Councilmember Randel Mills seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Mills.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Longaye;
Councilmember Foley.....aye.

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REQUEST APPOINTMENT OF NEW PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS: Gabby Blackburn pointed out the Planning Commissioners are appointed to four-year terms. Some of the current members are willing to stay on for another four-year term including Brandon Parker and Nick Porter. New member being recommended is Rebecca Wilkey as an alternate and move Ryan Balch from a current alternate to a regular member. *Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll moved to re-appoint Nick Porter and Brandon Parker as regular members, move Ryan Balch from an alternate to a regular member and appoint Rebecca Wilkey as an alternate for four-year terms. Councilmember Corey Foley seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Mills.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Longaye;
Councilmember Foley..... aye.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS OF 300 WEST IN HAVEN ESTATES: Gabby Blackburn presented the list of public improvements on 300 West. This was initially submitted in September of 2021 and the public works department required them to bring the improvements up to current city standards. Usually when the City accepts improvements there is a two-year warranty. This time, the two-year period has already happened. Quinn Bennion stated this different approach is due to no follow through on this request. There was considerable discussion regarding the problems over the years with this subdivision. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to accept the improvements as presented and accept the City misstep from 2021. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Mills.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Longaye;
Councilmember Foley..... aye.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF 15% OF TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX FOR TRAIL / WALKWAYS RESOLUTION NO. 2024-04: Gabby Blackburn reminded the Council that the County passed a tax that can be used for transportation and the City is included in that tax. Part of it can be used for non-motorized transportation. The Trails Committee would like the City to consider setting aside 15% of that tax for trails and pedestrian walkways which are important. However, the City is using more than 15% of that tax right now with the Main Street projects. This resolution would simply make it more formal. Councilmember Ted Munford asked what happens if the City runs out of projects. Gabby Blackburn stated it does not need to be used, simply kept track of. Carl Morton stated he would start a separate line item for sidewalks and trails. Quinn Bennion explained that Uintah County has also committed to this, and the funds must be used in the City. Councilmember Edward Long clarified that there is a low likelihood that the City would spend less than 15%. Quinn Bennion agreed. After further

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discussion, *Councilmember Corey Foley moved to approve Resolution No 2024-04 designating 15% of transportation tax for trails. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Mills.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Longaye;
Councilmember Foley.....aye.

**REQUEST TO VERIFY A PANHANDLE LOT IS NECESSARY FOR A MINOR SUBDIVISION
AT 239 SOUTH 200 WEST, RHETT DEAN, DG-PPM LLC:**

Gabby Blackburn displayed a map of the parcel of property that is requesting permission to develop as a panhandle lot or better known as a flag lot. The Planning Commission heard this request and is forwarding a positive recommendation on a 5-1 vote. The code allows a development of less than 4 lots with staff approval unless it needs a flag lot. This type of property development can hinder emergency access or utilities so can only be done if it is the only way to develop and the City Council makes the final decision. This property is in an R-4 zone which is the densest zone. The lot meets the other requirements for a buildable lot only the frontage is lacking. The home does need to be within 250 feet of a fire hydrant. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if there were any concerns from the neighbors. Gabby Blackburn stated there were no comments, and they have to provide their own parking. Councilmember Corey Foley asked if the owners indicated what would be developed there. Gabby Blackburn stated they can do up to a fourplex. *Councilmember Corey Foley moved to approve the request for a panhandle lot at 239 South 200 West from Rhett Dean. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Mills.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Longaye;
Councilmember Foley.....aye.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF JUSTICE COURT RECERTIFICATION - RESOLUTION NO.

2024-01: Mike Harrington explained the justice court has to go through a recertification process every 4 years. The judge has completed his part and the last step is to submit this Resolution to the State to say the City is committed and capable of following statutory and judicial requirements for the court. Those requirements include designated public facilities, certain hours of operation, adequate funding for staff and educational travel and security provisions. *Councilmember Edward Long moved to approve Resolution No. 2024-01, approving the justice court recertification. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Mills.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Longaye;
Councilmember Foley.....aye.

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REQUEST TO DECLARE PROPERTY SURPLUS: Carl Morton presented a picture of the old hoist that was in the Motorpool area. The hoist was approved for replacement in this year’s budget. It is an old 2 post hoist. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve this property as surplus. Councilmember Corey Foley seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Mills.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Longaye;
Councilmember Foley.....aye.

PRESENTATION OF FY2023 AUDIT: Carl Morton presented the audit report that displayed the total assets of the City at \$62 million dollars. The total net position increased by \$9 million dollars compared to last year of \$2 million dollars. The unassigned balance is over \$6 million or 42% of revenue so funds had to be moved as the City can only carry 35%. The sales tax increased by \$1 million dollars which is a good sign for the economy. Also, debt payments of \$1 million dollars were made. The audit did list 3 findings that the staff is working on. The first one was too much in the general fund. Steps have been taken to fix that issue. The other two items are an over budget in one fund department and over budget in a special fund. Those items have also been corrected. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the audit for FY2023 as presented. Councilmember Edward Long seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Mills.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Longaye;
Councilmember Foley.....aye.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH UTAH COUNTY FOR FUNDING / OPERATIONS OF THE INNOVATION HUB- RESOLUTION NO. 2024-03: Quinn Bennion explained the Innovation Hub started operation the end of 2019 with a hand shake and head nods with the County and now a better option is to have an agreement in place. The County approved this agreement at their meeting last week to formalize the understanding of the Hub being managed by the City and both entities helping with this effort. Half of the costs are being covered with reservations, rentals and usage and then Uintah County and Vernal City splitting the rest of the cost. *Councilmember Corey Foley moved to approve Resolution No. 2024-03 as presented. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Mills.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Longaye;
Councilmember Foley.....aye.

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Local Officials Day:

Quinn Bennion reported that several officials attended the Local Officials Day at the Legislature and met with local Legislators and the Governor. Councilmember Edward Long stated it was an interesting experience with a review of some of the bills that will impact the City.

CLOSED SESSION: *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to go into closed session to hold a strategy session to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property, including any form of a water right or water shares and discuss the sale of real property, including any form of a water right or water shares. Councilmember Randel Mills seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember Mills.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Longaye;
Councilmember Foley..... aye.

RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION AND ADJOURN: The meeting reconvened into open session. There being no further business; *Councilmember Randel Mills moved to adjourn. Councilmember Edward Long seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote and the meeting was declared adjourned.*

Mayor Doug Hammond

ATTEST:

Roxanne Behunin, City Recorder

(S E A L)