

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING
HELD MAY 3, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Vernal Planning conference room, 374 East
Main, Vernal, Utah 84078.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Nicholas Porter, Ted Munford, Dave Everett, and Corey Foley and Mayor Doug Hammond. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll was excused.

WELCOME: Mayor Doug Hammond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING: *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to acknowledge and approve this special meeting. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, Porter, Munford and Foley voting in favor.*

FY2024 BUDGET WORKSHOP INCLUDING GENERAL FUND, WATER FUND, SWER FUND AND SOLIDWASTE FUND, MBA, STRIKE FORCE AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS FUNDS AND PROJECTS IN THE CITY AND ALL SALARY AND WAGE SCHEDULES: Quinn Bennion stated that this is the second budget meeting and it will be necessary to hold another meeting to go over the personnel requests.

UTILITY FUNDS:

Water:

Keith Despain explained that most of the increases in these budgets is due to inflation. The cost of supplies has increased from \$18,000 to \$20,000. The fuel costs have also increased \$2000. The EPA is requiring new sampling of the water system that is a pretty technical and has to be sent to an EPA approved lab and there are only 4 in the country. It is not known for sure when that has to be done or the cost. Two trucks are being considered to be replaced and the motor pool supervisor is suggesting only one vehicle be replaced. Quinn Bennion asked about the \$90,000 budgeted each year to replace meters. Keith Despain answered they are continuing to replace residential meters and this year the focus will be on 1” and 1 ½” meters. The City will need to consider replacing the large meters that sit in vaults and may be the cause of water loss as the design is not good. Councilmember Corey Foley asked how many large meters are on the system. Keith Despain answered there are three 8” meters, six 6” meters and fifteen 4” meters with the potential to use a lot more water. Quinn Bennion asked Keith to explain the water fill station. Keith Despain explained the water fill station is on north Vernal Avenue by the pilot station. There are two credit card machines that use a pin to get water and then Obern bills it out. One side is not working. A customer tried to get 100 gallons when they really got 200 gallons. New parts were installed but that did not resolve the problem. Meanwhile the other side went down. The company who set up the system says the software is out of date and will cost \$18,000 for software and \$80,000 for hardware. Councilmember Nick Porter asked how long it would take to break even. Carl Morton stated the City had \$23,000 in bulk water sales last year. Councilmember Ted Munford stated there may be a cheaper software vendor. Keith Despain suggested funding be left in the budget so the staff could see if there is a better option.

Sewer:

Keith Despain explained that there is not any changes to this budget. The City purchased the camera van and it has been working really well. Carl Morton stated the van will be handled in the budget reopener.

GENERAL FUND

Facilities:

Wayne Smith stated they need to maintain equipment and need an additional \$4000 in that line item. The janitorial supplies also increased, however, the generator was not as expensive as thought. The fire alarm system goes off randomly and the cost of upgrading is \$47,000. The system is twelve years old. He stated they are asking for a new vehicle to replace the oldest vehicle the City has. Councilmember Ted Munford asked what it is used for. Wayne Smith stated it is used to go to the job sites. Keith Despain stated they have a one ton vehicle with lots of years, miles and tool boxes on the side. That large of a vehicle is not needed anymore. Wayne Smith stated the last item is the elevator inspection. The current contract was cancelled and a new company will be found to inspect the elevators that is required every year.

Streets

Kyle Reynolds stated there is \$5000 for the GIS system. Quinn Bennion asked about the T-Rex repairs. Carl Morton stated funds have been included for improvements underneath. Quinn Bennion stated there will be a sidewalk and a barrier along Hwy 40. Keith Despain stated the maintenance along Aggie Blvd has been put out to bid and the juvenile group is without a supervisor so they will not do it this year. A seasonal employee will be hired to help water flowers at an estimated cost of \$15,000. Kyle Reynolds stated the flowers will be put out the Monday after Memorial Day. Quinn Bennion stated the LED conversion is in this budget and will take two years to recoup the expense. Keith Despain explained that the concrete caps on the top of the arches in Cobblestone Park have been added to the downtown project so that cost will be taken out of this budget. The curb, gutter, sidewalk repair is still at \$90,000. The chip seal funding was moved toward pothole repairs so \$260,000 is in the capital improvement projects for chip seal work. Quinn Bennion stated that the City will get about 40% more in B & C road funds this year and it will stay at 15% higher. Carl Morton stated this department is asking for two new vehicles and a UTV mini. Kyle Reynolds stated they need a vehicle for weed spraying.

Vehicles:

Keith Despain explained that the City bought a lot of trucks in 2001 and many of those vehicles have been passed down to other departments. There are some one-ton trucks used for the sign boards and the one in facilities that need to be replaced. Quinn Bennion showed the Council a list of vehicles that are being recommended to be replaced. One vehicle is more expensive as it has a dump bed. Shawn Rasmussen recommended a right-hand steer vehicle to spray weeds easier.

Motor pool:

Shawn Rasmussen explained that fuel costs are up from \$8,000 to \$10,000 and the software program increased. Small tools are not needed this year, however diagnostic equipment is needed in the amount of \$5200. Also, the 4 point hoist did not pass inspection and needs to be replaced. The cost for that hoist is \$34,000 or a rolling hoist is \$26,000. Quinn Bennion asked how old it is. Shawn Rasmussen stated it is a 1992 model. Quinn asked what he will do in the meantime. Shawn stated he cannot use the two post hoist on anything heavy so he will not put anything bigger than a car or possibly the Durango on it. Councilmember Corey Foley stated that mechanics are hard to get and asked the staff to look at the scale for that position and building inspector to make sure the City is competitive. He asked what vehicles will be moved from the police department. Shawn Rasmussen stated he has selected four of those vehicles. One of the vehicles needs to be larger than the F150's.

ADJOURN: There being no further discussion, *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to adjourn. Councilmember Corey Foley seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned.*

Mayor Doug Hammond

ATTEST:

Roxanne Behunin, City Recorder

(S E A L)