

**M**INUTES OF THE JOINT VERNAL CITY COUNCIL AND UINTAH COUNTY  
COMMISSION MEETING HELD JUNE 14, 2023 at 4:00 pm in the Uintah County  
conference room 147 East Main, Vernal UT 84078

**PRESENT:**

VERNAL CITY: Councilmembers Nick Porter, Robin O’Driscoll, Corey Foley and Mayor Doug Hammond.

UINTAH COUNTY: Commissioners Brad Horrocks, Sonja Norton and John Laursen.

STAFF: Quinn Bennion, Roxanne Behunin, Brenda McDonald, Travis Campbell, Gabby Blackburn.

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

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING:** Councilmember Nick Porter moved to approve this special meeting. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Nick Porter, Robin O’Driscoll, Corey Foley and Commissioners Horrocks, Norton and Laursen voting in favor.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 24, 2023:** Commissioner John Laursen moved to approve the minutes of April 24, 2023. Councilmember Corey Foley seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Nick Porter, Robin O’Driscoll, Corey Foley and Commissioners Horrocks, Norton and Laursen voting in favor.

**MEETING LOCATION:** Commissioner Sonja Norton suggested the meeting be held at the County building every time for consistency. The City should continue to prepare the agenda and do the minutes. Mayor Doug Hammond stated that the location has been split between the City and County for years.

**DISCUSS PARADE REGULATIONS:**

Quinn Bennion explained the City would welcome insights and feedback regarding parade regulations. He noted the City Council had approved a moratorium on new parades until regulations, codes, and ordinances were established. Four traditional parades are still approved for this year including the 4th of July, 24th of July, Homecoming, and Holly Days. He emphasized the need to structure parade occurrences while respecting freedom of speech. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce had tightened the rules for the 4th of July parade, and Quinn expressed gratitude for the Chamber’s operation. Discussions centered around themes, safety issues, candy distribution, and overall costs. Councilmember Corey Foley emphasized cost-related aspects and the importance of understanding the financial implications. Commissioner John Laursen highlighted the cooperative nature of sharing costs between the City and the County for special events. Commissioner Sonja Norton raised concerns about opening up discussions on cost sharing, suggesting that the current collaboration was effective. The need to strike a balance between traditional and patriotic aspects of parades was emphasized. Commissioner Brad Horrocks suggested historical associations and visual enhancements remain. He noted that the flowers

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along Main Street seem brighter this year.

**REQUEST APPROVAL OF BID FROM CKC TO COMPLETE AIRPORT TAXI WAY:**

Ken Campbell, the director of the airport, presented the case for the airport taxiway expansion. He described the various taxiways and parcels of property -Bravo, Charlie, and Delta - along with their locations and dimensions and displayed a map of the airport. Parcel Charlie is directly south of Parcel Bravo by the fuel tanks and goes south and west and can accommodate 5 large airplane hangers the approximate size of 60' x 60'. Then to the left, if funds are available, additional hangers can be built. Future Taxiway named Delta is by the airport office and is where all the corporate buildings will be with an approximate size of 100' x 100'. He noted the first step should be to install taxiway Charlie. Ken Campbell explained that the project had initially been estimated at \$410,000 but had received bids significantly higher. After discussing modifications with contractors, they managed to reduce costs to \$642,716.85. The FAA is willing to fund Bravo and Delta and the City and County pay for Charlie. Councilmembers questioned the discrepancy between engineering estimates and actual bids, and Ken provided insights into the complexities of airport engineering and coordination with federal agencies. The discussion covered funding, leasing of hangars, and the potential growth of the airport. Ken Campbell addressed concerns about the impact on nearby property ownership, indicating that he aimed to resolve any issues. Brenda McDonald noted that most of the property is City and County owned except for the Delta parcel is only on County property and asked if that will be funded differently. Ken Campbell proposed all airport property should be shared ownership. Commissioner Sonja Norton stated she likes the idea of adding hangers and looking to the future of the airport. Ken Campbell presented the option of changing the taxiway to allow a larger hanger. After further discussion the following decisions were made by the elected officials:

**UINTAH COUNTY:**

Commissioner Sonja Norton moved to approve the bid from CKC to construct the taxiway for the parcel named "Charlie". Commissioner John Laursen seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Norton, Laursen and Horrocks voting in favor.

**VERNAL CITY:**

Councilmember Nick Porter moved to approve the bid from CKC to construct the taxiway for the parcel named "Charlie". Councilmember Robin O'Driscoll seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Porter, O'Driscoll and Foley voting in favor.

**AIRPORT UPDATE:**

Ken Campbell updated the elected officials on the airport. He noted the enplanements are above where they should be. SkyWest has indicated they will stay until the new organization picks up service and DOT is still negotiating with them. Several projects are now being completed, with the final inspection of the paint on the surfaces of the airfield scheduled for tomorrow. There was an aircraft incident southeast of town with no injuries.

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**UPDATE ON GENERAL ELECTION DATE CHANGES:** Commissioner Sonja Norton reported that the general election dates have been changed due to the resignation of Congressman Stewart. The County and City are working together for a smooth election year.

**DISCUSSION OF UNIVERSAL ORDINANCE FOR PLATS IN UINTAH COUNTY:** Commissioner Sonja Norton presented the idea of a universal ordinance for the County and City to require the plats be done the same way so there are no hiccups when they are filed with the County Recorder. Brenda McDonald explained the Legislature looked at this issue and have placed penalties if a plat is not approved in a timely manner. Also, stating January 1<sup>st</sup>, the County will accept a plat electronically with electronic signatures. There are a few differences in State code between municipal does and county code, however, the local agencies can work on those to serve the public. Gabby Blackburn stated she is working with the County Surveyor and Brenda to be consistent.

Administrative Report:

Mr. Jeff Shull, resident of Maeser, stated he is curious why there are no community standards established. Recently, the library was rented for a story time and their by-laws would not allow them to deny that event even if it violates standards. Commissioner Sonja Norton explained that unfortunately those events must be allowed as established by case law, although that ruling was not specific to our community. Councilmember Nick Porter stated that government cannot take away any rights. The elected officials thanked Mr. Shull for his comments.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further discussion, Mayor Doug Hammond declared the meeting adjourned.

Adjourn  
Nick 1<sup>st</sup>  
Brad 2<sup>nd</sup>  
all aye

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Mayor Doug Hammond

ATTEST:

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City Recorder, Roxanne Behunin

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