

**M**INUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD  
JULY 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main, Vernal,  
Utah 84078.

**PRESENT:** Councilmembers Nicholas Porter, Robin O’Driscoll, Ted Munford, Dave Everett, 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 Dave Everett.

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

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2023:**  
*Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll moved to approve the minutes of June 21, 2023. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, O’Driscoll, Munford, Foley and Porter voting in favor.*

**REQUEST APPROVAL OF SALARY SCALE FOR FY2024 - RESOLUTION NO. 2023-07:** Roxanne Behunin explained this resolution changes the salary scale by 5% as approved the by Council during the budget meetings. Quinn Bennion stated this new wage scale will be effective August 1<sup>st</sup>. *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to approve Resolution 2023-07 with correction of the city manager range. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

- Councilmember Munford.....aye;*
- Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;*
- Councilmember Everett .....aye;*
- Councilmember Porter .....aye;*
- Councilmember Foley.....aye.*

**DISCUSSION ON ANNUAL UPDATE OF THE SAFETY ACTION PLAN:** Quinn Bennion reminded the Council of the SS4A grant that was applied for last year and the City was unsuccessful in receiving it. This year the deadline to apply was moved up to July 10<sup>th</sup> and the safety action plan needs to be updated for that grant application. A draft version of the updated action plan was presented to the Council. Quinn Bennion noted there are some minor modifications needed. Councilmember Nick Porter agreed some of the names need to be corrected. Quinn Bennion stated the applications that were successful for implementation grants last year had specific items so those components have been added. Some of the projects have already been completed such as the Robinwood Lane crossing and road striping. After further discussion, *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the updated safety action plan with a few minor modifications. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

- Councilmember Munford.....aye;*
- Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;*

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD JULY 5, 2023**

*Councilmember Everett .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Porter .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Foley..... aye.*

*Councilmember Ted Munford found it necessary to leave the meeting.*

**REQUEST APPROVAL OF CRS PROPOSAL FOR SURVEYING:** Quinn Bennion explained this survey work would continue the momentum for the downtown renovation on the Sage block and the 7-11 block. The City will not jump right into full design, rather look at options and see if the property owners are supportive. *Councilmember Nick Porter stated he sees the value in starting slow and moved to approve the \$22,400 to do the survey. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

*Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Everett .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Porter .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Foley..... aye.*

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AN ADDENDUM #1 TO THE BHI ZIONS BLOCK CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT:** Quinn Bennion reminded the Council the City only received one bid from BHI for the Zions Block project and was able to negotiate an amount the City was comfortable with for this project so the City entered into a CNGC agreement with them. This addendum identifies quantities and numbers in the bid amount that were negotiated with the contractor so everyone knows what numbers to work under. Councilmember Dave Everett asked what the start date is. Quinn Bennion answered the end of July. The contractor will provide a firm schedule. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll asked for clarification on the allowance met amount. Quinn Bennion replied the City and contractor are trying to find the right solution for some aspects of the project such as the shade sales and fire pit so there is an allowance for those items in the budget with the hope to find something to meet the expectations of the property owners. Councilmember Corey Foley asked what happens if they do not get the work done. Quinn Bennion answered when this was bid they had a four month window and he would verify that time frame. He noted that the asphalt plant could close as early as October. Councilmember Nick Porter stated the contract says substantial completion is May 2024. *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to approve Addendum #1 to the Zions Block contract with BHI. Councilmember Corey Foley seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

*Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Everett .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Porter .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Foley..... aye.*

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD JULY 5, 2023**

**REQUEST BY ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICE DISTRICT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE LEGAL ATTORNEY CONSORTIUM:** Quinn Bennion stated the City now has a City Attorney and shares his services through an Interlocal Agreement with Naples City, Dutch John and SSD1. If another agency wants to also use his services, all those agencies have to agree. The Uintah Animal Control District is requesting to join at a cost of \$2500 a year so there would be very limited use. Councilmember Dave Everett asked about prosecution services. Quinn Bennion stated those services are through the entity where the violation happened. *Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll moved to include the Animal District in the legal attorney consortium. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

*Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;*  
*Councilmember Everett .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Porter .....aye;*  
*Councilmember Foley.....aye.*

**Administrative Reports:**

Freedom Fest:

Quinn Bennion reported that Freedom Fest had a lot of good activities and the parade went really well. Councilmember Nick Porter appreciated the efforts this year as there were more decorated floats. Councilmember Corey Foley stated there were a lot of comments about the chairs being placed out the day before the parade and possibly it is time to relook at the parade route. He suggested the parade start at 400 South by Civco and Sonic. Quinn Bennion stated the parade is already ten blocks. Councilmember Nick Porter stated that is a long distance in the heat. Councilmember Corey Foley suggested the parade start earlier although getting the jets to fly over may be a problem. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll asked where they would stage. Quinn Bennion stated the logistics would have to be worked out. He noted there would be many businesses trapped with no other access. Mayor Doug Hammond suggested the public safety committee look over this problem and bring a recommendation.

City Logo:

Quinn Bennion reported that the logo committee met a few times and felt the next best step is to get community feedback on what is Vernal. Many of the departments have started to create their own designs for shirts and one design is needed. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll suggested putting it out on social media.

**CLOSED SESSION:** *Councilmember Nick Porter moved 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*

**MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD JULY 5, 2023**

*and return to open session after the discussion is concluded. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

*Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;  
Councilmember Everett .....aye;  
Councilmember Porter .....aye;  
Councilmember Foley.....aye.*

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Doug Hammond

ATTEST:

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Roxanne Behunin, City Recorder

( S E A L )