

**M**INUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD  
July 19, 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 and Dave Everett and Mayor Doug Hammond. Councilmember Corey Foley was excused.

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

**INVOCATION OR UPLIFTING THOUGHT:** The invocation was given by Councilmember Nick Porter.

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

**APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 5, 2023:**  
*Councilmember Nick Porter moved to approve the minutes of July 5, 2023. Councilmember Ted Munford seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, O’Driscoll, Munford and Porter voting in favor.*

**INTRODUCTION OF UTILITY EMPLOYEES, DUSTIN O’DELL, LOGAN MELLOR AND MIKE WARD– IVAN MERRELL:** Ivan Merrell, Utility Supervisor, reported the City is fortunate in today’s tight labor market to find employees qualified and capable s with excellent work ethics and good skills. These three employees have all those qualities and are working on getting trained and up to speed to handle the utilities of the City. He introduced Dustin O’Dell, Logan Mellor and Mike Ward who are all working in the water and sewer departments. The Council welcomed them to the City.

**RECOMMENDATION TO PURCHASE SHOP VEHICLE HOIST AND PRESENTATION OF THE BID - SHAWN RASMUSSEN;** Shawn Rasmussen, Lead Mechanic, reminded the Council that the vehicle hoist in the public works shop failed the last inspection and it was approved to replace it. Bids were obtained from four companies and McGee Company submitted the lowest proposal and offers a better hoist that is more heavy duty and has a better design. The proposal from McGee is \$30,644.13 including taking down the old one and the two post hoist. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll noted that the price is different on the bid sheet. Shawn Rasmussen explained there were a few adjustments within budget. Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the bid from McGee Company in the amount of \$30,644.13 and purchase the hoist from them. Councilmember Robin O’Dricoll 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.*

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**REQUEST TO APPROVE BID FOR FIREARMS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT –**

**ROBERT ROTH:** Sergeant Robert Roth, firearms instructor for the police department, presented a request to replace the firearms for the police department. He stated the police department is in need of new pistols, rifles, holsters and training. It has become critical to replace the pistols that are outdated and malfunctioning. The rifles are also outdated and use an old style A2 front stock. He proposed the department switch caliber from a Glock to a Sig Sauer for the pistols for the best outcome for the officers. Proposals were received from three vendors for the new pistols with a 17 round magazine. The best bid was from Basin Sports. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll asked how many they plan on purchasing. Robert Roth replied 30 which allows for a few spares. Councilmember Ted Munford asked for the total cost and noted most people do not have to worry about this when they go to work. Robert Roth answered \$20,949.40. He noted the rifles need to be quieter, have a light and a sling. Bids were received for AR 15’s, however, they are not available for 18 months. The lowest vendor is out of Idaho at a cost of \$47,480 with a trade allowance. *After further discussion, Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll moved to approve the purchase of 30 pistols at a cost of \$20,049.40 and rifles at a cost of \$47,480. Councilmember Dave Everett 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.*

**REQUEST APPROVAL FOR CHANGE ORDER ZIONS BLOCK UTILITIES - KEITH**

**DESPAIN:** Keith Despain explained this change order actually lowers the contract price by changing the 2” water meter for the landscaping down to a 1” which decreased the cost. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the change order for the Zions Block utilities as presented. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll 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.*

**REQUEST APPROVAL FOR CHANGE ORDER 100 SOUTH SEWER PROJECT -**

**KEITH DESPAIN:** Keith Despain reported the 100 South sewer project is almost complete and there were a few changes that had to be made mostly by situations unknown before the project started. The sewer lateral for this building ends into a manhole so the contractor had to do extra excavation and figure out the best solution to connect the sewer. Another lateral was going uphill

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so that had to be fixed and there was an 8” water line that was not known was in the way which cost more time. The total cost for this change order is \$19,637.24. *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to approve the change order for the 100 South sewer project in the amount of \$19,637.24. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll 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.*

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF TECHNICAL PLANNING ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH JONES & DEMILLE FOR AREA PLAN ON EAST MAIN STREET:** Keith Despain reported the City was awarded a grant through UDOT for \$50,000, and the City has to match 7% of those funds for a cost of \$3500. The project will consist of the engineers completing a plan for the northeast quadrant of the City by the pink dinosaur where a large development is being considered that could add 1000 residences. The roadway could end up with poor alignment and create a dangerous intersection so that quadrant of the highway will be reviewed. It is expected to take a year to produce the final plan. *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the agreement with Jones and Demille Engineering for a traffic plan on East Main Street. Councilmember Nick Porter 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.*

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A CONTRACT WITH ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER FOR ZIONS BLOCK PROJECT:** Keith Despain explained the electrical lines will be placed underground rather than overhead along the Zions block. This agreement is with Rocky Mountain Power for that conversion. The cost for this work is \$57,125. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if it is normal to have a clause to waive a jury trial. Mike Harrington replied it can be done this way or require arbitration which is standard. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the agreement with Rocky Mountain Power. Councilmember Nick Porter 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.*

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**DISCUSSION ON ADDITIONAL SERVICE IN DOWNTOWN AREA:** Quinn Bennion explained that some residents requested the City's involvement in managing pigeons downtown. The solution proposed was a humane method of sterilizing feed to control the pigeon population without harming the birds. Councilmember Ted Munford expressed concerns about the effectiveness and impact on other bird species. The cost for implementing this solution was discussed. There were also concerns about potential property damage caused by pigeons. Councilmember Nick Porter wondered if this is the City's role to handle this issue. Quinn Bennion replied it is a common topic with pedestrians and trash. Councilmember Ted Munford suggested the City buy the feeders and loan them out. Councilmembers suggested exploring other options and looking into what other municipalities do to address this issue. They considered the idea of partnering with businesses and providing support for pigeon control efforts.

**DISCUSSION ABOUT TREX DECORATIONS AND PROCESS – CLINT MORTON:** Clint Morton, Street Supervisor, presented the idea of cutting back on decorating the recently renovated T-Rex statue. Councilmembers Ted Munford and Dave Everett expressed concerns about potential damage to the statue and its overall integrity, noting that the community has mixed feelings about the decorations, with some supporting the idea and others finding it unnecessary. Clint Morton stated many of the decorations are old and heavy and he displayed pictures of previous decorations and the storage building. Councilmember Robin O'Driscoll suggested focusing on simple decorations like lights in bushes to avoid storage issues and damage to the statue. Councilmember Dave Everett wanted to compromise with decorating the T-Rex for a few holidays a year. The issue of storage space for decorations was considered critical, and the Council agreed on the need to cut back on the number of decorations and find a functional storage solution.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

#### Zions Block:

Quinn Bennion reported the Zions block has started and will be fenced for the electrical contractor.

#### Light Conversion:

Quinn Bennion stated that the contractor for Rocky Mountain Power will start next week changing the 600 lights to LED fixtures. Most of the lights will be on Main Street.

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**ADJOURN:** 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.*

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Mayor Doug Hammond

ATTEST:

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Roxanne Behunin, City Recorder

( S E A L )