

MINUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
AUGUST 16, 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 AUGUST 2, 2023: *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the minutes of August 2, 2023. Councilmember Corey Foley seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, O’Driscoll, Munford, Foley and Porter voting in favor.*

FUNDING REQUEST AND UPDATE FOR ENERGY SUMMIT- TRAVIS CAMPBELL:
Travis Campbell updated the Council on the Energy Summit and noted it will be a good opportunity for the Legislature to know what is happening in the Basin. There will be presentations regarding the oil and gas industry, health care, education, and how the area accommodates up and down economic cycles. He asked the Council to consider helping to sponsor the Summit. *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to sponsor the Energy Summit in the amount of \$1000. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

- Councilmember Munford.....aye;*
- Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;*
- Councilmember Everettaye;*
- Councilmember Porteraye;*
- Councilmember Foley.....aye.*

REQUEST TO ABANDON WATERLINE EASEMENT AT PARK PLACE DEVELOPMENT (DRY FORK ROAD) - RESOLUTION NO. 2023-09: Quinn Bennion reported that the City used to have a water line that ran through this property up Dry Fork Canyon and had an easement from the mouth of Ashley Gorge to Remember the Main Park. A new line was installed along the Merkley Park road so the old line was abandoned. Now there is a developer that wants to build homes in that area and is asking the City to officially abandon the line. The staff found where the Council abandoned the line in the minutes, but no official document was prepared. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve Resolution No 2023-09 to abandon the old water line. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

- Councilmember Munford.....aye;*

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Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Porteraye;
Councilmember Foley..... aye.

UPDATE TO DESIGN FOR THE COBBLE ROCK BLOCK PARKING AND EXTENSION OF SAA2 PROTEST PERIOD: Quinn Bennion presented the latest design for the Cobblestone block parking lot. Design adjustments were made to cut costs and to secure necessary easements. One item is improvements to the amphitheater by removing the benches and filling in the stairs. The City staff will do the work to keep the cost down. Councilmember Dave Everett asked if the fountains will remain. Quinn Bennion answered yes that section will not change. Councilmember Corey Foley asked if there is a way to put in electrical conduit in that area for food trucks etc. Quinn Bennion explained electrical will be added to Vernal Avenue during that project. The pavers that were original added to the parking lot has been changed to colored concrete for the walkway and patios. The consensus of the Council was to go with a sandstone color. With the changes to the design, the protest period for the Special Assessment will be extended for another 60 days. State law requires the Council to take action within 15 days after the protest period so the City Attorney felt the most open way to proceed would be to extend the protest window. Councilmember Corey Foley asked if there has been any comment. Quinn Bennion answered yes, there is a protest from the owners of the theater. After further discussion, *Councilmember Nick Porter moved to extend SAA2 protest period to October 20th. Councilmember Corey Foley seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Porteraye;
Councilmember Foley..... aye.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF US-40 CORRIDOR PRESERVATION COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT: Quinn Bennion presented an addendum to an agreement with UDOT that focuses on traffic signals on Highway 40. The original agreement was approved in 2008 and UDOT is asking for an update to cover all the signal lights. *Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the addendum to the UDOT agreement for signal lights on Hwy 40. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Everettaye;

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Councilmember Porteraye;
Councilmember Foley..... aye.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER FOR DESIGN, EQUIPMENT AND POWER FOR UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL UTILITY:

Quinn Bennion reported that the cost to bury the power lines is just under \$500,000. This project will help with many of the downtown projects. The funding will come from the CIB project funds. Councilmember Dave Everett clarified all the power poles will disappear. Quinn Bennion agreed. One challenge is there is a major Strata box at 150 South that will need to be moved. *Councilmember Corey Foley moved to approve the contract with Rocky Mountain Power for underground utilities from 200 South to 100 North. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Porteraye;
Councilmember Foley..... aye.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Salary Adjustments:

Quinn Bennion reported that the salary adjustments went into affect yesterday and the checks will be issued Friday.

ULCT conference.

Quinn Bennion reminded the Council the upcoming League conference will be September 6th which is the date of the next meeting. He suggested the meeting be canceled. The consensus was to cancel the meeting.

CLOSED SESSION: *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to go into closed session to hold a strategy sessions to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property, including any form of a water right or water shares and return to regular session when the discussion is concluded. Councilmember Dave Everett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:*

Councilmember Munford.....aye;
Councilmember O’Driscoll.....aye;
Councilmember Everettaye;
Councilmember Porteraye;
Councilmember Foley..... aye.

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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.*

Mayor Doug Hammond

ATTEST:

Roxanne Behunin, City Recorder

(S E A L)