

Utah **M**INUTES OF THE VERNAL CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD
NOVEMBER 1, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernal City Council room, 374 East Main, Vernal,
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 Robin O’Driscoll.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Dave Everett.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2023: Councilmember Corey Foley moved to approve the minutes of October 18, 2023. Councilmember Nick Porter seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmembers Everett, O’Driscoll, Munford, Foley and Porter voting in favor.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDERS FOR THE ZIONS BLOCK PROJECT: Keith Despain presented a change to the contract with BHI to do the trenching for the light poles in the amount of \$16,057.28. He noted that the project is progressing with the curb and gutter being completed and the concrete along the back of the buildings being installed. These lights along the walking path behind the buildings that were not in the original design. Councilmember Dave Everett moved to approve the 16,057.28 change to the BHI contract. 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.

Keith Despain presented the second change order to the contract with Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) for the additional light base conduit in the amount of \$6865 that also includes an additional transformer. After further discussion, Councilmember Nick Porter moved to approve the \$6865 change order. 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.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH PROTECTION PLUS LLC FOR FIRE ALARM SYSTEM INSTALLATION: Quinn Bennion reminded the Council that this item is a continuation from the last meeting. The City Hall building is approaching 15 years old and many systems are starting to fail including the fire alarm system. Certain components are not compatible and are causing issues. The Council was concerned this was the same contractor that performed services for a different agency and wanted to make sure it was not the same working on the other project in town. Mr. Bennion reported it is not the same contractor.

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Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve the installation and contract with Protection Plus LLC. 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.

PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT AREA 2 (SAA2): Quinn Bennion gave a brief introduction to the Special Assessment Area 2 (SAA2) to help improve downtown parking. The improvements to the Cobblestone Block parking will be fully funded by Vernal City and the maintenance will be cost shared by the businesses, similar to SAA1 that was done in the Zions block. The assessment will be added to the water bill and ranges between \$10 a month and \$200 a month based on parking they need and amount provided already. Mike Harrington reported that the State statute requires a 60 day protest period then a meeting within 15 days so the Council has until Saturday to hold the meeting. The City is required to post the total percentage of protests and that was updated on Monday. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if there was a lot of feedback on this issue. Mike Harrington replied there were two protests for a total of 9,300 square feet out of 71,900 square feet which represents 13.9%. The statute requires if over 40% the City cannot do the assessment. Councilmember Corey Foley asked if the one business has been able to review the revised plans. Quinn Bennion answered yes they have, except for the changes to the ramp. Mike Harrington stated the total assessment is \$630 dollars per month and the two that protested will be charged \$30 a month unless the one signs the easement. Quinn Bennion pointed out that amount does not included the old Showalter property that the City purchased.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF HEARING OFFICER CHANGES - ORDINANCE NO. 2023-16: Michael Harrington presented Ordinance No. 2023-16 that changes the City code. This ordinance will change disciplinary appeals from the Council to a hearing officer. Councilmember Ted Munford asked if the City has to chose one each time. Mike Harrington suggested the City enter into a contract with an attorney. Councilmember Nick Porter stated that an attorney will have a better grasp on these issues than the Council. *Councilmember Ted Munford moved to approve Ordinance No. 2023-16. 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.

DISCUSSION ON PRINTING BUSINESS LICENSES AND CHANGE OF POLICY: Gabby Blackburn explained many cities are no longer printing business licenses and are sending them out electronically. The City currently mails them out to around 800 active businesses at a cost of \$1500. She asked the Council’s

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opinion on going electronic. Councilmember Robin O’Driscoll stated she thought they had to be posted. Gabby Blackburn stated they only have to be accessible. Councilmember Ted Munford stated he displays his on the wall and is proud of them. He suggested the business be allowed to pick one up if they want it. Councilmember Corey Foley agreed they should have that option.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Tax Increase:

Quinn Bennion reported that the major topic around the City is about the County proposed tax increase. The staff is trying to respond when anyone attaches the City to this. The public hearing is next Tuesday night at the conference center.

Air Service:

Quinn Bennion reported there is a lot of misinformation about the change in commercial air service and Ken Campbell is working hard to clear it up. Councilmember Corey Foley stated he may need to a little more pointed with those giving out misinformation.

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)