

MINUTES of the public meeting of the Uintah County Commission held **April 23, 2024** in the Commission Chambers of the Uintah County Building at 147 East Main, Vernal, Utah. Meeting commenced at 3:04 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS: Commissioners John Laursen, Sonja Norton, and Brad Horrocks.

ATTENDANCE: Mike Wilkins, Melanie Silcox, Wendi Long, Matt Cazier, Willis LeFevre, Karina Valencia, Barbara Simper, and Steve Evans.
Minutes recorded by Tai Duncan.

WELCOME: Commissioner Laursen welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PRAYER offered by Matt Cazier.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Tai Duncan.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the April 15, 2024 work session and April 16, 2024 meeting

Commissioner Horrocks moved to approve the minutes for April 15, 2024 work session and April 16, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Norton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. REPORT OF WARRANTS – Mike Wilkins, Clerk-Auditor, presented warrants dated April 18, 2024 in the amount of \$497,557.46. Items of note are payment on the lease for the backhoe at Buckskin Hills in the amount of \$17,724.38; the purchase of a used water truck to be used at Buckskin Hills in the amount of \$47,000.00; the purchase of weed chemicals in the amount of \$28,433.30; and a payment to Wheeler on the rental backhoe for the Road Department in the amount of \$14,000.00.

3. REVIEW and COUNTER SIGNATURE of CERTIFIED LIST of CLAIMS –

Check #391729 in the amount of \$4,070.09 to Navex. This was purchased December 1, 2023 and is just coming through to be paid now. A purchase order was not obtained but the Jail has approved the purchase for this PolicyTech subscription.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve the claim as presented. Commissioner Horrocks seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. TAX MATTERS –

a. 2024 TAX EXEMPT PROPERTIES – Mike Wilkins, Clerk-Auditor

This is the annual list of properties owned by churches and other nontaxable organizations. There are only two changes to be made to the list this year. Serial number 06:051:0015, Jesucristo Es El Camino will need to be added to the list; they have provided the needed information. Serial number 05:027:0106, Kingsbury Community Church condo will be removed from the list; they sold the condo so it is no longer tax exempt. Mike recommended approval of the list.

Commissioner Horrocks moved to approve the 2024 tax exempt properties list as presented. Commissioner Norton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5. WESTERN STATES TRIBAL NATIONS County Membership – Travis Campbell, Economic Development, was unable to attend. Commissioner Norton shared his prepared statement.

“This is an advocacy group focused on the production and export of US natural gas, notably from western states. They have built a platform of engagement for the public and policy makers both in the US and internationally to better understand benefits and potential of natural gas production. This group really got its start following a panel discussion at the Uintah Basin Energy Summit on the Jordon Cove Oregon export facility years back. When the Jordon Cove project fell through because of local policies, this group

formed to develop policy and political strategies to seek other options for exporting US natural gas from the west coast most notably to Asian markets.” Some of the other members include the State of Utah, State of Wyoming, State of New Mexico, SITLA (School Institutional Trust Lands Administration), 7 County Infrastructure Coalition, Duchesne County, counties in Colorado, the Ute Tribe, the Southern Ute Tribe, the Jicarilla Apache Nation in New Mexico and others. Uintah County regularly sits as Utah’s top natural gas producing county. This group provides us with a voice and an opportunity to increase the growth of our energy industry. The \$5,000 annual support is a worthwhile investment to maintain our involvement. This is paid through the Economic Development office. Commissioner Horrocks agreed this group is spending a lot of time on an issue that is to our benefit.

Commissioner Horrocks moved to approve the County membership in the Western States Tribal Nations. Commissioner Norton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6. ORDINANCE #04-22-2024 O1: Amendments to Chapter 17.30 – Site Plan Regulations: changes to landscaping requirements and other minor changes – Matt Cazier, Community Development
This was reviewed in work session yesterday. There are basic grammatical corrections to be made as well as correcting code section references. These changes apply to commercial and industrial buildings and properties as well as apartments. The only other change is to 17.30.060, paragraph A, “60% of landscaped areas shall have vegetative cover when vegetation reaches maturity” will be removed leaving the first sentence “10% of the area for the use shall be landscaped”. This allows the developer to chose to do grass and trees or other vegetation or xeriscaping; more options to suit their needs.

Commissioner Norton moved to approve Ordinance #04-22-2024 O1 as presented. Commissioner Horrocks seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7. COUNTY FAIR CONCERT Contract with Evans Family Media: rescind previous contract and approve new. *Commissioner Laursen tabled this item for two weeks.*

8. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

9. CLOSED SESSION for the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property when public discussion of the transaction would disclose the appraisal or estimated value of the property under consideration or prevent the public body from completing the transaction on the best possible terms

At 3:14 pm Commissioner Norton moved to go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property when public discussion of the transaction would disclose the appraisal or estimated value of the property under consideration or prevent the public body from completing the transaction on the best possible terms in the Commission small conference room and when discussion is complete, adjourn and reconvene Commission meeting in order to adjourn. Commissioner Horrocks seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session attendance: Mike Wilkins, Barbara Simper, and Jon Stearmer

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:15 pm.



JOHN LAURSEN, CHAIR



MICHAEL W. WILKINS, CLERK – AUDITOR

