

**City Council Retreat**  
**February 25, 2014**  
**6:00 pm**  
**Montpelier City Hall**

The meeting was conducted by Mayor Jared Sharp on February 25th at 6:00 at the Montpelier City Hall.

Present:

Dan Fisher  
Heather Mortensen  
Scott Nussbaum  
Marden Phelps  
Ted Slivinski  
Mike Sparks

Others:

Clerk Leslie Tueller  
Amy Bishop  
Chief Russell Roper  
Superintendent John Petersen

**Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Jared Sharp added the backhoe refinance and a presentation on comp time by John Petersen to the agenda.

**Councilmember Marden Phelps moved to approve the agenda as amended. Councilmember Ted Slivinski seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.**

**Backhoe Refinance**

Superintendent John Petersen has talked with Caterpillar Finance about refinancing the backhoe. They will split the payment now owing into two separate payments of \$28,786.55 due immediately and the same due next year. A \$275.00 document fee will be added to the payment that is due now. They will be charging the city 4% interest.

**Councilmember Mike Sparks moved to accept the new lease from Caterpillar Finance. Councilmember Heather Mortensen seconded. Councilmember Marden Phelps voted no with all others voting yes. The motion passes.**

**City of Montpelier Comp Time**

City Superintendent John Petersen explained his policy for comp time in his department. He explained to the council the reason for comp time and the way he calculates comp time for his employees. The councilmembers were asked to think about ways to handle comp time that would be beneficial for the city.

**Goals and Philosophy**

To begin the retreat the councilmembers had Amy Bishop scribe while they came up with things that were required for the city to provide and things that were not required but currently being funded.

The required services provided:

- Infrastructure – Sewer and Water
- Public Safety – Police and Fire Department
- Administrative Services – Clerk
- Snow Removal
- Utilities – Street Lights
- City Hall

Not required services:

- After School Program
- Arts Council
- Parks and Rec
- M- hill lights
- Cemetery
- Golf Course
- City Parks
- Ice Rink
- Youth Council

The next topic of discussion was the Montpelier Golf Course. The councilmember discussed the city's role in the finances of the Montpelier Golf Course. In the past few years the golf course has gone over budget and this needs to be resolved. Mayor Jared Sharp planned to give the golf pro, Matt Eaves a call and talk with him about the upcoming season and his contract.

Councilmember Marden Phelps stated that he only voted yes to adopt the budget last year because the 1% sales tax was supposed to be put on the ballot for the citizens to vote on. He felt that the city is just pushing the problem down the road by not addressing the financial shortages that has faced the city. He would like a five year capital improvement plan to outline the amount of money that will be needed to run the city and replace much needed equipment.

Mayor Jared Sharp stated that he would not support any revenue enhancements until he has exhausted every avenue to cut expenses. Councilmember Heather Mortensen also said that she also would exhaust every avenue to cut before supporting revenue enhancements.

There was discussion among the councilmembers as to when they should start working on the budget. It was decided that there will be a meeting every Wednesday in April that was not already scheduled for City Council Meeting. He requested that the department heads come up

with a one year, five year, and ten year capital expenditure plan and explain their budgets to the councilmembers.

John Petersen will make a presentation on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Russ Roper on April 16<sup>th</sup> and Amy Bishop and Leslie Tueller on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Jared Sharp adjourned until the next regularly scheduled meeting on March 5, 2014 at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Leslie S. Tueller