

City Council Meeting
April 23, 2014
7:30 pm
Montpelier City Hall

The meeting was conducted by Mayor Jared Sharp on April 23, at 7:30 at the Montpelier City Hall.

Present:

Heather Mortensen
Scott Nussbaum
Ted Slivinski
Mike Sparks
Marden Phelps

Others:

Clerk Leslie Tueller
Amy Bishop
Chief Russell Roper
Superintendent John Petersen
P & Z Chairman Byron Nelson
Chief Steve Higgins

Excused: Dan Fisher

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Jared Sharp asked to have Steve Higgins, Fire Department budget requests, to the agenda.

Councilmember Ted Slivinski moved to approve the agenda as corrected. Councilmember Heather Mortensen seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Approval of Minutes

There was a discussion among the councilmembers about what should be contained in the minutes. Clerk Tueller was asked to omit the comments of citizens about the building code, not everybody that spoke was mentioned and it was decided to only mention comments from citizens during a public hearing. Clerk Tueller was asked to correct the minutes and have them ready for the next meeting.

Mayor Jared Sharp asked that "regular meeting" be changed to "special meeting".

Councilmember Marden Phelps asked that the section about the State Highway Department be clarified.

Councilmember Marden Phelps moved to table the approval of the minutes until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Councilmember Heather Mortensen seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Chief Steve Higgins – Montpelier Fire Department

Fire Chief Steve Higgins was present to address the council on his upcoming budget needs. He opened the discussion stating that the members of the fire department had not had a raise in pay for many years. His budget last year was \$49,700.00 which includes a \$10,000.00 equipment reserve that is earmarked to help buy fire department equipment. He felt that if his budget remained the same he would be able to work with that amount.

Chief Higgins described each of the fire trucks and talked a bit about their remaining life expectancy and the fact that the fire department needs to replace a truck in the very near future.

Chief Higgins also asked the councilmembers to work on a mutual aid agreement between Bear Lake County Fire Department and the Montpelier Fire Department. At one point this agreement had been started but it was never finalized. This agreement would protect the firefighters when they are called out to help another entity.

Chief Higgins asked for any questions and stated that he would be glad to talk to any councilmembers about the needs for his department.

Chief Russell Roper – Police Department

Chief Russell Roper addressed the council with a power point presentation outlining his priorities and his budgetary needs for the upcoming fiscal year. He explained his philosophy on managing the Montpelier Police Department and how important it was to concentrate on the youth, stating that a school resource officer was very important. The Montpelier Police Department has been cut by one officer and Chief Roper asked for direction on what the councilmembers would prioritize for the upcoming year.

Chief Roper explained to the council that he is now running with four vehicles that are over four years old. He felt that if it was not budgeted to purchase a new vehicle every other year that he would end up having to replace all four vehicles at the same time.

He asked the council what they would like to see the Montpelier Police Department concentrate on. He also asked if they felt a school resource officer was more important than having twenty four hour patrol coverage.

Councilmember Marden Phelps commented that he like the direction the Montpelier Police Department was taking.

Amy Bishop

Amy Bishop explained her budget to the councilmembers. She asked the council for direction on what she should be doing for her job. Grants were discussed and the council was in favor of grants as long as they did not commit the city to more spending. She also asked the council for direction in prioritizing the projects for economic development.

Leslie Tueller

Clerk Leslie Tueller gave the councilmember a job description for the City Clerk/Treasurer's office. She explained the Clerk's Office budget which includes payroll, employee benefits, training, and a small account for clerk supplies. She reported that her opinion was that training was very important and well worth the money spent. She stated to the councilmembers that she has been working for ten years and during that time she has had five different deputy clerks, most of them leaving for better paying jobs. She also asked the council to look at cities near our size and see how many people are employed in the clerk's office before making cuts.


Heather Mortensen

Councilmember Heather Mortensen commented that she thought the council should work on developing an Emergency Plan. It was suggested she invite Alan Eborn to come and make a presentation. Alan is the head of homeland security and is affiliated with the LEPC. Councilmember Mortensen agreed to contact him.

Councilmember Mortensen informed the council that the Housing Authority had picked the week of June 6-14th as cleanup week. The Chamber of Commerce will help sponsor the event.

Mayor Jared Sharp adjourned until the next regularly scheduled meeting on May 7th.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Leslie S. Tueller", is written over a horizontal line.

Leslie S. Tueller