

City Council Meeting
April 9, 2014
7:30 pm
Montpelier City Hall

The meeting was conducted by Mayor Jared Sharp on April 9, at 7:30 at the Montpelier City Hall.

Present:

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

Others:

Deputy Clerk Zana Caywood
Chief Russell Roper
Superintendent John Petersen
Amy Bishop

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Marden Phelps moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Heather Mortensen seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Dan Fisher asked under Fence Permit Assignment the third sentence is changed to Ken Yellen.

Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to approve the minutes of April 2nd as corrected. Councilmember Marden Phelps seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Police Department Transfer of Funds

Mayor Jared Sharp explained that the police budget would be reduced by \$50,000. That money would be moved to the streets department.

Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to transfer \$50,000.00 from the Police Department budget to the Street budget. Councilmember Ted Slivinski seconded. Marden Phelps voted no on the motion. The motion passed.

John Petersen – Budget Workshop

Superintendent John Petersen gave each councilmember a packet of papers. He then reviewed the information with the council.

Water Department- John Petersen reviewed the equipment list. John Petersen stated this packet of papers came from the Annual Report he gave the council, he just made a few changes. The public works department tries to replace 1-2 blocks of water lines each year. John Petersen discussed what water lines they planned on replacing this year. John Petersen stated that in order to keep the water lines maintained and make any improvements there should be a 2% raise in water rates each year. This 2% is just to keep up with inflation. They do not want to get into a situation like the sewer system.

Sewer Department- John Petersen noted that the sewer project should be ready to send out for bids this spring. He has been working with Sunrise Engineering on this sewer project. John Petersen went on to discuss the sewer portion of the papers he handed out. The \$75,000.00 budget adds up fast when dealing with our old system. This year he plans on adding another windmill. The windmills have been very successful in keeping sludge down, controlling odor, and keeping ice off the ponds. John Petersen has a goal of setting up a dumping station for trucks wanting to dump into the lagoon system. Some of the product being dumped could kill the lagoon system. Setting up a checking station will be a beneficial step in protecting the lagoon system. In the requirements of the sewer bond yearly increases need to be done. John Petersen would like to see a 2% increase in sewer fees each year in addition to the sewer project increases. This increase will help keep with inflation and for updates to the system.

Gravel & Road- John Petersen went over the section in his packet about gravel and roads. He discussed the city's gravel pit is 80% used. Petersen reviewed what roads he would like to rebuild. ADA requirements on sidewalks were discussed.

Equipment- John Petersen reviewed his equipment list with the council. John Petersen explained how he decided which pieces of equipment was most in need of replacement.

Parks & Cemetery- John Petersen reviewed the parks section of the packet. The cemetery irrigation pump and watering system was discussed.

The city hall needing to be ADA complainant was reviewed. John Petersen also went over employees retiring soon, Bart Jensen and Wayne Hanson.

Marden Phelps asked if John Petersen can do what needs to be done with the number of employees he has now. John Petersen said in the summer the crew stays busy. Sometimes a crew member has to be pulled from their area to help with emergencies. Marden Phelps asked about hiring a part time person in the summer. John Petersen said that was not in his budget at this time, but possible after retirements take place the money will be in the budget to get extra

help in the summer. In the winter the crew works well. They have enough crew members to plow snow. Comp time was discussed.

Mike Sparks mentioned that other cemeteries charge more for weekend funerals and brought it up to John Petersen and the council. John Petersen thought it would be a good idea. Currently we do not charge extra, but the person out digging and covering the grave is on over time. The council decided to discuss increasing the fee on weekend at the next meeting on April 16th. The council thanked John Petersen for his time.

Mayor Sharp asked the councilmember's if they had anything to discuss.

Mike Sparks

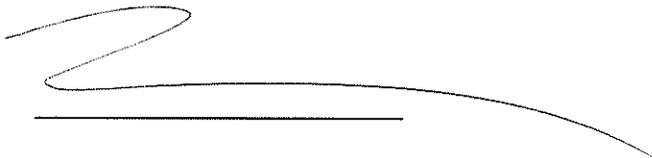
Councilmember Mike Sparks stated that he would like the section about commission members being required to live in Montpelier taken out of ordinance #528 Golf Course Commission. The council will put this on the next meeting agenda on April 16th. The golf course needs top soil. The councilmember's brought up different ideas about where to get the top soil. Marden Phelps suggested contacting the irrigation company to see if they would give the soil they cleaned from the canals to the golf course. On the north side of town there is a pile of soil; Mike Sparks will try and contact those owners.

Heather Mortensen

Councilmember Heather Mortensen reported that the Arts Council has a donor that is willing to match all raffle ticket sales in the month of April. She encouraged the councilmember's and those present to purchase fundraiser tickets. The various prizes are available. The tickets are 1 for \$5 or 6 for \$25.

Mayor Jared Sharp adjourned until the next meeting on April 16, 2014

Respectfully Submitted,



Zana Caywood, Deputy Clerk