

**City Council Meeting**  
**July 2, 2014**  
**7:30 pm**  
**Montpelier City Hall**

The meeting was conducted by Mayor Jared Sharp on July 2, at 7:30 at the Montpelier City Hall.

**Present:**

Dan Fisher  
Scott Nussbaum  
Marden Phelps  
Mike Sparks

**Others:**

Clerk Leslie Tueller  
Superintendent John Petersen  
Amy Bishop  
Chief Russ Roper

Excused: Heather Mortensen, Ted Slivinski

**Approval of Agenda**

**Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Scott Nussbaum seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.**

**Approval of Minutes**

Several changes were made to the minutes of June 18<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Mike Sparks voted yes to go into Public Hearing; the golf budget was to remain at \$18,000 instead of \$25,000.00; somebody offered to sell the parts of a sprinkling system for the cemetery at cost.

**Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to correct the minutes as amended. Councilmember Marden Phelps seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.**

**Approval of Bills**

**Councilmember Mike Sparks moved to approve and pay bills in the amount of \$50,666.60 with \$30,608.22 in payroll. Councilmember Marden Phelps seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.**

Mayor Jared Sharp asked everybody to refrain from gossiping. He has heard a lot of gossip including a story about his wife and a certain citizen. He dispelled the rumor and stated that most of the gossip he has heard has been incorrect.

**Budget Review**

Mayor Jared Sharp opened the discussion by asking the council's thoughts on his budget cut recommendations. County Clerk, Kerry Haddock was present and informed the council that we would be getting approximately \$7,500.00 in new constructions and the 3% increase amounts to \$17,500.00.

Councilmember Marden Phelps informed the council that he had gone to the Association of Idaho Cities website to compare Montpelier's tax levy to cities with the approximate total value of Montpelier. He disregarded Driggs and Preston and found the average tax levy of the 16<sup>th</sup> cities he researched to be .0089. The City of Montpelier has a tax levy of .0064. If Montpelier had the average levy it would bring in approximately \$200,000.00 more dollars a year.

Councilmember Marden Phelps also pointed out that the grant writer, Amy Bishop, has brought in more than \$2,000,000.00 worth of grants since she has been hired by the City of Montpelier.

Councilmember Dan Fisher stated that he felt we needed to take the 3% increase on our property tax levy.

Councilmember Scott Nussbaum stated the evidence technician was not an employee that was historical, the golf course was a wash, the police department has been historically a six man force, the \$25,000.00 contribution for health insurance would eventually add up to a lot of money and there are independent grant writers that could cover the position of the economic development employee.

The following cuts were discussed among councilmembers and citizens:

1. Cut street budget request to \$100,000.00
2. Cut the evidence technician job
3. Reduce the police department by one officer
4. Ask the employees to contribute to their health insurance premium
5. Leave the golf budget the same as last years.
6. Cut the economic development position

No definite decisions were made, this topic will be discussed further at the next meeting.

### **Funds Transfer from Ordinance Control to Street Lighting**

Mayor Jared Sharp asked for support from the councilmembers to use the money that was saved from the Ordinance Control budget to cover the fund deficit in street lighting.

**Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to table the Funds Transfer from Ordinance Control to Street Lighting indefinitely. Councilmember Marden Phelps seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.**

### **Mike Sparks**

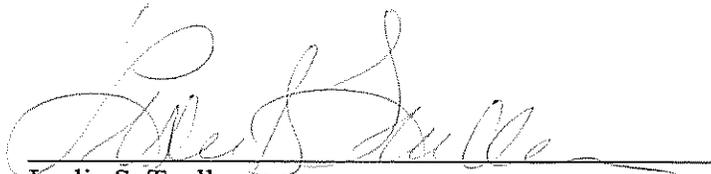
Councilmember Mike Sparks suggested selling the tubes that were used for the tubing hill. He was told that the tubes were ruined in storage.

**Fire Chief Steve Higgins**

Steve Higgins reported the Fire Department is gearing up for their 4<sup>th</sup> of July fundraiser. They will have bounce houses, slides, demonstrations and lots of fun activities for all ages. He also reported that he did not solicit any donations from local businesses.

Mayor Jared Sharp adjourned until the next regular meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Leslie S. Tueller