

**City Council Meeting
June 18, 2014
7:30 pm
Montpelier City Hall**

The meeting was conducted by Mayor Jared Sharp on June 18, at 7:30 at the Montpelier City Hall.

Present:

Dan Fisher
Scott Nussbaum
Marden Phelps
Ted Slivinski
Mike Sparks

Others:

Clerk Leslie Tueller
Superintendent John Petersen
Amy Bishop
Chief Russ Roper

Excused: Heather Mortensen

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Jared Sharp asked that the street light fund deficit be placed on the agenda.

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

Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to approve the minutes of June 4th as written. Councilmember Scott Nussbaum seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Approval of Bills

Councilmember Ted Slivinski moved to approve and pay bills in the amount of \$51,097.33 with \$28,560.13 being payroll. Councilmember Marden Phelps seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Public Hearing – Increase in Grave Digging fees for Weekends and Holidays

Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to go into a Public Hearing to hear discussion on raising the weekend and holiday grave digging charges. Councilmember Mike Sparks seconded. Roll call vote was taken:

Scott Nussbaum	yes
Dan Fisher	yes

Ted Slivinski	yes
Marden Phelps	yes
Mko Sparks	yes

The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Mayor Jared Sharp shared with the citizens the formula that was used to come up with the increased dollar amount of \$135.00, which was the increase of cost to the city to provide the services on weekends and holidays.

There were no speakers in favor or against the proposal.

Councilmember Marden Phelps moved to go back into regular session. Councilmember Ted Slivinski seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Councilmember Marden Phelps moved to adopt Resolution 140618, A RESOLUTION INCREASING FEES FOR OPENING A NEW GRAVE ON A WEEKEND OR HOLIDAY. Councilmember Ted Slivinski seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

ROTARY CLUB – DISC GOLF

Vaughn Rasmussen, representing the Rotary Club, was present to talk to the councilmembers about a plan for a disc golf course at the Wells C. Stock Park behind the Oregon Trail Center. Mr. Rasmussen handed out a map that was drawn up to show where the course would be located. He explained the poles would have a large enough base to mow around.

There was discussion among the councilmembers about the proposed course.

Open Budget for After School Grant

Amy Bishop requested that the budget be opened to add the After School Grant award. The grant runs on a different fiscal year than the city and to accommodate spending it needs to be added into the budget before the start of next year.

Councilmember Marden Phelps moved to authorize the publication of a Public Hearing to open the budget to add the After School Grant Award and the hearing to be set for July 16th. Councilmember Dan Fisher seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to table Opening the Budget until a Public Hearing is held for the same. Councilmember Ted Slivinski seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Budget Review

Mayor Jared Sharp passed out the budget requests from the department heads to the councilmembers present. He informed the council that the budget numbers came in with a \$122,838 deficit. He made several recommendation on where cuts should be made and asked the council to look at these and consider other options as well. The budget that was presented by Mayor Sharp did not include the available 3% annual increase of the tax levy.

The options given were:

- 1 . Cutting the gravel and road oil \$25,000.00 bring it to \$100,000.00.
2. Cutting Shannon Johnson's Evidence Technician job and keeping her as a part time grant funded employee.
3. Reduce the police department by one officer. *60,000.00*
4. Reduce employee benefits by charging the employees ten percent of their health insurance benefit. *18,000.00 to keep @*
5. Cut the golf budget to \$10,000.00 *10,000.00*
6. Economic Development position. *18,000.00*

Mayor Sharp informed the council that he has talked with other cities and we are the only city that has an Economic Development position but the councilmembers need to know that Bear Lake Memorial Hospital contributes approximately \$24,000.00 to fund that position so the savings would be around \$50,000.00.

Mayor Sharp also stated that he recommended that the Deputy Clerk position be left as a full time position.

Vaughn Rasmussen stated that Pacificorp has a program that can help convert city lighting to LED lighting.

sell the parts of for cost

Mayor Sharp stated that he has had somebody offer to donate a sprinkling system to the cemetery, by having a system the city could cut the Public Works department one employee and hire a high school student to mow and weed eat.

Mayor Sharp commended Bret Kunz on his volunteer work maintaining Bear Park and thanked him for a job well done.

There is presently a fence being constructed around the Montpelier Golf Course. It is an Eagle Scout project.

SICOG Membership

Each of the councilmembers received a copy of the letter from SICOG asking that the dues for last year and this year be paid. The councilmembers were asked to be prepared for a discussion to decide if they wanted to remain members of SICOG.

Councilmember Marden Phelps talked with SICOG and found that they had many good programs but we are not currently taking advantage of any of them.

Councilmember Marden Phelps moved to terminate the membership with SICOG and not pay the invoice for dues. Councilmember Ted Slivinski seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Street Light Fund Deficit

Mayor Jared Sharp asked the council to consider using the funds saved from the Animal/Ordinance Control budget savings for the deficit in the street lighting fund.

Dan Fisher

Councilmember Dan Fisher reported on the Daddy Daughter Dance sponsored by the Montpelier Arts Council. He also reported that the hospital auxiliary is having a community garage sale Friday and Saturday to help raise funds for the fireworks display done by the Lion's Club for the 4th of July celebration.

Scott Nusbaum

Councilmember Scott Nussbaum reminded everybody that the Montpelier Fire Department will have a Fourth of July celebration at Allinger Park. A dinner and several activities will be available for the citizens.

Marden Phelps

Councilmember Marden Phelps reported on the Oregon Trail Center. The Board of Directors is moving forward and would like to establish a better relationship with the Montpelier City Council. They are in the planning stages of building a cabin behind the Oregon Trail Center. A stage coach was donated to the museum by Dr. Paul Daines.

Mayor Jared Sharp adjourned until the next regularly scheduled meeting on July 2nd at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,


Leslie S. Tueller