

City Council Meeting

April 5, 2023

7:30 pm

The meeting was conducted by Mayor Ted Slivinski at 7:30 pm at the Montpelier City Hall.

Present:

Steve Allred
Dan Fisher
Bobbi Leonhardt
Shane Johnson
Brady Shultis
Quin Pope

Others:

City Clerk Michelle Singleton
Superintendent Rick Roberts
Chief Ed Preston
Chief Blake Wells
Parks & Rec Director Katie Alleman

Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Brady Shultis seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Approval of Minutes

Correction: Revised updated budget from contractor under Councilmember Steve Allred.

Councilmember Quin Pope moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Councilmember Shane Johnson seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Approval of Bills

Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to approve and pay bills in the amount of \$55,121.90 with \$33,104.46 being payroll and \$22,017.44 being miscellaneous bills. Councilmember Steve Allred seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Proclamation of Fair Housing

Mayor Ted Slivinski read the Proclamation of Fair Housing 2023 in full.

Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to support Mayor Ted Slivinski in his Proclamation of Fair Housing. Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Superintendent Rick Roberts: Copper and Lead, Budget Public Works

Lead and Copper:

Superintendent Rick Roberts presented a lead and copper press release and the mailer that would go out to each home in the City of Montpelier. Superintendent Rick Roberts would like to get the publication out as soon as possible. The packet will need to be sent out every year, until we fulfill that all addresses match the number of services in the city. The residents will need to check the pipe under the foundation coming into their house. The study needs to be done by October 2024. After much discussion City Council decided to take out water meter, and change to main line coming into your house. In the questionnaire portion add what year was the house built?

Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to approve the copper and lead mailer and press release with changes made. Councilmember Quin Pope seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Budget-Public Works:

Superintendent Rick Roberts asked the City Council about opening up the budget to replenish the Public Works fuel budget. With all the snow removal they had to do this year, they are over budget \$12,000.00, the city still has five more months left in the budget year. Superintendent Rick Roberts mentioned with the heavy snowfall and cold weather our roads in the city will need major repair. Mayor Ted Slivinski stated they will not be cutting any of the city services because of the heavy snowfall this year. The Council will be opening up the budget at a later date and will move funds out of the general fund to cover the expenses.

Mayor Ted Slivinski

Mayor Ted Slivinski had a discussion with City Councilmembers about windmill and solar farms. There are independent companies coming into small communities and buying up agriculture land to put in solar and windmill farms. Mayor Ted Slivinski would like the councilmembers to think about this and if it is something they would be okay with happening in the City of Montpelier, or get ahead of this with ordinances. As of now planning and zoning will not have any guidance for them where this is so new.

Mayor Ted Slivinski gave an update on the old Tappers building. Darren Stewart, the owner of the Tappers building, called and confirmed the test came back negative for asbestos. Darren also mentioned that he wouldn't be able to tear the building down in the time frame given. Mayor Ted Slivinski called City Attorney Doug Wood to send out another letter giving them 30 days to tear the building down.

Mayor Ted Slivinski got an email from Councilmember Steve Allred about going over the short-term rental ordinance we have talked about. Talked to Brad Jensen, the county is still working on theirs. Brad Jensen did send the draft of the counties short-term rental ordinance. The state of Idaho does not recognize short-term rentals as a business but as a resident. How to tax it is a little more difficult. Brad Jensen wants to work together to make this county wide.

Steve Allred

Councilmember Steve Allred reported Montpelier Community Foundation is doing a dinner concert May 13, 2023 at the Oregon Trail Center. With all the problems the Oregon Trail Center is having, Montpelier Community Foundation decided that all proceeds will go back to the Oregon Trail Center. Also, this Saturday at the middle school gym at noon is the Chambers Easter egg hunt.

Dan Fisher

Councilmember Dan Fisher was out of town for the Regional Commission meeting. Councilmember Dan Fisher mentioned that Sage Weston got ahold of him about the bathrooms out at Allinger Park. Sage Weston emailed a bid and gave a lead for a self-contained septic system.

Shane Johnson

Councilmember Shane Johnson had a discussion with the City Council on the state of the Parks and Rec program. We knew when the tournaments were no longer ran by the city that there would be adjustments that would need to be done. Currently the Parks and Rec program is over budget by \$3,000.00. The program still needs to purchase some new equipment, it's badly needed. If the Directors salary was not coming out of what is generated income, the program would be in the black. Talking with our current director today, she is leaning towards resigning of being the director going forward. We have had 8 directors that have left the program because of the stress, and knowing they have to generate enough income to pay for their salary that year. Councilmember Shane Johnson would like to see \$18,000.00 put in the budget for the director's salary. If we can't find a way to fix this, then Shane's recommendation would be to terminate the program. Councilmember Dan Fisher said the city is providing for this program on city tax payers money, when we have kids from the county coming and participating. This program should be tax supplemented. After much discussion the council suggested that Councilmember Shane Johnson call to be put on the County Commissioners agenda to discuss the parks and rec program.

Bobbi Leonhardt

Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt reported no meeting for the water board. The Montpelier Fire Department is always looking for voluntary fire fighters.

Quin Pope

Councilmember Quin Pope mentioned the Senior Center is holding multiple fundraisers for Mothers and Father's Day, plus the football raffle. Also, the Oregon Trail Center really needs help. The roof is leaking every time it storms, and they had the main water line burst in the basement. It took out the local power in the building. The insurance will not pay because it was an outside line coming into the building.

Mayor Ted Slivinski adjourned until the next regularly scheduled meeting on April 19, 2023 at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Singleton