

City Council Meeting

August 23, 2023

7:30 p.m.

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

Present:

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

Others:

City Clerk Michelle Singleton
Fire Chief Ed Preston
Chief Blake Wells
Superintendent Rick Roberts
P&Z President Bob Ochsenbein

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to approve the minutes as written. Councilmember Steve Allred seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Approval of Work Meeting Minutes

One typographical error and date were corrected

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

Approval of Bills

Councilmember Quin Pope moved to approve and pay bills in the amount of \$219,640.29 with \$29,605.44 being payroll and \$190,034.85 being miscellaneous bills. Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Public Hearing – Budget 2023-2024

Councilmember Steve Allred moved to go into Public Hearing for the 2023-2024 Budget Hearing. Councilmember Shane Johnson seconded. Roll call vote was taken:

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

**The motion passes unanimously.
There were no public comments.
Mayor Ted Slivinski read Appropriations Ordinance #674 in full.**

**Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt moved to close the Public Hearing and moved back into regular session.
Councilmember Brady Shultis seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.**

Councilmember Steve Allred moved to pass and approve Ordinance #674, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023, APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$3,503,937.00 TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSE AND LIABILITIES OF THE CITY OF MONTPELIER FOR SAID FISCAL YEAR, AUTHORIZING A LEVY OF SUFFICIENT TAX UPON THE TAXABLE PROPERTY AND SPECIFYING THE OBJECTS AND PURPOSE FOR WHICH SAID APPROPRIATION IS MADE.

Councilmember Shane Johnson seconded. Roll call vote was taken:

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

The motion passes unanimously.

Marti Kunz-Health Insurance

Marti Kunz presented a new health insurance proposal with Regence. Marti mentioned to the City Council the current Blue Cross renewal premium is \$25,608.37. The proposal with Regence: Gold 800 would be \$24,099.69, which would include regence medical & dental along with VSP Vision. The new proposal would save the city \$1508.68 a month over Blue Cross.

Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to approve to switch health insurance companies from Blue Cross to Regence: Gold 800 with medical, dental and vision for the upcoming 23-24 fiscal year.

Councilmember Quin Pope seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

P&Z-appointment to fill vacancy (Jesse Myers)

Mayor Ted Slivinski asked City Council to approve the appointment of Jesse Myers to planning and zoning. JoAnn Taylor's term ended in July.

P&Z President Bob Ochsenbein talked to City Council about a letter the County P&Z would like the city to send, stating that they are okay if they rezone a piece of property on 8th that is in the City's impact area. Mayor Ted Slivinski stated they will add that to Sept 6th City Council meeting.

Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to approve P&Z vacancy opening with Jesse Myers. Councilmember Quin Pope seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Bear River Electric Bill- Golf Course Storage Barn

Mayor Ted Slivinski is asking City Council to approve the Bear River Electric bill in the amount of \$13,937.00. This is the electric going to the new golf cart building due to the golf cart barn collapsing this winter. The original estimate was around \$10,000. Mayor Ted Slivinski explained for the reason the estimate being higher is because of the new 200-amp service going into the building. This will bring the building to code with Rocky Mountain Power.

Councilmember Steve Allred moved to approve to pay the bill for Bear River Electric in the amount of \$13,937.00 for electric going to the golf cart building. Councilmember Dan Fisher seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Fire Chief Ed Preston-Grant approval for MDU Resources

Fire Chief Ed Preston is asking for approval to apply for the MDU Resource grant. Due to all the gas leaks this winter Intermountain Gas approached the Fire Department about applying for this grant which has no match. If the Fire Department was awarded the grant, Ed would like to get structure helmets.

Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt moved to approve Fire Chief Ed Preston to apply for MDU Resources grant for structure helmets. Councilmember Dan Fisher seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Superintendent Rick Roberts

ARPA Funds Water & Wastewater Plan:

Superintendent Rick Roberts would like City Council to approve paying the Water & Wastewater plan under ARPA Funds.

Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to approve Water & Wastewater plan to be paid under ARPA Funds. Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Water/Wastewater \$1.00 each increase:

Superintendent Rick Roberts spoke to City Council about raising water/wastewater fees to \$1.00 each. The city has not raised fees for several years. Rick would also like to raise water & sewer hookup fees to \$5,000 each. As of now the city is losing \$2,300 on sewer and water hookups each. The cost of the materials is expensive and is going up every year. City Council mentioned the water and sewer connection is not on the agenda, it will be put on September 6th agenda for approval.

Councilmember Quin Pope moved to approve Water & Wastewater fees to increase a \$1.00 each to go in effect October 1st, 2023. Councilmember Shane Johnson seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Regulating RV's, Temporary Lodging Camping & Living in Tents Ordinance

Mayor Ted Slivinski has been working with City Attorney Doug Wood on a Regulating RV's, Temporary Lodging Camping & Living in Tents Ordinance. After much discussion with City Council they felt there needed to be some changes to the ordinance. Some of the changes would be on the tents section, limiting the number of days in a tent for rec purposes and no tents on public property. Mayor Ted Slivinski would like City Council to table this action item to review the ordinance for any more changes to the next City Council meeting.

Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to approve to table Regulating RV's, Temporary Lodging Camping & Living in Tents Ordinance to the next City Council meeting September 6th, 2023. Councilmember Steve Allred seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Gordon Aggers-Ordinance Issues

Gordon Aggers stressed to City Council his concerns over some of the city ordinances that are not being enforced by the city. Gordon mentioned there are residents that have more than 3 dogs in the city limits, houses that are collapsing and boarded up, and all the high weeds in the city. Gordon would like the city to put together a code violation committee to help enforce the ordinances. City Council thanked Gordon Aggers for coming to City Council with his concerns. Mayor Ted Slivinski told Gordon Aggers the city has hired a Police Department Specialist; this will help free up office time for the Police Department to enforce ordinance violations.

Roger Grunig- City Cleanup Issues

Roger Grunig talked to City Council about all the junk cars and trash on residents' property in the city. Roger is concerned about the weeds in Skinner's Subdivision. Roger has made a complaint about the weeds to Chief Wells. The problem is the weeds are still there and the city needs someone to follow through on the complaints to make sure it gets cleaned up. Roger read the letter that was sent to the property owners to clean up the weeds, in the letter it states if not cleaned up the city will clean up the weeds and put a lien on your property. Roger would like the city to start following through and get the City of Montpelier cleaned up so we all can be prideful of the City of Montpelier. City Council mentioned to Roger they will check into this and thanked Roger for coming and making the City Council aware of his concerns.

Quin Pope- Oregon Trail Center

Councilmember Quin Pope turned the time over to Heber Dunford from the Oregon Trail Center. Heber Dunford introduced himself as the new president on the Oregon Trail Center Board of Directors, and Lewis Chandler is the new executive Director of Oregon Trail center starting September 1st. Heber mentioned the Oregon Trail Center has raised the rates. They are starting to get reservations from schools and bus tours for next year. They are trying to get everything repaired from the water break this year and the roof problems taken care of. City Council asked Heber if they have any plans for the roof, Heber told the council to replace the roof it will cost the Oregon Trail Center over \$300,000. With the water break bill being \$35,000 it has set them back, they are working with John Sorrell to temporarily fix the roof and put some heat tape on the roof to get them by for a couple of years until they come up with the funds.

Montpelier Community Foundation- Shannon Marx Appointment

Mayor Ted Slivinski asked the City Council to approve the appointment for Shannon Marx to the Montpelier Community Foundation.

Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to approve Shannon Marx appointment to the Montpelier Community Foundation. Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Steve Allred

Councilmember Steve Allred commented the Montpelier Community Foundation had their board meeting tonight. Construction has started, they will start with the pavers and concrete work on Washinton Street. The foundation had a problem trying to find a pole for the folklore sign, MJM Construction has pole for the foundation. All the picnic tables have been purchased.

Dan Fisher

Councilmember Dan Fisher commented the Bear Lake Regional Commission meeting is on August 30th, 2023.

Mayor Ted Slivinski adjourned until the next regularly scheduled meeting on September 6, 2023 at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Singleton