

# **City Council Meeting**

## **March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

### **7:30 p.m.**

The meeting was conducted by Councilmember Dan Fisher at 7:30 p.m. at the Montpelier City Hall.

**Present:**

Ray Henrie  
Shane Johnson  
Brady Shultis-excused  
Quin Pope  
Bobbi Leonhardt  
Mayor Ted Slivinski-excused

**Others:**

City Clerk Michelle Singleton  
Superintendent Chris Bruce  
Chief of Police Blake Wells  
City Attorney Doug Wood  
County Commissioner Alan Eborn

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt moved to approve the agenda as written.**  
**Councilmember Shane Johnson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to approve the March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 minutes as written.**  
**Councilmember Ray Henrie seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.**

**Approval of Bills:**

**Councilmember Quin Pope moved to approve and pay bills in the amount of \$54,197.88 with \$39,444.29 being payroll and \$14,753.59 being miscellaneous bills.**  
**Councilmember Shane Johnson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.**

**Closing City Checking Accounts:**

The City Council members deliberated on closing the Employee Concessions and Lincoln Park accounts, opting to transfer the funds into the city's operational account. Following extensive discussion, the council reached a unanimous decision to close both accounts.

**Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to approve closing both accounts and transfer the funds into the city's operational account.**  
**Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.**

**Setting FY 25-26 Budget Hearing Date:**

The City Council discussed setting a date for the FY 25-26 Budget Hearing and agreed to hold the hearing on August 6, 2025.

**Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt moved to approve the City of Montpelier FY 25-26 Budget Hearing Date for August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**  
**Councilmember Ray Henrie seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.**

**Amending Ordinance #605 Amending Section 2: Fee for Reserving Park Facilities-Review and Approve for Public Hearing:**

The City Council reviewed the proposed amendment to Ordinance #605, which modifies Section 2 regarding the fee for reserving park facilities. City Attorney Doug Wood recommended simplifying the language by stating "all City Parks under the city's jurisdiction" instead of listing each park individually. The councilmembers agreed with the attorney's suggested verbiage and voted to proceed with a public hearing on the amendment to Ordinance #605.

**Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to approve proceeding with a public hearing on the amendment to Ordinance #605.**

**Councilmember Ray Henrie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.**

**City Annexation Discussion:**

Chief Wells and Police Support Specialist Brooke Bates gave a presentation on the city's plans to annex several key areas, including the Bear Lake Fairgrounds, the State of Idaho Highway state shed, the section of Highway 30 from 4th Street to Boise Street extending to the state sheds, Cemetery Road, and the City of Montpelier property on the north side of Cemetery Road.

The primary goal of the annexation is to grant the Montpelier Police Department authority to patrol the northbound section of Highway 30, helping to reduce incoming traffic speeds as vehicles enter Montpelier. This measure is particularly aimed at improving safety in the school zone, which has been a growing concern in recent years. Additionally, annexation would allow for better enforcement of parking regulations at the fairgrounds during softball and baseball tournaments.

Brooke Bates highlighted that between January and March, the police department issued 57 traffic citations for speeds ranging from 43 mph to 72 mph. Recognizing the need for action, council members unanimously agreed that annexation is necessary. They also supported Chief Wells' request to petition the State of Idaho to extend the 35 mph speed limit signs on both the northbound and southbound lanes of Highway 30.

City Attorney Doug Wood outlined the next steps in the process, which include obtaining approval from the Bear Lake County Commissioners and then seeking authorization from the State of Idaho Highway Department.

**Councilmember Quin Pope moved to approve the City of Montpelier to proceed with the process of annexing in Bear Lake Fairgrounds, State of Idaho Highway state shed, exiting Hwy 30 starting 4<sup>th</sup> to Boise to the state sheds, cemetery road, the City of Montpelier property on the north side of cemetery road.**

**Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.**

**Ray Henrie:**

Councilmember Ray Henrie reported updates on the Senior Citizen Center's upcoming raffle. A Mother's Day "Pick Your Prize" event is scheduled for May 9, 2025, with raffle tickets priced at \$1 each or six for \$5.

**Dan Fisher:**

Councilmember Dan Fisher had a discussion with the Councilmembers and Superintendent Chris Bruce on the well located near Allinger Park Pavilion and the Bear Lake County Fairgrounds. The Bear Lake County School District currently holds the water rights to this well and recently received notices from Bear River Adjudication regarding its usage.

During the discussion, the key question raised was whether the City could maintain the well as a reserve source if the School District transferred its water rights to the City. Superintendent Chris Bruce noted that before any decision could be made, the City would need to determine if the pump is operational and assess the costs involved in restoring it to working condition. Additionally, it would be necessary to confirm whether the well is classified as a culinary well rather than one used solely for irrigation.

City Attorney Doug Wood advised that, in order to be designated as a reserve well, it would need to be used periodically. He also stated that the Bear Lake County School District should reach out to Bear River Adjudication to obtain the necessary forms for transferring the water rights to the City.

**Shane Johnson:**

Councilmember Shane Johnson reported that the Bear Lake Arts Council will be hosting Authorpalooza on April 12<sup>th</sup> from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Oregon Trail Center.

**Superintendent Chris Bruce:**

Superintendent Chris Bruce updated the Councilmembers that the bid for the CPS grant will open on Wednesday, March 26, at 3:00 p.m., and the water project for Crystal Drive is going out to bid this week.

**Executive Session-Idaho 74-206(1)(C) To acquire an interest in real property not own by a public agency. (F) To communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. The mere presence of legal counsel at an executive session does not satisfy this requirement:**

Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to go into Executive Session: Idaho Code 74-206 (1) (C) To acquire an interest in real property not owned by a public agency. (F) To communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. The mere presence of legal counsel at an executive session does not satisfy this requirement:

Councilmember Ray Henrie seconded. Roll call vote was taken:

Bobbi Leonhardt	yes
Dan Fisher	yes
Ray Henrie	yes
Quin Pope	yes
Shane Johnson	yes

The motion passes unanimously.

Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to close the Executive Session and moved back into regular session. Councilmember Quin Pope seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Councilmember Dan Fisher stated no action needed.

Councilmember Dan Fisher adjourned until the next regularly scheduled meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 at 7:30p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Michelle Singleton  
City Clerk