

With changes

City Council Meeting May 7th, 2025 7:30 p.m.

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

Present:

Ray Henrie
Shane Johnson-excused
Brady Shultis
Quin Pope
Bobbi Leonhardt
Dan Fisher

Others:

City Clerk Michelle Singleton
Chief of Police Blake Wells
Superintendent Chris Bruce
Fire Chief Ed Preston
Police Support Specialist Brooke Bates

Approval of Agenda:

Amended the agenda by moving Jack Johnson to the beginning of the council meeting and adding Cemetery Damaged Headstone – Action Item to the agenda.

**Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt moved to approve the agenda as amended.
Councilmember Ray Henrie seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.**

Approval of Minutes:

**Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to approve the April 23rd, 2025 minutes as written.
Councilmember Quin Pope seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.**

Approval of Bills:

**Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to approve and pay bills in the amount of \$44,931.99 with \$14,761.76 being miscellaneous bills and \$30,170.23 being payroll.
Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.**

Jack Johnson-Map Discussion

Jack Johnson from the Discovery Area Guide met with the councilmembers to discuss a potential advertising opportunity for the city. He proposed a two-page advertisement that would appear in both editions of the Discovery Area Guide. The ad would reach approximately 3,000 residents, be placed in local hotels, and be distributed throughout the Bear Lake area. Mr. Johnson stated that the total cost for the city's participation would be \$950.00 for the two-page layout. In addition, he shared new historical and informational maps about Bear Lake and introduced their newly launched website, discovery.com, which will feature content covering the region from Burley, Idaho, to Star Valley, Wyoming.

Councilmember Dan Fisher expressed the view that this type of promotional effort should be managed by the chamber of commerce. After a thorough discussion, the mayor and councilmembers reached a consensus: the city will fund the advertisement this year, but beginning next year, the chamber will be responsible for managing and funding this advertising opportunity.

**Councilmember Brady Shultis moved to approve the Discover Area Guide advertising for \$950.00 for a two-page layout.
Councilmember Ray Henrie seconded. The voting unanimous in the affirmative.**

Implementing a Reduced Rate for unoccupied: and Amending Ord #577 Section 51:52 Regarding Delinquent Fees and Shut Off Fees Discussion:

The Mayor and the Councilmembers reviewed the proposed ordinance titled Implementing a Reduced Rate for Unoccupied Properties and Amending Ordinance #577, Section 51:52 Regarding Delinquent Fees and Shut-Off Fees. During the discussion, an error was identified in Section 2, item (2), which must be corrected to state 10–15 days. Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt conducted the final reading of Ordinance #684 in its entirety. This reading precedes the public hearing scheduled for May 21, 2025.

Councilmember Quin Pope-Fence at Adams Park West Field:

Councilmember Quin Pope presented the mayor and council with a bid from Tee Steadman for the installation of a fence at Adams Park on the west baseball field. The total bid was \$6,970, which includes \$3,000 for labor and \$3,970 for materials. Quin explained that installing the fence would address safety concerns on the west field and enhance the overall quality of Adams Park. He recommended that the council approve the project and determine the source of funding. The mayor pledged to contribute \$1,000 from the Mayor's Walking Challenge, and the council agreed to split the remaining \$5,970 between the Public Works Parks Department and the Parks & Rec savings account.

Councilmember Ray Henrie moved to approve the fence at Adams Park in the amount of \$6,970. Councilmember Brady Shultis seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Police Department-SAKI Soft Interview Room Award:

Police Chief Blake Wells was present to request the council's approval to accept a grant for the SAKI Soft Interview Room in the amount of \$2,000. Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt inquired whether any matching funds were required. Chief Wells clarified that there are no matching funds. He explained that the grant was initially awarded to the Idaho State Police (ISP), who then reached out to agencies across the state to sub-grant funds for purchasing furniture for soft interview rooms.

Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt moved to allow the police department to accept the award of \$2,000. Councilmember Dan Fisher seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Cemetery Headstone Damage:

The mayor informed the councilmembers that Mary Nate had filed an ICRMP tort claim against the City of Montpelier in May 2024. The claim alleged that city personnel caused damage to her husband's headstone while using a backhoe to dig a nearby grave. Mrs. Nate was unsure of the exact date the damage occurred but believed it was due to carelessness on the part of the city crew. The mayor stated that ICRMP had conducted an investigation into the matter and concluded that the City of Montpelier was not liable for the damages. A denial letter was sent to Mrs. Nate last year informing her of the decision. The mayor noted that Mrs. Nate had contacted him multiple times via calls and text messages, urging the city to cover the cost of the replacement headstone. She also referenced previous instances where the city had allegedly paid for similar damages. The mayor reported that Mrs. Nate has since had a new headstone installed and is requesting reimbursement. Councilmember Dan Fisher commented that the matter is an insurance issue and, since the city's insurance provider denied the claim, the city cannot override that decision by paying it out of pocket. After discussion, the mayor and councilmembers reached a consensus to uphold the denial and not provide payment for the headstone damage claim.

Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt moved to deny the tort claim of Mary Nate. Councilmember Quin Pope seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Mayor Ted Slivinski:

Mayor Ted Slivinski asked Superintendent Chris Bruce to explain the DEQ report concerning potential contamination issues identified in the Level 2 assessment. Chris explained that the DEQ flagged a testing location in the city that should no longer be used because the hydrant is not frost-free. Despite this issue, Chris noted that the overall report was positive for the City of Montpelier, even though it was a Level 2 assessment. The report also referenced the city's chlorination systems. Chris stated that Montpelier currently has chlorinators at Well Houses 2 and 4, but they are outdated. He is currently exploring the costs associated with upgrading the systems. Updating the chlorinators would eliminate the need for Public Works staff to climb the water tank to perform manual chlorination.

Ray Henrie:

Councilmember Ray Henrie announced that the Senior Citizen Centers will be giving out free root beer floats on Friday, May 9th in celebration of Mother's Day.

Dan Fisher:

Councilmember Dan Fisher reported that the Bear Lake Regional Commission held its meeting last **Wednesday**. During the meeting, they discussed the invasive species checkpoints located at Garden City and Laketown Canyon. These checkpoints will be operational daily from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. He also noted that there are plans to establish an additional invasive species checkpoint on North Beach Road. Furthermore, within the next three years, a dip tank for invasive species prevention is expected to be installed at the new marina. The marina expansion project is anticipated to be completed by May 2028. As of now, the water level at Bear Lake is at an elevation of 5921.20 feet. Dan also mentioned that Tamara Leonhardt from the Bear Lake Convention and Visitors Bureau reported that Bear Lake continues to receive strong internet search activity. Additionally, the visitor centers are currently open.

Quin Pope:

Councilmember Quin Pope provided an update on the upcoming summer baseball and softball tournaments. He noted that all three tournaments have reached the maximum number of vendors allowed, and no additional vendor applications will be accepted. This year, vendors will not be stationed near the ball fields; instead, they will be located in the parking lot areas. Councilmember Pope also mentioned that banner sales have been slow so far, but there is hope that sales will increase as the tournaments approach. In addition, he and Chris Bruce recently walked through Allinger Park to explore potential locations for a new pickleball court. They identified the old volleyball courts near the pavilion on the south side of the park as a promising option. Utilizing this area could result in cost savings for the city if the pickleball courts were installed there.

Brady Shultis:

Councilmember Brady Shultis reported that the Montpelier Golf Course Commission held its first meeting of the year. During the meeting, they discussed the dates for upcoming summer golf tournaments. He noted that the women's league has already started, the men's league is scheduled to begin within the next week or so, and the couples league is set to start in early June. The Commission also discussed plans to replace the cement on the patio at the golf course.

Councilmember Brady Shultis also provided an update on the Montpelier Community Foundation. He reported that the Foundation received a \$4,000 grant to help fund a new 6-foot fence. Rather than conducting a property survey, the decision was made to install the fence 5 inches inside the property line. Additionally, the Foundation received a \$1,300 donation from the Montpelier Rotary Club, which will be used to purchase a sound system for Heritage Park. Randy Long has been selected to install the new system. With the sound system in place, the Foundation plans to host movie nights and community concerts at the park for the Bear Lake community.

Police Support Specialist Brooke Bates:

Police Support Specialist Brooke Bates provided an update on the annexation process. She reported that the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) is fully supportive of the city annexing the State Highway Department shed into city limits and will be sending an official letter of approval.

Brooke also shared that she attended the recent Safe Routes to School meeting. A study was conducted to evaluate safe routes for students traveling to and from school, and a formal report outlining the findings will be distributed soon.

Addison Ochsenbein- Sunrise Engineering:

Addison Ochsenbein from Sunrise Engineering provided an update to the mayor and councilmembers on the Crystal Drive water project. He explained that the contractor has submitted the required bonds; however, they still need to complete a set of test forms and provide a copy of their insurance. Once all necessary documentation is received, the agreement can be signed by the mayor. Addison also reported on the sewer project, noting that it is still under review by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and is awaiting their approval.

Mayor Ted Slivinski adjourned until the next regularly scheduled meeting on May 21st, 2025 at 7:30p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Singleton
City Clerk