

City Council Meeting

July 16th, 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
Brady Shultis
Quin Pope -excused
Bobbi Leonhardt
Dan Fisher

Others:

City Clerk Michelle Singleton
Police Chief Blake Wells
Superintendent Chris Bruce
Fire Chief Ed Preston

Approval of Agenda:

**Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to approve the agenda as written.
Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.**

Approval of Minutes:

**Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to approve the July 2nd, 2025 minutes as written.
Councilmember Brady Shultis seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.**

Approval of Bills:

Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to approve and pay bills in the amount of \$120,804.65 with \$85,627.36 being miscellaneous bills and \$35,177.29 being payroll. Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Brad E. Johnson-POST Executive Certificate Blake Wells:

Brad E. Johnson from the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Academy attended the recent City Council meeting to present a special recognition. Johnson awarded Chief Blake Wells with the POST Executive Certificate, the highest certification awarded to peace officers in the State of Idaho. To date, Chief Wells has completed over 2,314 hours of POST-certified training across all areas of law enforcement—an outstanding accomplishment that reflects his commitment to professionalism, leadership, and public service. The city congratulated Chief Wells on this prestigious achievement and thanked Mr. Johnson for joining the meeting to present the award in person.

Josh & Sheremie Ochsenein-Categories Sewer Rate:

Josh and Sheremie Ochsenein attended the recent City Council meeting to voice their concerns over a sewer rate adjustment for their business, a beauty shop. They explained they had received a letter from the Clerk's Office notifying them that their sewer billing would be increased to two units. The Ochseneins expressed that they felt the increase was excessive, given that their shop is only open a few days per week and they do not believe they are significantly contributing additional waste to the sewer system. They requested that the Council consider reducing their sewer charge back to one unit. The mayor explained that the Clerk's Office had recently identified inconsistencies in sewer billing rates and after reviewing all accounts, made adjustments to align with the current sewer ordinance. As a result, over 25 letters were sent to businesses and residents notifying them of these corrections. The Mayor and Councilmembers further explained that businesses like beauty shops, which may discharge additional chemicals into the sewer system, can place a greater burden on the city's sewer lagoons. Because of this, such businesses are classified under special sewer rate categories. The Council informed the

Ochsenbeins that in order to consider a reduction in their sewer rate without amending the existing ordinance, they would need to submit a formal written request along with a wastewater strength test from their property. The Mayor and Council thanked the Ochsenbeins for bringing the matter to their attention and acknowledged that a review of sewer unit usage may be due, as the last comprehensive review was conducted in 1993. However, at this time, the Council denied their request for an adjustment.

Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to deny the sewer adjustment for Josh and Sheremie Ochsenbein. Councilmember Shane Johnson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Tentative Approval FY 25-26 Budget:

The Mayor and City Council held a discussion regarding the proposed FY 2025–2026 budget, which was prepared by the City Clerk and presented for the Council’s tentative approval. Councilmembers reviewed and discussed revenue projections and anticipated expenses for the upcoming fiscal year. Mayor Slivinski proposed a 4% salary increase for all city employees and recommended transitioning Brooke Bates from part-time to full-time status, including benefits. The mayor also noted that health and dental insurance premiums will decrease by 1.12% compared to the previous year, while the City’s ICRMP insurance premium will increase by 6%. After accounting for all projected revenues and expenses, the budget includes an unallocated balance of \$62,053. The City Council agreed to set aside this amount in reserves to address any unforeseen emergencies during the fiscal year.

Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to tentatively approve the budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year and authorize publication. Councilmember Ray Henrie seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Allinger Park-Bathrooms:

Councilmember Dan Fisher presented an opportunity to the Mayor and City Council regarding the installation of new bathrooms at Allinger Park, near the baseball and softball fields. He explained that this topic has come up in multiple past discussions but was often tabled due to the high cost of building new restroom facilities in that area. Dan informed the Council that he was recently contacted by Conestoga, a manufacturer of portable restroom units, about a potential purchase opportunity. Conestoga offered the city a two-year-old model bathroom unit that they have used as a show model. The unit is similar in appearance to the double-room restroom installed at the fairgrounds but is a top-of-the-line triple-room model, equipped with hot water and air conditioning. While their basic units typically retail for \$58,000, Conestoga is willing to sell this model to the city for \$36,375, which includes a \$6,375 shipping cost. Dan noted there would be additional costs to the city for installation, including connections for power, water, and a holding tank. After discussion, the Council agreed that this represented significant savings and that adding restrooms near the fields would help reduce the strain on the existing restrooms located at the park's playground.

Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to approve purchasing the Conestoga model bathroom not to exceed \$37,000.00. Ray Henrie seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Resolution 250716-Watering Hours and Restrictions:

Mayor Slivinski is requesting the City Council to approve proposed Resolution 250716, which establishes updated watering hours for the City of Montpelier. The mayor explained that the purpose of this resolution is to provide an enforceable framework for the city's current watering schedule. At this time, the watering hours currently being followed are not supported by a formal resolution on file in the City Clerk’s office. The only resolution on record is Resolution 990706, which sets watering hours from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., with residents watering on odd or even days based on their property address. Adopting Resolution 250716 will allow the city to properly enforce the updated hours and ensure consistency and clarity for all residents.

Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to leave the current Resolution 990706 as is.

Councilmember Brady Shultis seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Councilmember Shane Johnson rescinded the motion.

Councilmember Dan Fisher made a motion to approve Resolution 250716, which consists of five sections.

Councilmember Brady Shultis seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Resolution 250716-1-Contractor Daily and Monthly Water Usage Rate:

The mayor explained to the Council that at the last City Council meeting Superintendent, Chris Bruce, requested an increase to the contract usage fees. Currently, the fee is set at \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons. Superintendent Bruce has asked that it be changed to \$2.00 per 100 gallons. The mayor then read Resolution 250716-1, titled "Contractor Daily and Monthly Water Usage Rate," in its entirety.

Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to approve Resolution 250716-1-Contractor Daily and Monthly Water Usage Rate. Councilmember Brady Shultis seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Sunrise Engineering Addison Ochsenbein-Facility Plans:

Addison Ochsenbein from Sunrise Engineering attended the City Council meeting to review the City's Water and Sewer Facility Plans with the Mayor and Councilmembers. Addison reported that on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Sunrise Engineering and Superintendent Chris Bruce held a public hearing for the City's Water and Sewer Facility Plans. No members of the public attended the hearing, and no public comments were received. Addison provided an update on the final Water Facility Plan which included information on the City's projected growth rate, water demand, and average daily usage, which he stated is approximately 5.2 million gallons. He also discussed water storage, groundwater sources, and concerns regarding future growth. Addison then presented proactive recommendation alternatives through the Capital Improvement Plan. This plan includes the transmission line, Clay Street, the east and west sides of 4th Street, and Adams Street. He also reviewed the Rate Study Plan and discussed the need for a new tank for water storage. Next, Addison provided an update on the final Wastewater Facility Plan. His report included information on sewer usage, lagoon flow volume (discharge, evaporation, and seepage into the ground), emergency discharge, and treatment processes, along with details regarding the lift stations. He also emphasized that the headworks building is in need of attention. Addison then presented the alternative recommendations for wastewater improvements, which include: Cleaning and inspection video, Washington Street trunkline replacement, Collection system rehabilitation, and BOD monitoring. Addison spoke about the next step the city would need to take, which is the Environmental Study. He explained that this study would help the city secure outside funding and would remain valid for five years. Addison further noted that the DEQ would cover half of the cost for both the water and wastewater environmental studies. He stated that what he needs from the council is an explicit decision on each of the water and wastewater facility plans regarding which projects the council wants to prioritize. After much discussion, the council unanimously agreed not to pursue the environmental study plan

Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to not pursue with the Environmental Study plan.

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

Councilmember Dan Fisher rescinded the motion.

Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt made a motion to approve moving forward with the Environmental Study with selecting all the water and waste-water facility plans alternative recommendation

Councilmember Shane Johnson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Ray Henrie:

Councilmember Ray Henrie mentioned that the Senior Citizens Center will remain open during its regular hours throughout the week of the fair. In addition, the Center will be hosting an End of Summer Bash.

Shane Johnson:

Councilmember Shane Johnson reported that the Chamber of Commerce will once again be hosting their Fall Festival this year. The event is scheduled for September 20th. This year, the festival will begin later in the day so that it can lead into the demolition derby taking place that evening

Bobbi Leonhardt:

Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt reported that the city has received three bids for the 100 water shares that were put up for bid. The bids are scheduled to be opened tomorrow, July 17th, at noon.

Brady Shultis:

Councilmember Brady Shultis mentioned that the Montpelier Community Foundation is seeking a new board member following the resignation of Hillary Lund.

Fire Chief Ed Preston:

The mayor asked Fire Chief Ed Preston to explain the results of the ISRB Publication Classification Evaluation for the City of Montpelier. Chief Preston explained that the fire department is required to conduct a fire audit and gather information necessary to determine the City's fire insurance classification. This classification is an important factor in calculating property insurance premiums. He reported that Montpelier's classification improved, dropping from a Class 4 to a Class 3. This improvement could potentially result in lower property insurance rates for residents and businesses within the city. Chief Preston noted that there was one area of concern regarding water suppression in the Moose Loop area. The evaluation team recommended the City establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the county to address this issue. Additionally, they advised the city to ensure that GPS coordinates are recorded for all fire hydrants. He mentioned that Superintendent Chris Bruce is currently working on this task.

Mayor Ted Slivinski adjourned until the next regularly scheduled meeting on August 6th, 2025 at 7:30p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Singleton
City Clerk