

City Council Meeting

August 20th, 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
Police Chief Blake Wells
Superintendent Chris Bruce
Fire Chief Ed Preston

Approval of Agenda:

Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt moved to approve the agenda as written.

Councilmember Ray Henrie seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to approve the August 6th, 2025 minutes as written.

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

Approval of Bills:

Councilmember Quin Pope moved to approve and pay bills in the amount of \$122,882.79 with \$91,129.17 being miscellaneous bills and \$31,753.62 being payroll. Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt seconded.

The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Spencer Esplin-Disputing Water Connection Fee:

Spencer Esplin attended the City Council meeting to request a waiver of the water connection fee for a new line to his property at 217 Woodlawn. He explained that the existing water line had significant leaks and needed to be replaced. The current line also runs through a neighbor's property located off Jefferson Street. Mr. Esplin stated that when he purchased the home, he was informed there was an existing water hookup in front of the property, installed by the City years ago. Given this, he expressed confusion as to why a new connection fee would be required. Mayor Slivinski clarified that there would be costs associated with abandoning the old line and confirmed that in new subdivisions, the City installs water hookups when lots are developed, but the connection fee is paid by the property owner when service is activated. Councilmember Dan Fisher recalled that several years ago, the City installed new water lines during a project that extended service from the rear to the front of affected properties. At that time, property owners were responsible for connecting their homes to the new city line, but were not charged a new connection fee. He believed Mr. Esplin's situation was consistent with that precedent. Following discussion, the Mayor and Councilmembers agreed with Councilmember Fisher's assessment. Because the existing connection was installed by the city during a previous water project, they determined that no new water connection fee would be charged.

Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt moved to approve waiving the water connection fee for Spencer Esplin at 217 Woodlawn. Councilmember Ray Henrie seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Sunrise Engineering-Temple Street Parking On 5th Street:

Kevin Martin from Sunrise Engineering was present to discuss parking along North 5th Street adjacent to the temple. Kevin stated that the temple is requesting City Council approval for diagonal parking on the west side of North 5th Street, where the temple is located. He explained that this would help alleviate a parking shortage on the temple grounds. The Mayor and Councilmembers expressed concerns, noting that they have received multiple complaints about the existing diagonal parking on both sides of North 5th Street. Residents have reported that the current setup makes it difficult for two vehicles to pass through the area safely. Councilmembers stated that before any changes could be considered, formal plans would need to be submitted to the Council. These plans must include the proposed start and end points of the diagonal parking (with clear distances from the fire hydrant), entry and exit access points, signage, and striping. The Council also clarified that diagonal parking would only be considered on the west side of the street; no diagonal parking would be permitted on the east side. Kevin Martin acknowledged the Council's requirements and stated that he would have plans drawn up and present them to the Council for review and approval.

Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt moved to table the Sunrise Engineering Temple Street parking on 5th street. Councilmember Quin Pope seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Steve & Trish Sparks & Montpelier Citizens-Weeds & City Clean Up:

Steve and Trish Sparks, along with several Montpelier citizens, attended the council meeting to express concerns about the growing issue of overgrown weeds and general city cleanliness. Steve Sparks presented photos to the mayor and city council showing various problem areas throughout the City of Montpelier, including:

- Neglected properties and overgrown alleyways
- Areas behind downtown businesses
- The Montpelier sign at King's parking lot
- The yellow building on Washington Street with political graffiti
- Weeds growing between curbs and streets

They voiced their frustration, stating that after driving through the city, they could not find a single neighborhood that appeared well-maintained. Resident Frank Loyd also addressed the council, raising concerns about dirt bikes racing through alleys, loud motorcycles revving, and the resulting dust and potholes that are creating safety and quality-of-life issues for residents. The group asked the council directly: *What is the city going to do about the way Montpelier is starting to look?* In response, Councilmember Quin Pope noted that the city had hired Brooke Bates a couple of years ago to address ordinance violations. She has sent out numerous letters to property owners notifying them of violations, and the city is considering bringing her on full time. Pope emphasized that while the city is making progress, the process takes time due to the 30-day compliance period each letter requires. Councilmember Dan Fisher mentioned the option of a citizen citation process, allowing residents to report and potentially cite visible ordinance violations. Mayor Slivinski acknowledged the concerns and stressed the importance of community pride, stating that both business and property owners need to take responsibility for maintaining their buildings and lots. He also pointed out that many of the violations are tied to out-of-state property owners, which complicates enforcement due to jurisdictional issues with sending citations across state lines. After a lengthy discussion, the council agreed to begin working on addressing the specific list of concerns brought forth by the citizens.

Councilmember Quin Pope moved to approve a follow-up on addressing the dust and grading of the alleyways. Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Ray Henrie:

Councilmember Ray Henrie reported that the Senior Citizen Center will be hosting a Donor Dinner on September 19th, 2025. Additionally, on Wednesday, October 1st, 2025, the Center will host Donuts with a Police Officer from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Dan Fisher:

Councilmember Dan Fisher reported that the Bear Lake Regional Commission and the Bear Lake Convention and Visitors Bureau will meet on Wednesday, August 27th.

Brady Shultis:

Councilmember Brady Shultis reported that the Montpelier Community Foundation met and discussed the new fence at Heritage Park. The cost of the fence exceeded the grant amount by \$83.00, which the Foundation covered. The Foundation will be hosting a concert on Friday, August 22nd, and a showing of the movie Wicked at dusk on Monday, August 25th. Additionally, the Foundation is still seeking a new member to replace Hillary Lund.

Superintendent Chris Bruce:

Superintendent Chris Bruce informed the council that there is currently no water running in the canal at the cemetery. This canal is the primary water source used by Public Works to irrigate the grass. As a result, the cemetery will not be able to be watered for the remainder of the season.

Mayor Ted Slivinski adjourned until the next regularly scheduled meeting on September 3rd, 2025 at 7:30p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Singleton
City Clerk