

City Council Meeting

December 10th, 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
Bobbi Leonhardt
Dan Fisher

Others:

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

Approval of Agenda:

Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to approve the agenda as written.
Councilmember Ray Henrie seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt moved to approve the November 19th, 2025 minutes as written.
Councilmember Quin Pope seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Approval of Bills:

Councilmember Quin Pope moved to approve and pay bills in the amount of \$95,795.52 with \$59,454.30 being miscellaneous bills and \$36,341.22 being payroll. Councilmember Shane Johnson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Liquor License Approval:

A list of all 2026 liquor license applicants was provided for each of the councilmembers.

Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to approve the 2026 liquor license applications contingent upon paying the fee, providing a copy of state and county license, and obtaining a current business license. Councilmember Ray Henrie seconded. Councilmember Quin Pope abstained for reason of conflict of interest. All other votes were affirmative. The motion passes.

Superintendent Chris Bruce-Water Project:

Superintendent Chris Bruce presented a projected survey cost from Sunrise Engineering for the Well #1 waterline project. He explained to the Council that this is the water line near U-Save that has been leaking for many years. The project would include replacing the faulty valve, relocating the water line out of the well house into the 10-inch line, and abandoning the water line that crosses the highway, which would eliminate future issues. The mayor asked whether any other water lines are connected to this line, and Superintendent Bruce stated that there is no other water lines connected. The Council agreed this is an ongoing issue that needs to be addressed, with funding to come from the Water Fund. Superintendent Bruce stated that the City would like to begin the project in early spring and requested approval to send the project out for bid.

Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to approve the water project Wellhouse # 1 to go out for bid.
Bobbi Leonhardt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative

Police Chief Blake Wells-Narcotics Detection Canine:

Police Chief Wells requested City Council approval to purchase a narcotics detection canine. He presented an estimate from MAKOR K9 for the canine and training in the amount of \$22,427.50. Chief Wells explained that Caribou County is scheduled to receive a new canine from the same company in January 2026, and if the City Council approves the purchase, the city could acquire a canine at the same time. Coordinating the purchase and training with Caribou County would result in an estimated savings of approximately \$1,700.00 for the city. Chief Wells noted that there would be additional costs associated with the K-9 program, including the purchase of a kennel, vehicle modifications for K-9 transport, and other necessary equipment.

He estimated the annual upkeep for the K-9, including food, veterinary care, and supplies, would be approximately \$2,000.00 per year. Chief Wells outlined several benefits the K-9 would provide to the city, including enhanced officer safety, improved investigative efficiency, increased community trust and visibility, interagency support, and improved fentanyl detection and safety. Regarding funding, Chief Wells explained that the city budgeted \$10,000.00 for fines and fees in the FY 2024–2025 budget, and the police department has generated over \$35,000.00, leaving approximately \$25,000.00 unbudgeted. Additionally, there is a city and county joint drug fund with a balance of approximately \$11,000.00, of which the city could access half to apply toward the K-9 purchase. The City's legal holding account was also discussed; this account was established prior to the joint drug fund agreement with the county in 2003. The mayor asked which officer would be assigned as the K-9 handler. Chief Wells stated that Officer Wallentine would be trained and POST-certified with the K-9 and would serve as the handler. Council members asked how long it would take to receive the canine, and Chief Wells responded that, if the Council approves the purchase, the city could coordinate training with Caribou County and potentially receive the K-9 by mid-January. Councilmember Dan Fisher asked what would happen to the K-9 if the assigned officer leaves employment with the city, and Chief Wells responded that the K-9 could be retrained with a new officer.

Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt moved to approve Chief Blake Wells to purchase a K-9. Councilmember Ray Henrie seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Austin Budge-Industrial Park Lot Dispute:

Austin Budge was present to discuss and dispute the eviction notice for Lot 1 of the Industrial Park. Mr. Budge stated that he believes the eviction notice is based on a misunderstanding that he is squatting and has no lease agreement. He stated that he can provide proof to the council that a valid lease agreement exists. Mr. Budge further stated that he has never been late on lease payments and is current on his business license. Mr. Budge stated that he currently has a modular building on the property that could be connected to power and plumbing in less than six hours if the city had infrastructure extended to Lot 1. He explained that in the spring of 2016 he received a call from the current mayor at that time, whom he identified as Mayor Reed Peterson, regarding the Industrial Park. Mr. Budge stated he was directed to contact City Clerk Leslie Tueller, who provided him with a lease agreement. Later that same Wednesday evening he stated that the lease was approved, signed, notarized, and dated. Mr. Budge stated that the lease agreement was for a 25-year term with an option to purchase 2.5 acres for \$40,000.00 and that the lease would automatically renew every five years. He further stated that the current City Clerk informed him that he only had a one-year lease but was unable to provide documentation of such a lease. Mr. Budge stated that the Clerk referenced the November 28, 2018 meeting minutes, which discussed a one-year lease; however, Mr. Budge stated this was incorrect as he was under a 25-year lease agreement at that time. The City Clerk stated that she contacted the County to locate a recorded lease agreement for Mr. Budge and was informed that no such document was on file. She also contacted Jared Sharp, who did not have a copy of the lease. The Clerk stated that no lease agreement had been recorded with the county. Mr. Budge presented the original 25-year lease agreement dated May 18, 2016, signed by Mayor Reed Peterson, City Clerk Leslie Tueller, and Austin Budge, and notarized by Leslie Tueller. Mr. Budge stated there could be multiple reasons the lease was not recorded, including being lost in the mail, but maintained that a valid, signed lease agreement exists. He stated that he spoke with Leslie Tueller, who verified the agreement. It was noted that in 2016, Mayor Reed Peterson was not serving as mayor and that Mayor Jared Sharp had been in office since 2014. The mayor stated that this discussion was not an action item and, in light of the newly presented contract, it would be appropriate to review the lease agreement further. The mayor requested that Mr. Budge be added to the agenda for the January 21, 2026 council meeting. The Council and Mayor agreed to postpone the eviction until clarification can be obtained and until Mr. Budge is present at the January 21, 2026 meeting.

Industrial Park Discussion:

The mayor and councilmembers agreed that there was nothing further to discuss regarding the industrial park.

Quin Pope:

Councilmember Quin Pope informed the council about a \$10,000.00 contribution that will be received from the Allinger Park Trust Foundation, which is managed by the Bear Lake Memorial Hospital Foundation. The trust was established to fund improvements to Allinger Park. The funds will be used to help connect the new bathrooms to the city water system and to purchase diamond dust for the baseball and softball fields. Councilmember Pope then turned the time over to Fire Chief Ed Preston, who updated the City Council on the condition of the garage doors at the fire stations. Chief Preston reported that the door seals are nonexistent and stated that he will be obtaining bids to have the doors repaired. He also noted that Firefighter Class 1 is currently underway, with 18 firefighters enrolled, and that the State of Idaho is covering the cost of the course.

Superintendent Chris Bruce

Superintendent Chris Bruce updated the City Council that the new bathrooms have been connected to electricity, and the plumbing has been hooked up to the wastewater tank and inspected by a state inspector. He noted that there are a few items that

need to be corrected, as the inspector was not satisfied with part of the installation. Superintendent Bruce also stated that the remaining task is to connect the bathrooms to the city water system, and they should be up and running by spring in time for the first ball games.

Mayor Ted Slivinski adjourned until the next regularly scheduled meeting on January 7th , 2026 at 7:30p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Singleton
City Clerk