

City Council Meeting

February 4th, 2026 @ 7:30 p.m.

Corrected

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

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

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

Mayor Ted Slivinski asked Councilmember Dan Fisher to help direct the meeting and to take over if the Zoom connection froze.

Approval of Agenda:

Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt moved to approve the agenda as written.
Councilmember Brady Shultis seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to approve the January 21st, 2026 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 \$39,948.44 with \$5,370.99 being miscellaneous bills and \$34,577.45 being payroll. Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt seconded.
The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Public Hearing-FY 25-26 Open the Budget Ordinance 688:

Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to go into Public Hearing for the FY 25-26 Open the Budget Ordinance 688.
Councilmember Brady Shultis seconded.

Roll call vote was taken.

Bobbi Leonhardt	yes
Dan Fisher	yes
Quin Pope	yes
Brady Shultis	yes

The motion passes unanimously.

Mayor Ted Slivinski explained that the city typically opens the budget toward the end of the fiscal year. However, due to several projects and expenses completed at the beginning of the 2025–2026 budget year, adjustments are necessary. These include Sewer Fund expenditures for sewer lining and engineering fees; General Fund expenses for City Hall sign digital upgrades, generator installation, and fuel line work; and Police Department costs for K-9 equipment and other K-9-related expenses.

Mayor Slivinski stated that as a result of these expenditures, the total appropriation for fiscal year 2025–2026 will increase to eight hundred seventy-eight thousand four hundred fifty-nine dollars (\$878,459.00).

Councilmember Dan Fisher then read Ordinance No. 688, amending Ordinance No. 686, in full.

There were no public comments.

Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt moved to close the Public Hearing and moved back into regular session
Councilmember Quin Pope seconded. The voting unanimous in the affirmative

Councilmember Quin Pope moved to approve Ordinance 688 AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 686 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025–2026; OPENING THE BUDGET FOR THE GENERAL FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF SEVENTY-NINE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$79,000.00) AND THE SEWER FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF SEVEN HUNDRED NINETY-NINE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE DOLLARS (\$799,459.00); INCREASING THE TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025–2026 BY EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY-NINE DOLLARS (\$878,459.00); APPROPRIATING FUND BALANCE (SAVINGS)

Councilmember Dan Fisher seconded.

Roll call vote was taken.

Bobbi Leonhardt	yes
Dan Fisher	yes
Quin Pope	yes
Brady Shultis	yes

The motion passes unanimously.

Rec Community Discussion:

Councilmember Quin Pope requested approval to form a Recreation Committee. He explained that the committee would be responsible for developing building plans, business plans, staffing proposals, and improvement plans for the city parks. Councilmember Pope noted there has been significant recent interest in the possibility of a recreation center, and stated that forming a committee would help determine community needs and gauge overall support. He also expressed his desire for the project to be a joint effort with the County. Mayor Ted Slivinski mentioned that the committee may be able to utilize or model its structure after the bylaws of the Montpelier Community Foundation. After much discussion, the City Council agreed that forming a Recreation Committee is a positive step forward. The Council also discussed the need to remove the old tennis courts at Wells C Stock Park and recommended that the new committee provide input and recommendations on what improvements or amenities should replace the tennis courts.

Councilmember Quin Pope moved to approve seeking individuals to serve on a Parks and Recreation Board for the Parks and Recreation Program.

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

Steve Allred Montpelier Community Foundation-Gem State Grant:

Steve Allred, representing the Montpelier Community Foundation, was present to request City Council approval for the Foundation to apply for the Idaho Department of Commerce Gem Grant, which offers awards of up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00). He explained that the grant requires a 20% match, which would be paid by the Montpelier Community Foundation. Molly Besiser will prepare and submit the grant application. Mr. Allred stated that, if awarded, the Foundation plans to use the funds to construct ADA-accessible restrooms at Heritage Park. He estimated the total project budget at sixty-two thousand four hundred dollars (\$62,400.00). He requested that the City assist by connecting the restrooms to city utilities, noting that the cost of installation could be applied toward the required match. Mr. Allred also mentioned that the Foundation would like to purchase two additional picnic tables at a cost of seven hundred thirty-three dollars (\$733.00) each, plus shipping. He asked if the city would consider purchasing one of the tables, with the cost applied toward the grant match requirement. Mayor Ted Slivinski asked Superintendent Chris Bruce whether the city could use additional picnic tables to replace existing tables at the park. Mr. Bruce stated he would review the current inventory and determine whether replacements are needed. Mayor Slivinski informed Mr. Allred that the City would need to confirm whether sufficient funds are available in the Parks budget before committing to the purchase of a picnic table for Heritage Park. He also advised that if the Montpelier Community Foundation is awarded the grant, Mr. Allred would need to return to the City Council to obtain formal approval to accept the grant and **show proof of the 20% match funds.**

Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to approve the Montpelier Community Foundation’s application for the Idaho Department of Commerce Gem State Grant.

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

Jake Taylor VFW- Discussion regarding concerns about police activity at the VFW: Officers Following Patrons and Officers Affecting Business:

Jake Taylor, Post Commander of the VFW, appeared before the City Council to discuss concerns regarding police activity at the VFW. Mr. Taylor stated that he believes the Police Department is negatively impacting the VFW by following patrons after they leave the establishment, which he said has caused some individuals to feel intimidated or hesitant about entering the VFW. He further expressed concern that the department may be engaging in selective enforcement. Mr. Taylor requested that a meeting be arranged between the Police Department, the Mayor, City officials, and VFW representatives to address these concerns.

Mayor Ted Slivinski expressed his appreciation for the veterans and acknowledged the contributions they make to the community. He then asked Chief Wells if he would like to respond. Chief Wells stated that Police Support Specialist Brooke Bates had prepared a PowerPoint presentation and turned the time over to her. Brooke presented information outlining DUI statistics and patrol activity at all bars within the City of Montpelier. Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt noted that the Police Department has been fully staffed for over a year, adding that it had been ten years or more since the department was previously fully staffed. Councilmember Quin Pope thanked Mr. Taylor for bringing the concerns forward to the Council. The City Council agreed to meet with Mr. Taylor and other local bar owners to further discuss the matter. Mayor Slivinski stated that he would reach out to schedule a date for the meeting.

Dan Fisher :

Councilmember Dan Fisher reported that the Bear Lake Regional Commission met last Wednesday, where Michael Knapp was introduced as the Commission's new member. He stated that Bruce Johnson and Brad Long provided an update on Invasive Species. They announced that AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) stations will be located at the top of Laketown, Logan Canyon, and North Beach Road. The Commission is currently experiencing difficulties staffing the AIS stations. It was also noted that the new marina will include a dip tank to help prevent the spread of invasive species. Councilmember Fisher further reported that Tamara Leonhardt presented the Bear Lake Convention and Visitors Bureau update. She shared that internet search activity for Bear Lake remains strong, and both Tourism Resort Tax (TRT) collections and Winterfest were very successful again this year. As of January 28, 2026, the lake level measured 5,915.68 feet. At the same time last year, the lake level was 5,917.18 feet, reflecting a decrease of 1.82 feet.

Mayor Ted Slivinski adjourned until the next regularly scheduled meeting on February 18th , 2026 at 7:30p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Singleton
City Clerk