

City Council Meeting

January 21st, 2026 @ 7:30 p.m.

The meeting was conducted by Councilmember Dan Fisher at 7:30 p.m. at the Montpelier City Hall.

Present:

Ray Henrie
Shane Johnson-excused
Brady Shultis
Quin Pope
Bobbi Leonhardt
Mayor Ted Slivinki-excused

Others:

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

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 Quin Pope moved to approve the January 21st, 2026 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 \$46,523.16 with \$12,366.17 being miscellaneous bills and \$34,156.99 being payroll. Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt seconded.
The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.**

Austin Budge Industrial Park Dispute:

Councilmember Dan Fisher stated to the councilmembers and Austin Budge that this agenda item had been tabled from the December 10, 2025 City Council meeting to allow the city time to locate the lease document that was presented at that meeting. Councilmember Fisher asked the City Clerk if the city had found the lease document. The City Clerk stated that no lease documentation could be found showing that Mr. Budge was in a lease agreement with the city. The City Council noted that the document presented at the December 10, 2025 meeting contained dates that did not align with the period when Mayor Reed Peterson was in office. Austin Budge stated that he would like to enter into a lease agreement with the City and that his plan is to place nine buildings for storage units on the property. The Council asked Mr. Budge to bring forward a detailed plan outlining his proposed use of the property. After further discussion, the City Council agreed that the City would need to determine the cost of infrastructure required to make the lot rentable before entering into any contracts. The Council voted to table the action item until the February 18, 2026 City Council meeting.

Councilmember Quin Pope moved to table the Austin Budge Industrial Park Dispute until the February 18th, 2026 city council meeting. Councilmember Brady Shultis seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

City of Montpelier Impact Area Discussion:

The City Council discussed the Bear Lake County public hearing scheduled for February 9, 2026, regarding the City of Montpelier's proposed changes to the Impact Area Ordinance and the Impact Area map.

**Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt moved to approve to have representation at the public hearing on February 9th, 2026.
Councilmember Quin Pope seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.**

Open the Budget Discussion Before the Public Hearing:

City Council discussed the FY 2025-2026 open the numbers for the public hearing that is scheduled for February 4th, 2026.

Fire Chief Ed Preston-Union Pacific Grant:

Fire Chief Ed Preston was present to get approval from the city council to apply for the Union Pacific Community Ties Local Grant. The deadline to apply for the grant is April 30, 2026. He will have Shannon Marx write up the grant. He stated the grant amount is up to \$30,000 and is a no match grant. This would be to replace the hazmat equipment.

Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt moved to approve Montpelier Fire Department to proceed with the Union Pacific Grant. Councilmember Brady Shultis seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.

Snow Removal Agreement with the Temple:

The City Council was presented with a proposed agreement for snow removal and roadway maintenance between the City of Montpelier and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Temple), drafted by City Attorney Doug Wood. Superintendent Chris Bruce stated that he provided a copy of the proposed agreement to Temple Manager Rick Merritt and he emailed a copy to the Church's legal counsel for review. Superintendent Bruce also noted that he would like the language of the proposed three-year contract revised to an open-ended agreement. After further discussion, Councilmember Dan Fisher requested that the Council table the action item to allow additional time for both the Council and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Temple) to review the agreement.

Councilmember Quin Pope moved to table the Snow Removal Agreement with the Temple. Councilmember Ray Henrie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by affirmative vote.

Ray Henrie :

Councilmember Ray Henrie provided an update on the Senior Citizen Center, stating that the Center has received its new walk-in refrigerator and that installation is expected to take approximately three days.

Bobbi Leonhardt :

Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt stated that the meeting between Montpelier Irrigation and the Forest Service was canceled. She also noted that the city should focus on additional structures within the city parks beyond the baseball and softball diamonds, specifically mentioning the tennis courts and the sprinkler system at Wells C. Stock Park.

Quin Pope :

Councilmember Quin Pope stated that there has been significant discussion and community interest in the development of a recreation center and pickleball courts. He expressed a desire for the Council to begin exploring the formation of a recreation committee.

Brady Shultis:

Councilmember Brady Shultis updated the City Council that the Montpelier Community Foundation is interested in applying for a grant to install restrooms at Heritage Park. He stated that the Foundation plans to apply for the Gem State Grant, which may provide funding of up to \$50,000 and requires a 10% match. Councilmember Shultis noted that the Foundation would like the City to provide the required match and requested to be placed on the next City Council agenda to formally ask the Council to consider the 10% match.

Councilmember Dan Fisher adjourned until the next regularly scheduled meeting on February 4th , 2026 at 7:30p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Singleton
City Clerk