

City Council Meeting

April 1st, 2026 @ 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-excused
Quin Pope
Bobbi Leonhardt
Dan Fisher

Others:

City Clerk Michelle Singleton
Fire Chief Ed Preston
Chief Blake Wells

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to approve the March 18th, 2026 minutes as written.
Councilmember Shane Johnson seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Approval of Bills:

Councilmember Quin Pope moved to approve and pay bills in the amount of \$111,864.18 with \$78,267.60 being miscellaneous bills and \$33,596.58 being payroll. Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt seconded.
The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Bear Lake County Fire Chief Mark Parker-County Fire Department Update:

Bear Lake County Fire Chief Mark Parker was present to provide an update to the mayor and councilmembers on the county fire department. He shared that many Montpelier residents have expressed concerns regarding the levy he is seeking to pass in the upcoming election. First, Chief Parker announced that the county will be hosting a Fire Conference in June of this year and plans to continue holding it annually. Second, he stated that he is currently working on the county's ISO rating. He then discussed the proposed Fire District levy, which would increase county taxes from 0.00020 (\$20 per \$100,000 of assessed property value) to a permanent levy of 0.00060 (\$60 per \$100,000 of assessed property value). He clarified that Montpelier residents would not vote on this levy, as the city maintains its own fire department. Chief Parker explained that the purpose of the levy is to address critical needs within the county fire department, including replacing an aging fleet of fire engines, updating fire gear, and improving training. He noted that the department currently operates on an annual budget of approximately \$380,000 to serve the entire county. The fleet includes seven fire trucks ranging in age from 28 to 49 years old, a total of 30 vehicles, and two tender tanks with capacities of 5,000 and 6,000 gallons of water. Additionally, only 2 of the county's 11 fire stations are currently able to accommodate a new fire truck. In response to a question from the mayor and councilmembers about the potential revenue if the levy passes, Chief Parker estimated that it could generate close to \$1 million annually.

Bear Lake Animal Hospital Dr. Miller-Discuss City's Cat Problem:

Dr. Miller from Bear Lake Animal Hospital was present to discuss the city's feral cat issues and requested the city's support for a spay and neuter event scheduled for April 18, 2026. He outlined a long-term plan to significantly reduce the feral cat population in the City of Montpelier over the next 20 years, noting that he has been working with ANH on these efforts. Dr. Miller reported that 117 feral cats were spayed and neutered in 2023, 2024 was an off year, and 105 cats were treated in 2025. His goal for 2026 is to reach at least 105 cats. He is seeking volunteers for the April 18 event, which will be free to the public, with costs covered by ANH and with Dr. Miller contributing 20% of the expenses. He encouraged residents who capture feral cats to bring them to the event. When asked whether feral cats are ear-notched after being spayed or neutered, Dr. Miller confirmed that they are.

Councilmember Dan Fisher moved to approve the City of Montpelier's support for the spay and neuter event on April 18, 2026. Councilmember Ray Henrie seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Setting FY 26-27 Public Hearing Date:

The City Council discussed setting a date for the FY 26-27 Budget Hearing and agreed to hold the hearing on August 5th, 2026.

Councilmember Quin Pope moved to approve the City of Montpelier FY 26-27 Budget Hearing Date for August 5th, 2026. Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Dan Fisher:

Councilmember Dan Fisher expressed concerns about how the city will encourage Montpelier residents to clear weeds and other fire hazards from their yards, especially following a mild winter that has increased risk across both the city and county. Fire Chief Preston responded that Brooke will send letters to property owners who are not in compliance with fire codes. Bear Lake County Fire Chief Parker added that a study conducted by the USDA and the Forest Service found Bear Lake County ranks at 85% for high wildfire risk nationwide.

Bobbi Leonhardt:

Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt stated that she had been asked whether Public Works could spray weeds in the ball fields at the city parks.

Quin Pope :

Councilmember Quin Pope mentioned that the new bathrooms at Allinger Park were used for the first time since being installed, noting how nice it is to have facilities located so close. He added that a fence still needs to be installed around the HVC, and propane service must be set up to provide hot water. Quin also shared an update from the Parks and Recreation Committee, stating that they have started compiling a list of names.

Fire Chief Ed Preston:

Fire Chief Ed Preston stated that the new ladder fire truck was delivered on Monday. He added that he is in contact with the State of Idaho, which will be sending two instructors to train the fire department on operating the new ladder truck.

Mayor Ted Slivinski adjourned until the next regularly scheduled meeting on April 15th, 2026 at 7:30p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Singleton
City Clerk