

City Council Meeting

May 6th, 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
Quin Pope
Bobbi Leonhardt
Dan Fisher

Others:

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

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Correction: three spelling errors

Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to approve the April 15th, 2026 minutes as corrected.
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 \$85,104.10 with \$52,931.77 being miscellaneous bills and \$32,172.33 being payroll. Shane Johnson seconded.
The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

New Bear Lake County Building Inspector Introduction-Mason Garbett:

Mason Garbett, the new Bear Lake County Building Inspector, was introduced to the City Council. He stated that he is ready to help Montpelier grow and looks forward to working with the city. Mason mentioned that he previously worked in construction with Turner's Construction, so he is familiar with building codes, though he is still learning in his new role. The Mayor and City Council welcomed Mason to his new position.

Gridplex Landholding Annexation/Rezone & Ordinance 689:

Mayor Ted Slivinski updated the city council and the public on the Gridplex Landholding Annexation/Rezone and Ordinance 689, stating the matter had been tabled at the previous council meeting in order to gather additional information regarding the city's cost to extend water and sewer services to the property, as well as determine the best route for the utilities. The mayor then turned the time over to Superintendent Chris Bruce.

Superintendent Chris Bruce presented the city council with estimated costs and labor requirements for extending water and sewer service from either the industrial park or 8th Street to the proposed annexation property. Bruce explained that the current water line infrastructure on 8th Street would require significant upgrades. The existing line from Boise to the Red Rock Trailer Court is a four-inch line, the line extending to the Thornock property is one and one-half inches, and the line to the Ochsenbein property is three-fourths of an inch. Councilmember Dan Fisher asked Superintendent Bruce and Fire Chief Ed Preston whether the water system would need to be looped. Both Bruce and Preston stated that looping the system was not necessary but would be the best long-term option for the city. The city council then asked City Engineer Addison Ochsenbein whether labor costs were approximately double the cost of materials. Ochsenbein responded that this is not always the case, although labor costs have increased significantly in recent years. The council also discussed whether a new pump or lift station would be required. During public comment, Mark Ipsen, who owns property near the proposed annexation area, stated that the property is the lowest ground on 8th Street and would likely require another pump station because the USDA lowered the property in the 1970's approximately twelve inches while installing an irrigation system. Superintendent Bruce added that the wet well on 8th Street is 18 feet deep, and the manhole cover at the industrial park measures approximately 8 feet deep.

Councilmember Shane Johnson read Ordinance 532, Section 53.063(A)(4)(B), regarding Developer or Property Owner Responsibility, in full and discussed if exceeding 1,000 lineal feet would be the responsibility of the contractor. Mayor Slivinski further explained that when this property was previously proposed for development, the property owners requested wells and septic systems. The city subsequently received a letter from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality addressed to Mitch Poulsen, which the mayor read in full. The letter stated that wastewater could contaminate groundwater and potentially impact individual wells as well as the City of Montpelier's drinking water well. The DEQ recommended connecting the development to the public water and wastewater systems. The mayor also noted that the county commissioners ultimately denied the subdivision request.

Councilmember Dan Fisher stated that one of his concerns is that there is a large amount of county land in the area, which appears to form a peninsula. He added that if the city is going to annex the area, it should also plan for water and sewer services as properties are annexed into the city. He questioned who would pay for the water and sewer infrastructure and whether it would be an appropriate use of city taxpayer funds to cover those costs.

Mayor Slivinski reminded the council that the city has \$284,000 from the sale of the Bear Lake Stone Lot that has been set aside to build the infrastructure. However, he stated that he was not aware that looping the water system was included, and with the estimated cost of \$740,000, it would represent a significant expense for the city. Councilmember

Dan Fisher stated some of the cost is infrastructure improvements.

Councilmember Quin Pope asked whether the water line on 8th Street is currently looped. He suggested that, if it is not, the city could reduce costs by running the water line along 8th Street and extending the sewer line from the industrial park.

Mayor Slivinski asked city engineer Addison Ochsenbein whether the pump station on 8th Street would be able to handle additional flow and what the cost of a new pump/lift station would be. Addison Ochsenbein responded that the current pump is operating less than four hours per month, which is not ideal for the pump. He explained that increased flow through the system would be better for reducing wear and tear on the equipment. He also stated that a new lift station would cost approximately \$100,000.

Councilmember Shane Johnson mentioned that even if the council decided not to annex the proposed property, the 8th Street upgrades and the industrial park infrastructure improvements would still need to be completed either way.

The mayor and city council held a lengthy discussion regarding the additional costs associated with a pump station and the various options for providing water and sewer infrastructure to the proposed annexation property. Following the discussion, the council was asked to make a motion either to deny or approve the annexation request.

Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to approve the Gridplex Landholding Annexation/Rezone and Ordinance 689. Councilmember Brady Shultis seconded the motion. The city clerk requested that the vote be conducted by roll call. Councilmember Shane Johnson then rescinded the motion.

Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to approve the Gridplex Landholding Annexation/Rezone and Ordinance 689, with the vote to be conducted by roll call. Councilmember Brady Shultis seconded the motion. A roll call vote was then conducted.

Bobbi Leonhardt: NO Dan Fisher: NO Ray Hernie: NO

Quin Pope: Yes Shane Johnson: YES Brady Shultis: YES

The roll call vote resulted in a tie. Mayor Ted Slivinski cast the deciding vote in favor of approving the Gridplex Landholding Annexation/Rezone and Ordinance 689.

Ordinance Fresh Water at RV Dump-Review and Approve for Public Hearing:

Councilmember Shane Johnson read the Fresh Water at the RV Dump Station Ordinance in full. After reading the ordinance in full the mayor and the councilmembers discussed there were changes that needed to be made such as filling RV trailer and taking out all the clean out verbiage in the ordinance. The mayor would like the council to table this until the next city council to review the changes and approve for public hearing.

Councilmember Quin Pope moved to table Fresh Water at the RV Dump Station Ordinance until the next council meeting. Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Ordinance Intermountain Gas Franchise Fees- Review and Approve for Public Hearing:

The mayor informed the councilmembers that the Intermountain Gas Franchise Fee Agreement will expire in August 2026. The ordinance presented to the council is a renewal agreement, with the only change from the previous agreement being that, after the initial twenty-year term, it will automatically renew for an additional ten years. The City Clerk stated that the city attorney, Doug Wood, reviewed the agreement and did not find any issues with it on the city's behalf. Councilmembers Shane Johnson and Dan Fisher read the ordinance in full. After a brief discussion, the City Council approved moving the Franchise Fee Ordinance forward to a public hearing for final approval.

Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to approve the Intermountain Gas Franchise Fee Ordinance as written and set it for public hearing for final approval. Councilmember Dan Fisher seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Ray Henrie:

Councilmember Ray Henrie updated the City Council that the Bear Lake Senior Center will host an all-you-can-eat Mother's Day breakfast on May 9, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and continuing until noon or until the food runs out. The breakfast will be donation only, and donated items will also be available for raffle. He also mentioned that on June 9, 2026, the Senior Center will hold a Father's Day raffle featuring a Henry Golden Boy rifle. Raffle tickets will cost \$5.00 each or six for \$25.00. In addition, a basketball signed by the girls' state championship team will also be raffled.

Dan Fisher:

Councilmember Dan Fisher commented that the new bathrooms by the ball fields are a great addition to Allinger Park. He expressed concern that there are no trash cans near the ball diamonds or large dumpsters by the pavilion. Superintendent Chris Bruce responded that his department puts those out at the beginning of the week and explained that they had not yet been placed because the county charges extra for dumping in May. He stated that the park dumpsters are scheduled to begin regular emptying services at the start of June. He also mentioned that the water to the upper bathrooms has not been turned on yet but is expected to be on by June 1.

Quin Pope:

Councilmember Quin Pope informed the City Council that Parks & Recreation's boys Little League baseball and girls softball programs are currently underway and running smoothly.

Superintendent Chris Bruce

Superintendent Chris Bruce informed the City Council that the water project for Well #3/4th Street is nearing completion. He stated that the project encountered some complications, which will require a change order. He also noted that some residents were without water overnight due to the issues.

Mayor Ted Slivinski adjourned until the next regularly scheduled meeting on May 20th, 2026 at 7:30p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Singleton

Michelle Singleton
City Clerk