

CORRECTED
City Council Meeting
July 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-excused
Shane Johnson
Brady Shultis
Quin Pope
Bobbi Leonhardt
Dan Fisher

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

Approval of Agenda:

**Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt moved to approve the agenda as written.
Councilmember Shane Johnson seconded. The voting was unanimous in the affirmative.**

Approval of Minutes:

**Councilmember Shane Johnson moved to approve the June 17th, 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 \$80,527.15 with \$44,221.04 being miscellaneous bills and \$36,306.11 being payroll. Councilmember Dan Fisher seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Police Vehicle Purchase:

Chief Blake Wells presented a bid from Bear Lake Motor for a new K-9 police vehicle. The proposed vehicle is a Ford Expedition with a total bid amount of \$57,825. Chief Wells explained that while the Ford Expedition costs more than a pickup truck, it offers significant advantages for the K-9 program. He noted that there will be additional costs to purchase and install the necessary police equipment. He stated that the Expedition's larger interior will provide more space for equipment and allow the City's K-9 to ride more comfortably. He also explained that the current K-9 vehicle does not have air vents in the cargo area, making it difficult to keep the K-9 cool during operations. The mayor asked whether the Expedition was a police package and whether it included air vents in the rear cargo area. Chief Wells stated that he had been informed it was a police package but would verify that information, as well as confirm the availability of rear air vents. The City Council asked if Chief Wells knew the cost to purchase and install the required equipment. Chief Wells stated that he did not have an exact cost but would obtain that information. He added that the equipment for the police vehicle purchased last year cost approximately \$29,000. The Mayor and City Council agreed that a larger vehicle would be beneficial for the K-9 program. However, they requested that Chief Wells obtain the estimated cost of equipping the vehicle before moving forward. The Council agreed to table the purchase of the new K-9 vehicle until the next City Council meeting.

Councilmember Quin Pope moved to table the purchase of the K-9 police vehicle until the next City Council meeting to allow Chief Wells time to obtain an estimated cost for the required equipment. Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

FY 26-27 Budget Review:

The Mayor and City Council discussed the proposed FY 2026–2027 budget. The mayor explained that the proposed budget includes a 4% wage increase for all City employees. The mayor also reported that the City Clerk had informed him that the ICRMP insurance premium increased by only 2%. The Clerk had estimated a 15% increase in health, dental, and vision insurance premiums and stated that she hopes to receive the actual premium amounts before the next City Council meeting. The mayor noted that the Idaho State highway distribution allocation decreased by \$53,948, resulting in a reduction to the Streets and Alley

Fund budget compared to previous years. He also reminded the Council that the public hearing for final budget approval is scheduled for August 5.

Dan Fisher:

Councilmember Dan Fisher reported on the Bear Lake Regional Commission and Bear Lake Convention and Visitor Bureau meeting held on June 24. He stated that the organizations worked on their budget and discussed the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) check station in Logan Canyon. They are experiencing difficulty finding employees to staff the station due to its remote location. Councilmember Fisher also reported that planning is underway for the Legislative Rendezvous, which is scheduled for August 17. Representatives from both Idaho and Utah are expected to attend to discuss matters related to Bear Lake. In addition, Councilmember Fisher reported that Tami Leonhardt stated that advertising and promotional efforts for Bear Lake continue to be successful. She also reported that the lake **is projected to drop** approximately 5 to 6 feet so far this year.

Shane Johnson:

Councilmember Shane Johnson reported that the Oregon Trail Center's concert and Dutch oven dinner is nearly sold out. The event is scheduled to be held on **July 3**.

Bobbi Leonhardt:

Councilmember Bobbi Leonhardt reported that ANH is seeking to be covered under the City's insurance policy. She explained that the request stems from a recent incident in which a volunteer was bitten by a dog and required surgery. The three dogs involved had been brought to ANH by the Bear Lake County Sheriff's Office and were reported to be very aggressive. Following discussion, the City Council agreed that ANH should not accept or house aggressive dogs at the dog pound.

Quin Pope :

Councilmember Quin Pope reported that the softball tournament held this past weekend hosted 50 teams. He also reported that the upcoming July softball tournament is expected to have 65 teams, and that the baseball tournament is already full. Councilmember Pope further reported that the city is currently working with the County to help make the reservation process easier for families traveling to participate in the ball tournaments.

Brady Shultis:

Councilmember Brady Shultis reported on the upcoming events at Heritage Park sponsored by the Montpelier Community Foundation. The concert schedule is as follows:

- **July 17:** Saddle Strings
- **July 25:** Till Sunday Band
- **July 31:** The Johnson Sisters

Councilmember Shultis also reported that **Karaoke in the Park** is scheduled for **August 3**, and **Movie Night in the Park** will be held on **August 22**.

Superintendent Chris Bruce:

Superintendent Chris Bruce reported that the bathrooms for Heritage Park have been paid for and are currently in production. He also informed the Council that the Butch Cassidy bench is scheduled to arrive on July 16. Mr. Bruce asked the City Council if they would be interested in having the cemetery records digitized. He explained that a woman from Afton, Wyoming, has offered to complete the project and would only charge for her travel expenses (gas) to and from Wyoming. The Council stated that the matter would need to be placed on a future agenda for discussion and a vote. Mr. Bruce also reported that, at the direction of Fire Chief Ed Preston, the new bathrooms at Allinger Park will be closed during the fireworks event.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Singleton
City Clerk