

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN HOME, ELMORE COUNTY, IDAHO,  
 HELD ON FEBRUARY 11TH, 2025, AT 5:00 P.M.  
 AT MOUNTAIN HOME CITY HALL CHAMBERS  
 MOUNTAIN HOME, IDAHO

- 22285 CALL MEETING TO ORDER/ESTABLISH A QUORUM
- 22285 PUBLIC HEARING  
 1. Public Hearing on proposed fee increase for nonresident cards at the Library.
- 22285 RECOGNIZING PERSONS IN THE AUDIENCE
- 22285 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION  
 Has any Council Member received information pertaining to, or otherwise had any contact with any person regarding any items on this City Council agenda? If so, please set forth the nature of the contact.
- 22285 CONSENT AGENDA - All matters listed within this Consent Agenda section require formal Council action, but are typically routine or not of great controversy and will be enacted by one motion. Questions for the purpose of clarification may be asked about a particular item before the motion is voted on. However, for lengthy discussion or separate motion a Council member or citizen may request an item be removed from the Consent Agenda section and placed on the Regular Agenda. **ALL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS LISTED BELOW ARE ACTION ITEMS.**
- A. Approval/Acceptance of Minutes  
     Regular City Council Meeting - January 28, 2025
  - B. Bills - 1/29/2025 to 2/11/2025 in the amount of \$748,686.26
  - C. Payroll for the period ending 12/22/2024 to 1/21/2025 in the amount of \$815,105.88
  - D. Approve J.U.B. for airport engineering service at the Mountain Home Municipal Airport
  - E. Pass Resolution #3-2025R - Establishing water rate to be effective March 1, 2025.
  - F. Pass Resolution #4-2025R - Establishing wastewater rates to be effective March 1, 2025.
  - G. Approve Budget Transfers from the General Fund to the Golf Course Operating Expense.
  - H. Approve the Wastewater department's request to purchase aeration equipment for the wastewater treatment plant.
  - I. Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign all required documents for grant application 2024/25-013.
- 22286 OLD BUSINESS  
 1) Action Item: Deliberation/Decision on the letter of support for tax exemption on military pension.
- 22286 NEW BUSINESS  
 1) Items removed from the Consent Agenda  
 2) Non-Action Item: Discussion on LID #1 Fiber update, fuel expenses, and remaining funds of LID #1.
- 22288 FINAL COMMENTS
- 22289 ADJOURN

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN HOME, ELMORE COUNTY, IDAHO,  
HELD ON FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2025, AT 5:00 P.M.

The Council of the City of Mountain Home, Elmore County, Idaho, met at the Mountain Home City Hall Chambers, 160 South 3<sup>rd</sup> East, Mountain Home, Idaho on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025. A quorum was established with Councilman Harjo, Councilwoman Wirkkala, Councilman Brennan and Mayor Sykes being present. Councilwoman Garvey by phone.

PUBLIC HEARING - Public Hearing on proposed fee increase for nonresident cards at the Library.

The public hearing opened at 5:02 p.m.

The public hearing closed at 5:03 p.m.

RECOGNIZING PERSONS IN THE AUDIENCE

- Rod Dudley asked that Item E, F, and G be pulled for discussion as he had concerns about how funds are being used. He also inquired about what the age limit is to sit in at a City Council meeting.

- Don Guss asked about the plans for the aeration. He also asked about the plans to raise the water rates.

Has any Council Member received information pertaining to, or otherwise had any contact with any person regarding any items on this City Council agenda? If so, please set forth the nature of the contact.

- No Council members had anything to declare.

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed within this Consent Agenda section require formal Council action, but are typically routine or not of great controversy and will be enacted by one motion. Questions for the purpose of clarification may be asked about a particular item before the motion is voted on. However, for lengthy discussion or separate motion a Councilmember or citizen may request an item be removed from the Consent Agenda section and placed on the Regular Agenda. ALL CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS LISTED BELOW ARE ACTION ITEMS.

- A. Approval/Acceptance of Minutes  
Regular City Council Meeting - January 28, 2025
- B. Bills - 1/29/2025 to 2/11/2025 in the amount of \$748,686.26
- C. Payroll for the period ending 12/22/2025 to 1/21/2025 in the amount of \$815,105.88
- D. Approve J.U.B. for airport engineering service at the Mountain Home Municipal Airport.
- E. Pass Resolution #03-2025R - Establishing water rate to be effective March 1, 2025.  
**(Pulled from the Consent Agenda and placed under New Business)**
- F. Pass Resolution #04-2025R - Establishing wastewater rates to be effective March 1, 2025.  
**(Pulled from the Consent Agenda and placed under New Business)**
- G. Approve Budget Transfers from the General Fund to the Golf Course Operating Expense.  
**(Pulled from the Consent Agenda and placed under New Business)**
- H. Approve the Wastewater department's request to purchase aeration equipment for the wastewater treatment plant.  
**(Pulled from the Consent Agenda and placed under New Business)**
- I. Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign all required documents for grant application 2024/25-013.

Councilman Harjo made a motion to add Executive Session for Idaho Code Section 74-206(1)(f). Councilwoman Wirkkala seconded the motion.

The following vote was recorded:

Councilman Harjo	AYE
Councilwoman Wirkkala	AYE

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Councilwoman Garvey                   NAY  
Councilman Brennan                    AYE

The majority of the vote being in favor, the motion was carried and so ordered.

Councilman Brennan spoke regarding Items E and F to address some of Don's questions. The Council before this one decided that increases of no more than 5 percent a year would be put in place to get us where we need to be. We know that we need to build a new lagoon or an entire wastewater treatment facility.

Chris Curtis, Public Works Director, said that depending on what route we go, we could be looking at something in the \$60 million range for an expandable system.

Councilman Brennan said if we go with the treatment facility route, we are looking at no less than \$50 million and it would cost \$10.8 million to put in one cell. Along with having 6 cells that need new liners, which cost an estimate of \$1 million per cell.

Councilwoman Wirkkala asked Chris how wastewater talks to fiber with the SCADA System.

Chris said that it is internet based, fiber is the medium between servers just like the previous internet provider.

Councilwoman Wirkkala also asked Chris how we went from \$100 million for a new wastewater treatment facility down to \$50 million.

Chris explained that if we want to build a full-scale facility it's going to be around \$110 million or more. The most appealing in his opinion is a smaller, scalable option for less.

Councilman Brennan asking to pull Items E, F, G at the citizen request as well as Item H at his request.

Councilman Harjo made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda pulling Items E, F, G, and H. Councilwoman Wirkkala seconded the motion.

The following vote was recorded:

Councilwoman Garvey	AYE
Councilman Brennan	AYE
Councilman Harjo	AYE
Councilwoman Wirkkala	AYE

The vote being unanimous, the motion was carried and so ordered.

#### OLD BUSINESS

1)Action Items: Deliberation/Decision on the letter of support for tax exemption on military pension.

Councilwoman Wirkkala thanked Tiffany Belt, City Clerk for writing the letter of support.

Mayor Sykes asked Councilwoman Wirkkala if she wanted the Council's signatures on the letter and instructed Tiffany to get them from the Council.

Councilwoman Wirkkala made a motion to approve the letter of support for tax exemption on military pensions. Councilman Harjo seconded the motion.

The following vote was recorded:

Councilman Harjo	AYE
Councilman Brennan	AYE
Councilwoman Wirkkala	AYE
Councilwoman Garvey	AYE

The vote being unanimous, the motion was carried and so ordered.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1)Items removed from the Consent Agenda

Item E. Pass Resolution #03-2025R - Establishing water rate to be effective March 1, 2025.

Councilman Brennan asked the Council if there was any discussion needed. No one spoke.

Councilman Brennan made a motion to Pass Resolution #03-2025R - Establishing water rate to be effective March 1, 2025. Councilman Harjo seconded the motion.

The following vote was recorded:

Councilwoman Wirkkala	AYE
Councilman Harjo	AYE
Councilwoman Garvey	AYE
Councilman Brennan	AYE

The vote being unanimous, the motion was carried and so ordered.

Item F. Pass Resolution #04-2025R - Establishing wastewater rates to be effective March 1, 2025.

Councilman Brennan made a motion to pass Resolution #04-2025R - Establishing wastewater rates to be effective March 1, 2025. Councilman Harjo seconded the motion.

The following vote was recorded:

Councilman Harjo	AYE
Councilwoman Garvey	AYE
Councilwoman Wirkkala	AYE
Councilman Brennan	AYE

The vote being unanimous, the motion was carried and so ordered.

Item G. Approve Budget Transfers from the General Fund to the Golf Course Operating Expense.

Councilman Brennan made a motion to approve Budget Transfers from the General Fund to the Golf Course Operating Expense. Councilwoman Wirkkala seconded the motion.

The following vote was recorded:

Councilman Brennan	AYE
Councilwoman Wirkkala	AYE
Councilwoman Garvey	AYE
Councilman Harjo	AYE

The vote being unanimous, the motion was carried and so ordered.

Item H. Approve the Wastewater department's request to purchase aeration equipment for the wastewater treatment plant.

Councilman Brennan discussed with Chris Curtis, Public Works Director, building a wastewater treatment facility, maintaining the lagoons' operation, and the grant application process.

Councilman Harjo made a motion to approve the Wastewater department's request to purchase aeration equipment for the wastewater treatment plant. Councilwoman Wirkkala seconded the motion.

Councilman Brennan asked to have it specified which company has the business in the motion.

Councilman Harjo amended his motion by title to IXOM Water Care as the awarded party to purchase aeration equipment for wastewater treatment. Councilwoman Wirkkala seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Garvey clarified that we've needed this for a long time, long before impact fees. She just wanted to make it known that this needs to be done.

The following vote was recorded:

Councilwoman Garvey	AYE
Councilman Harjo	AYE
Councilwoman Wirkkala	AYE
Councilman Brennan	AYE

The vote being unanimous, the motion was carried and so ordered.

2) Non-Action Item: Discussion on LID #1 Fiber update, fuel expenses, and remaining funds of LID #1.

Councilwoman Wirkkala thanked Chris Curtis, Public Works Director, for his letter with updates on how they plan to bill fuel expenses to the appropriate funds.

Mayor Sykes and Chris explained where the remaining funds are distributed.

Councilwoman Garvey and Tiffany Belt, the City Clerk, discussed how to correctly budget and code allocations for fiber fuel expenses.

#### FINAL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Wirkkala said she'd like to get Lost Paws TNR on the next meeting's agenda.

Tiffany Belt said that she would contact them to find out what date works best for them.

Councilwoman Wirkkala asked about the dispatch update, as the memo showed that there was no update.

Mayor Sykes said that Chief Thompson, Ty Larsen, Amy Pearson, Tiffany Belt, and Councilman Harjo met two weeks ago and are working on the verbiage and a contract.

Councilman Harjo said the next meeting might be tight due to the TVP meeting being on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The focus is to still push that forward.

Councilwoman Wirkkala shared her response to Mayor Sykes video.

Councilman Brennan said thank you to Brenda for the wastewater letter that went out.

Councilman Brennan asked to call another Council meeting under Idaho Code 50-706 to engage with County Commissioners for a joint planning session.

Councilman Harjo and Councilwoman Wirkkala both support this.

Mayor Sykes said there is a Black History Banquet on Friday night at the Elk's Lodge.

Tiffany Belt said that the Mountain Home High School Girl's Basketball team is playing in District Championship game tomorrow night here in town at 7:00 p.m. if you can attend.

Councilman Brennan and Councilwoman Wirkkala asked Mayor Sykes to

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clarify on what he meant about working on "public statements of councilmembers".

Mayor Sykes said that needs to go back and look at what he said and that he would call Councilman Brennan tomorrow to discuss.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1) Pursuant to Idaho Code Section 74-206(1)(f)- to consider the evaluation, dismissal, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent.

Councilman Harjo made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code Section 74-206(1)(f). Councilman Brennan seconded the motion.

The following vote was recorded:

Councilman Brennan	AYE
Councilwoman Wirkkala	AYE
Councilman Harjo	AYE
Councilwoman Garvey	AYE

The vote being unanimous, the motion was carried and so ordered.

The Council went into executive session at 5:47 p.m.

The Council came out of executive session at 5:52 p.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 P.M. by orders from Mayor Sykes.

  
 Rich Sykes, Mayor

ATTEST:   
 Tiffany Belt, City Clerk

