

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN HOME, ELMORE COUNTY, IDAHO,
 HELD ON FEBRUARY 25TH, 2025, AT 5:00 P.M.
 AT MOUNTAIN HOME CITY HALL CHAMBERS
 MOUNTAIN HOME, IDAHO

- 22295 CALL MEETING TO ORDER/ESTABLISH A QUORUM
- 22295 RECOGNIZING PERSONS IN THE AUDIENCE
- 22295 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.
- 22295 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
 Impact Fee Advisory Committee - January 9, 2025
 Planning & Zoning Commission - January 21, 2025
 Special City Council Meeting - February 11, 2025
 Regular City Council Meeting - February 11, 2025
- B. Bills - 2/12/2025 to 2/25/2025 in the amount of \$725,304.02
- C. Treasurer's report for the period ending 1/31/2025
- D. Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign all required documents for grant application 2024/25-014
- 22295 OLD BUSINESS
 1) Non-Action Item: Discussion with Dylan Lawrence regarding Elmore County's Snake River application.
- 22298 NEW BUSINESS
 1) Items removed from the Consent Agenda
- 2) Action Item: Deliberation/Decision to approve Resolution #05-2025R for nonresident cards at the library fee increase
- 3) Action Item: Deliberation/Decision on Planning and Zoning Commission recommendation and Finding of Facts to amend an existing conditional use permit at Optimist Park with conditions.
- 22299 FINAL COMMENTS
- 22300 ADJOURN

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN HOME, ELMORE COUNTY, IDAHO,
HELD ON FEBRUARY 25TH, 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 3rd East, Mountain Home, Idaho on February 25th, 2025. A quorum was established with, Councilman Harjo, Councilwoman Garvey, Councilman Brennan and Mayor Sykes being present. Councilwoman Wirkkala by phone.

RECOGNIZING PERSONS IN THE AUDIENCE

- No one came forward to speak at this time.

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.

- Councilman Harjo disclosed that he attended a County Commission meeting as a citizen under Old Business Item 1 and witnessed a document that pertains to a water study from the USGS.

- Councilman Brennan received an email from Dylan Lawrence regarding the nature of Item 1 to get it scheduled.

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.

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- D. Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign all required documents for grant application 2024/25-014

Councilman Brennan made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as printed. Councilwoman Garvey seconded the motion.

The following vote was recorded:

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

1)Non-Action Items: Discussion with Dylan Lawrence regarding Elmore County's Snake River application.

Mayor Sykes started by addressing Dylan Lawrence, Terry Scanlan and Kari Hill by saying that he believes in the project and getting water to Elmore County is advantageous to everyone.

Dylan Lawrence, Elmore County's Outside Water Rights Attorney, started off the discussion.

Councilman Brennan stated that he fully trusts them and knows they are doing the right thing. His only concern and question is to make sure that how it's paid for is that it is by use and not by population.

Dylan stated that at this point they are not asking for any financial commitment from the City. They are looking for help responding to the IDWR letter.

Mayor Sykes disclosed that Chris Curtis, Marty Anderson and himself met with Brian Patton, Cynthia BridgeClark, Cody Parker, and Nick Miller, all with Idaho Water Resource, asking what the City could do to help with the application.

There was a discussion between the Mayor, Dylan and Kari about costs and impact fee studies and environmental studies.

Mayor Sykes asked about water storage plans.

Kari said that there is no plan to build additional storage. It would be used seasonally at the farms, pumped directly to the farms.

Dylan said that the proposal is seasonally you would have supplemental irrigation within the Mountain Home irrigation district, you would have municipal use once that is defined, and then the excess would be taken to the recharge sites north of the freeway at the gravel pits.

Councilman Brennan asked if the Golf Course is considered municipal use for this.

Dylan said this could be used for this.

Councilman Harjo asked if there is the intent to bring as a pressurized system to the agricultural sites or is there an intent to pump to the reservoir and used gravity and existing infrastructure to deliver the water.

Dylan said the intent would be to take it to Mountain Home irrigation district and bring it back through the gravity system for supplemental irrigation use. It's piped and under pressure until that point.

Councilwoman Garvey asked what the plan to spell out how we will be able to use this water municipally for the purposes of the application.

Dylan said that the primary use could be non-potable pressurized irrigation as 85 percent of the City's summer water usage is for irrigation. That would free up potable water for City growth.

Councilwoman Garvey asked what the approximate cost for a pressurized irrigation system. She is just trying to make sure she understands the burden of cost coming back to the City. Also, the concern of maintaining the system after infrastructure is put in, will that fall to the City or to the County.

Kari said that we might be getting ahead of ourselves. It's about bringing the opportunity. What you do with it in the future, that's your financial decision once it gets here. There are great funding programs that could be available. That's all we need right now, to bring the opportunity to use it.

Councilwoman Wirkkala supports the discussion. She asked if Dylan and his team could meet with Chris Curtis or the appropriate individuals in the City to see how it would be with municipal use and bring it back to the Council for review for the potentially putting into the application.

Mayor Sykes said absolutely.

Councilman Brennan asked even if we don't pass an ordinance now, we could essentially impact an ordinance for a new subdivision to mandate

pressurized irrigation piping.

Dylan said that they are looking for a letter of support saying that if the water is available to us and we could afford it, and we decided to go ahead, here is how we would use it.

Councilwoman Garvey read part of the letter from Cody that said, "including project elements that will be constructed, operated, and/or maintained by the City of Mountain Home".

Dylan said for example that could say that the City of Mountain Home would own and operate pressurized irrigation distribution systems, booster pumps, etc. This is conceptually a County project at this point and they are looking at having the City tap into it.

Councilman Harjo asked if it would suffice knowing that we have measurable aquifer recharge at this point. He also asked if it would be sufficient to say that the City would have interest in the County's project just on the basis that if you are going to provide that water into Mountain Home Reservoir, not committing to any other potential system in the future. Would that count as municipal use.

Dylan said probably not as they have a recognized component of this application as aquifer recharge.

Councilwoman Garvey said she would be okay with signing something going back to IDWR taking out specific language of municipal use as we know we're going to be able to use the water. She said that the letter of support can't contain any verbiage of the City of Mountain Home maintaining or taking on the project.

Kari and Dylan clarified that the application isn't asking for a commitment, but rather exploring how it could look if there were one. They are seeking a response to the request with a flexible description, ensuring no future obligation. Even if they receive approval for the water right permit, it doesn't require its use or development.

Dylan added that it's helpful to think about the worst-case scenarios. Worst case the department denies the municipal aspect of the application and issues a permit for recharge or irrigation. The next worst-case scenario is that they ask for more detail. All there is now is a current pending application.

There was more discussion between Councilman Brennan, Mayor Sykes, and Dylan about usage.

Dylan asked if it would make sense for them to finalize their concepts and send a draft to the City to take a look at it and add whatever language that they think needs to be in there including disclaimers and send that with their response to IDWR.

Councilwoman Wirkkala and Councilman Brennan are both on board with that.

Councilwoman Garvey is just worried about what the municipality will be bound to this based on application statements.

Councilman Harjo asked if they would send over the USGS Study to the Clerk so that the Council can look at it. He thinks that they could come up with a letter of support that does not bind the City to future costs while coming up with some conceptual ideas. This is not just a city issue; this is a community issue.

Councilwoman Garvey asked about who signs the application as the current name on the application is Board of County Commissioners (for the City of Mountain Home).

Dylan said that that was 2017 and that Elmore County signed for it with the blessing of the City of Mountain Home and a letter of support at the time.

Councilman Brennan said that he looks forward to seeing a draft letter and that he'll happily sign it.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Items removed from the Consent Agenda

There were no Items removed from the Consent Agenda for consideration.

2) Action Item: Deliberation/Decision to approve Resolution #05-2025R for nonresident cards at the library fee increase.

Councilman Brennan made a motion to approve Resolution #05-2025R for nonresident cards at the library. Councilman Harjo seconded the motion.

The following vote was recorded:

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

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

3) Action Item: Deliberation/Decision on Planning and Zoning Commission recommendation and Finding of Facts to amend an existing conditional use permit at Optimist Park with conditions.

Councilman Harjo made a motion to approve Planning and Zoning Commission recommendation and Finding of Facts to amend an existing conditional use permit at Optimist Park with conditions. Councilwoman Garvey seconded the motion.

Councilman Brennan asked what the intent for a straight track. He doesn't see any of the details of what it will be used for and who's requesting it. He sees that the City of Mountain Home is the applicant.

Mayor Sykes called Ronnie Bergh forward to speak and show the plans that were presented at the 11/26/2024 City Council meeting. This is for Race to Empower Inc, formerly known as Mountain Home Speedway and has converted 501-C3 non-profit. Chuck Ceccarelli donated to the organization to build. The plan is for a 200-foot drag strip with a 600-foot runout. Owned by the city and leased out to the organization to have producers come in and put on their shows.

Councilman Brennan expressed his concern about City equipment and staff maintaining this park when it is leased out.

Ronnie clarified that they intend to maintain everything themselves and have purchased equipment to do so. That will be the responsibility of the organization and their volunteers.

Councilman Harjo added that the speedway in the past has been largely self-maintained. They bring in a lot of interest to the community during the summer when they have their events. This newly restructured organization is not any different.

Tiffany Belt, City Clerk added that the Park's Superintendent is pretty adamant on making sure that organizations are self-sufficient. City Staff have started to pull away so that the organization can maintain that.

Councilman Brennan asked Tiffany about dumpsters and porta-potties.

Tiffany clarified that there are dumpsters and porta-potties on site already, if they ask for more it will and has been denied as there are already some on site.

Councilman Brennan asked Chris Curtis, Public Works Director how he feels about continuing to loan out the front-end loader.

Chris said there has been no issue.

Councilman Brennan asked Paul Fitzer, City Attorney, what the liability of an accident happening on the front-end loader of a non-City personnel.

Paul said it would be a problem.

Councilman Brennan said that he is going to vote nay, they shouldn't be able to use our heavy equipment without us being protected from the liability of that.

Councilwoman Garvey said that she understands where Councilmen Brennan and Harjo are both coming from. This needs to be discussed further. She doesn't think that it hinders the application, but people that are not employed by the City of Mountain Home should not be using city equipment.

Tiffany added that we need to bring back their agreement to use the facility because they are no longer running under the speedway. In the next 3 to 4 weeks the Council is going to get back their agreement to negotiate the use of equipment at that time.

The following vote was recorded:

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

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

Councilman Brennan asked Mayor Sykes to recall the vote as more information has been brought forward since voting took place.

Paul Fitzer said that under Roberts Rules of Order a single Councilmember can motion to reconsider based on newly discovered evidence.

Councilman Brennan made a motion to recall the vote. No second. The motion died.

FINAL COMMENTS

Mayor Sykes had a call with Commissioner Corbus about the Canyon Creek recharge in the gravel pits. He also asked Commissioner Corbus about Republic Service super fund EPA issue.

Councilwoman Wirkkala received update from Military Liaison that he had a meeting with Community Founders' Group for American Classical Charter. She is requesting that he come to the March 11th meeting to give an update.

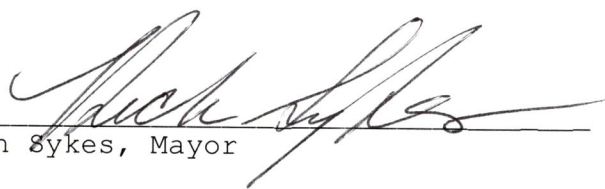
Councilwoman Garvey asking to bring back feasibility study for the Airport for discussion/decision.

Councilwoman Garvey would like to also bring back discussion on tournament fees and season passes as well as tournament payouts.

Councilman Harjo asked to clarify on Chris Curtis's Public Works water vehicle purchase, he's clear to purchase that truck.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 P.M. by orders from Mayor Sykes.



Rich Sykes, Mayor

ATTEST: 

Tiffany Belt, City Clerk

