

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN HOME, ELMORE COUNTY, IDAHO,
HELD ON JUNE 24TH, 2025, AT 5:00 P.M.
AT MOUNTAIN HOME CITY HALL CHAMBERS
MOUNTAIN HOME, IDAHO

- 22402 CALL MEETING TO ORDER/ESTABLISH A QUORUM
- 22402 RECOGNIZING PERSONS IN THE AUDIENCE
- 22402 PRESENTATION
- 1) Presentation by Jennifer Rhodes, CHEMS Director, regarding CHEMS operations and support to the community.
- 22403 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.
- 22403 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS – CIVIC GROUPS
- 1) Historical Society – Member of the Historical Board or Directors
2) Treasure Valley Transit – Terri Lindenberg, Executive Director
3) Senior Center/Meals on Wheels – Lisa Simpson, Business Manager
- 22403 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:
a. Planning & Zoning Commission – May 20, 2025
b. Regular City Council Meeting- June 10, 2025
- B. Bills from 6/11/2025 to 6/24/2025 in the amount of \$554,766.36
- C. Treasurer's report for the period ending 5/31/2025
- D. Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign all required documents for grant application 2025/26-01
- E. Approve the Emergent Service Agreement and Mountain Home Fire Department and authorize the Mayor to sign all required documents.
(Pulled from the Consent Agenda and moved to New Business)
- F. Approve Final Plat – Fall Creek Subdivision No. 1
- G. Approve the Mayor's recommendation to appoint Lieutenant Larson to the position of Interim Police Chief pending the appointment of the New Police Chief.
- H. Approve the Mayor's recommendation to appoint Lieutenant Dudley to the position of Interim Assistant Police Chief pending the appointment of the New Police Chief.
- I. Approve Staff to set a public hearing date to consider adopting a resolution or ordinance authorizing the filing of a Petition for Judicial Confirmation under the Idaho Judicial Confirmation Law to confirm the power of the City to construct and finance an open access fiber optic network #2.
(Pulled from the Consent Agenda and moved to New Business)
- 22404 OLD BUSINESS
- 1) Action Item: Deliberation/Decision regarding Idaho Power's easement request.
2) Action Item: Deliberation/Decision regarding MHC 6-6-17, with regards to the quantity of hens allowed on one parcel of property.
- 22404 NEW BUSINESS
- 1) Items removed from Consent Agenda
- 22405 SWEARING IN
- 1) Ty Larsen, Interim Chief of Police
2) Jake Dudley, Interim Assistant Chief of Police
- 22405 ORDINANCE
- 1) Ordinance 1806 – Amending Mountain Home 6-6-17
- 22405 FINAL COMMENTS
- 22406 ADJOURN
- Council Minutes – June 24, 2025

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN HOME, ELMORE COUNTY, IDAHO,
HELD ON JUNE 24TH, 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 June 24th, 2025. A quorum was established with Councilwoman Wirkkala, Councilman Brennan, Councilman Harjo and Mayor Sykes being present. Councilwoman Garvey by phone.

RECOGNIZING PERSONS IN THE AUDIENCE

- Dennis Wilson with Richard McKenna spoke regarding construction on the addition to the school being complete and he invited the City Council, Mayor and the City department heads to come over and do a walk through.
- Patty Shiels asked the Council about Old Business Action Item 2, requesting that they allow no fewer than three hens and increase the number if possible.
- Rod Dudley thanked everyone involved in the pool and that he hoped that everyone enjoys it.

PRESENTATION

Presentation by Jennifer Rhodes, CHEMS Director, regarding CHEMS operations and support to the community.

Mayor Sykes and Tiffany Belt, City Clerk, said the presentation needed to be taken off the agenda as Jennifer Rhodes was unable to attend the meeting.

Mayor Sykes asked if Old Business Action Item 1 could be moved to the beginning of the meeting as there was a scheduling conflict to get this item taken care of.

OLD BUSINESS

1) Action Item: Deliberation/Decision regarding Idaho Power's easement request.

Mike Welch and David Heazle with Idaho Power called in via Teams to discuss questions with the Council on their easement request.

Councilman Brennan asked to confirm that this request is for an easement of land in perpetuity with no end, to build on, not just a road easement.

Tiffany Belt, City Clerk explained that it had already existed in this location and their request was to expand out 60 additional feet for upgrade of equipment.

David Heazle said that this was the new transmission line from the north and upgrades of equipment. He said that they needed more space outside the current area that they currently had. He continued to say that this was to help improve the switching around of the solar farm.

Councilman Brennan asked if the current footprint of the land was owned by Idaho Power or by land leased from the City.

Mike Welch said that currently they were on the Weitz's property, this was right at the edge where the property boundary was, they were just extending it, and they were leasing property from Dan Weitz.

There was a discussion between Councilman Brennan and Tiffany Belt regarding property lines, the master transportation plan, and city-owned property.

Councilman Harjo asked if Idaho Power was limited to expanding strictly to the east of that property or was there an opportunity to expand to the south and not impede further to the east.

Mike Welch said that it was really not possible due to it being in and out of the substation at the solar farm. He explained that their only option to drop into the station, without going outside the line alignment, was to have something come from the east to swing the conductor out and tap into the new line coming in.

Councilman Harjo said that if this were to pass that day, at worst it would result in a relatively insignificant meander to the road. He went on to say that the City had identified this as a future truck route but did not have any plans, engineering, agreements, or similar preparations in place.

Chris Curtis, Public Works Director, stated that due to the involvement of the ITD and the rail line, a rail crossing would need to be approved, which would be extremely difficult at this time. He added that when the master transportation plan was created, they had considered two alternatives to avoid these challenges.

Councilman Brennan asked why this was a perpetual easement rather than a land lease.

Mike Welch said that they run all their lines as easements that remain in effect in perpetuity. He explained that they typically don't remove transmission or distribution lines when routes change.

There was a discussion between Councilwoman Garvey and Legal, and Tiffany Belt about different types of easement options and if they would be viable options.

Mayor Sykes asked Mike Welch if there was any compensation for the land and whether they would be willing to provide any.

Mike Welch said they had not discussed it, but he was sure that something could be worked out.

Councilman Brennan said that he could definitely see a need for this and understood that Staff had informed them the truck route was not feasible in the near future, but he did not want to get ahead of the process.

There was a discussion between Councilman Brennan, Mayor Sykes, and Mike Welch regarding compensation whether it be payment or in-kind work possibilities.

Councilman Harjo asked if the Mayor and Staff would like to discuss options with Idaho Power and bring back to the Council to discuss a possible agreement.

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.

- No Council members had anything to declare.

BUDGET PRESENTATIONS – CIVIC GROUPS

Historical Society – Member of the Historical Board of Directors

Chris Alzola of the Historical Society was present and advised she was asking for the same amount as last year, which was \$7,000.00.

Treasure Valley Transit – Terri Lindenberg, Executive Director

Terri Lindenberg was present and advised that they are asking for \$44,000.00 this year.

Senior Center/Meals on Wheels – Lisa Simpson, Business Manager

Lisa Simpson and Dan Collins were present and advised they are asking for the same amount as last year, \$7,000.00 for each program—the Senior Center and Meals on Wheels.

CONSENT AGENDA

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Councilman Harjo said that he spoke with Chief Moore and Brian Reed, Fire Marshall, regarding Item E, and he would like to pull this item to discuss.

Councilman Brennan said that he would like to pull Item I to discuss.

Councilman Harjo made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda while pulling Items E and I for discussion. Councilman Brennan seconded the motion. The vote goes as follows: Councilman Brennan; aye, Councilwoman Wirkkala; aye, Councilwoman Garvey; aye, Councilman Harjo; aye. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

1) Action Item: Deliberation/Decision regarding Idaho Power's easement request.

Councilman Brennan made a motion to table this for further discussion with Idaho Power and City Staff. Councilman Harjo seconded the motion. The vote goes as follows: Councilwoman Garvey; aye, Councilman Harjo; aye, Councilwoman Wirkkala; aye, Councilman Brennan; aye. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

2) Action Item: Deliberation/Decision regarding MHC 6-6-17(D)(7), with regards to the quantity of hens allowed on one parcel of property.

Tiffany Belt, City Clerk explained that per a conversation with Legal, Section A was recommended to stay as it is a defense mechanism for residents who already have livestock.

Councilwoman Wirkkala made a motion to approve MHC 6-6-17 with the changes that were currently reflected. Councilman Harjo seconded the motion. The vote goes as follows: Councilman Brennan; aye, Councilman Harjo; aye, Councilwoman Wirkkala; aye, Councilwoman Garvey; aye. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Items removed from the Consent Agenda

Item E: Approve the Emergent Service Agreement and Mountain Home Fire Department and authorize the Mayor to sign all required documents.

Councilman Harjo stated that Chief Moore gave the Council a memo that provided more context to the Emergent Services contract in packet.

Mark Moore, Fire Chief, said that the request was to enter into contract with Emergent, it was a records management system, and there was not one in place at the time. He said the one thing it was capable of doing that was not mentioned was it had the ability to input the GIS locations of hydrants.

Councilwoman Wirkkala asked what the cost would be.

Chief Moore said that it would be roughly \$300.00 a year and would be a reoccurring charge.

Councilman Harjo asked if Chief Moore he would ask Emergent Services to separate out the EMS terminology out of the contract, being that that was not a function that we would utilize.

There was a discussion between Council and Legal regarding the "muddiness" of the contract and lack of cost reflection and how to proceed.

Councilman Brennan made a motion to table this request for clarification on the contract. Councilwoman Wirkkala seconded the motion. The vote goes as follows: Councilwoman Wirkkala;

aye, Councilwoman Garvey; aye, Councilman Brennan; aye, Councilman Harjo; aye. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Item I: Approve Staff to set a public hearing date to consider adopting a resolution or ordinance authorizing the filing of a Petition for Judicial Confirmation under the Idaho Judicial Confirmation Law to confirm the power of the City to construct and finance an open access fiber optic network #2.

Councilman Brennan said that he did not believe LID #1 had been successfully completed and would like to see it completed before he was willing to approve starting the next one. He requested that this be tabled indefinitely until LID #1 was finished.

Tiffany Belt asked for clarification on "indefinitely", like when the final person make the final payment in 12-years or something else.

Councilman Brennan said until we get paid back and it showed to be successful, however that was defined, but once we received the money and the City can turn that into LID #2.

Mayor Sykes said that this ask was to just go to the judge to see if they would even grant us another LID, but he understood.

Councilman Brennan made a motion to table this item indefinitely until LID #1 is completed through funding. Councilwoman Wirkkala seconded the motion. The vote goes as follows: Councilman Harjo, aye; Councilwoman Wirkkala, aye; Councilwoman Garvey, aye; Councilman Brennan, aye. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

SWEARING IN

1) Ty Larsen, Interim Chief of Police

Tiffany Belt, City Clerk, swore in Ty Larsen as the Interim Chief of Police and the meeting continued.

2) Jake Dudley, Interim Assistant Chief of Police

Tiffany Belt, City Clerk, swore in Jake Dudley as the Interim Assistant Chief of Police and the meeting continued.

ORDINANCE

Ordinance 1806 – Amending Mountain Home 6-6-17

Councilman Harjo made a motion to approve Ordinance 1806 and suspend the three-reading rule and hear the reading for its one and only reading time. Councilwoman Wirkkala seconded the motion. The vote goes as follows: Councilwoman Garvey; aye, Councilman Brennan; aye, Councilwoman Wirkkala; aye, Councilman Harjo; aye. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The City Clerk read the Ordinance for its first and final reading.

Mayor Sykes asked, "Does the Council wish this ordinance to pass."

The vote goes as follows: Councilman Harjo, aye; Councilwoman Wirkkala, aye; Councilman Brennan, aye; Councilwoman Garvey, aye. The motion passed by a unanimous vote and given #1806.

FINAL COMMENTS

- Mayor Sykes said that he wanted to give a shout out to City Staff, he had taken some time off and they continued to crush it. He said it did not go unnoticed when he would leave, but Staff continued to get stuff done.
- Councilman Brennan said that the pool was the best news to him. He said Tiffany and the other Staff had worked so hard on this. He was super excited to see the opening as this was one of the first projects he had seen from start to finish.
- Tiffany Belt said that it was important to get the doors open to the public as soon as possible. She said that Friday night would be open to City employees and their families come, to work through the kinks and then the soft opening to the public on Saturday. She continued to say that a ribbon cutting would happen in July as there were a lot of scheduling conflicts to work around.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 P.M. by orders from Mayor Sykes.



ATTEST:

Tiffany Belt, City Clerk

Rich Sykes, Mayor