

AGENDA
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON APRIL 11th, 2025 AT 9:00 A.M.
AT THE MOUNTAIN HOME CITY HALL
160 SOUTH 3RD EAST STREET

CALL MEETING TO ORDER/ESTABLISH A QUORUM

TOPIC

- 1) Action Item: Deliberation/Decision to unfreeze the unfilled police department lieutenant position.

ADJOURN

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN HOME, ELMORE COUNTY, IDAHO,
HELD ON APRIL 11th, 2025 AT 9:00 A.M.
AT THE MOUNTAIN HOME CITY HALL
160 SOUTH 3RD EAST STREET

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

TOPIC

1) Action Item: Deliberation/Decision to unfreeze the unfilled police department lieutenant position.

Councilman Harjo asked the Mayor what the approximate timeline to hire would be for this position, and also the empty Chief position when that time comes.

Mayor Sykes said that the Chief's last day was April 30, 2025, and his position was actively open. He said they had received some applications and that he needed to go over them with the Chief. He also wanted the Chief to be a part of the lieutenant selection process as well.

Councilwoman Garvey made a motion to approve the unfreezing of the lieutenant position.

Councilman Harjo said that the only question that had remained for him on unfreezing that day, in fairness to every party, was the feedback from the current Police Chief as well as the future Police Chief. He said that had been the missing part for him, binding the next Police Chief to a brand-new hire. He asked the Mayor if he would have wanted the incoming Chief to have some bearing on that decision as well.

Mayor Sykes said that he believed that the Police Department was professional enough, and Chief Thompson, in his opinion, would do a great job in whoever they chose to hire.

Councilman Harjo said that the primary reason behind the freezing of the position at the time had been based on the financial position the City might have been in if they had to stand up their own dispatch and determine where money could be allocated from. He said that, with the dynamic having changed, those concerns were still present, but good headway had been made with the County toward reaching a dispatch agreement through good faith measures.

Councilman Harjo asked the Mayor if he had any discussion with the County on restoring, or if the Council and the Mayor could all go have that discussion in the near future.

Mayor Sykes said that, per his recollection, he was told not to reach out and that the Council would work on that.

Councilman Harjo said that what he had asked for at the time, was that none of them go unilaterally. He said that the Mayor and Council should go as a unified front to discuss this topic with the County.

Mayor Sykes agreed with Councilman Harjo.

Councilman Brennan said that the work of the Council had shown some progress on getting the dispatch agreement back in some aspect, although the County had not made any indications that will come true.

Councilwoman Garvey said that we had contingency funds set aside to aid in these types of issues, but for this position to be frozen was hurting everyone. She said that the Police Department was not operating at full capacity, and the City and Council need to allow them to do so for public safety.

Councilwoman Wirkkala told Councilwoman Garvey that she agreed. She said that the Council had been taking the initiative to meet with the County and rebuild that relationship. She said that she thought the incoming Chief should have a say on who was his next in command.

Mayor Sykes said that once they have an active pool to look through with Chief Thompson, because of that he couldn't give a specific date.

Councilwoman Garvey said that she understood the sentiment behind allowing the new Police Chief to pick their own team. She pointed out that if the hire came from out of state, they might not know anyone, making it difficult to fairly and accurately make a good selection when new to the operation. She said the Police Department should be the one to decide, since they worked with these individuals every day. She also raised the concern that if it took say six months to find a new Chief, Lt. Larson would be left on his own during that time.

Councilwoman Wirkkala asked how many applications had come in currently.

Tiffany Belt, City Clerk, said that she wasn't sure of the exact number, no more than ten, but she believed that only two applicants had credentials.

Councilman Harjo said that the incoming Police Chief should have a say, but there is a balance to be had in this moment and the changing dynamic. He said that Councilwoman Garvey was correct, there were contingency funds set aside. He said that he also did not want to see Lt. Larson worked to the bone over the next few months while this process moves on. He said that he would second Councilwoman Garvey's motion. He also asked the Mayor to schedule a meeting with the County Commission to discuss the dispatch agreement.

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.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 A.M. by orders from Mayor Sykes.


Rich Sykes, Mayor

ATTEST:


Tiffany Belt, City Clerk

