

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

- 22334 CALL MEETING TO ORDER/ESTABLISH A QUORUM
- 22334 PRESENTATION
 1) Presentation Lost Paws TNR program
- 22335 RECOGNIZING PERSONS IN THE AUDIENCE
- 22336 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.
- 22336 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 - February 6, 2025
 Impact Fee Advisory Committee - February 19, 2025
 Special City Council - March 7, 2025
 Regular City Council - March 11, 2025
- B. Bills - 3/12/2025 to 3/25/2025 in the amount of \$499,458.88
- C. Treasurer's report for the period ending 2/28/2025
- D. Pass resolution #07-2025R authorizing amendment of interim warrant for Fiber Optics Local Improvement District #1 and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign
- 22337 OLD BUSINESS
- 22337 NEW BUSINESS
 1) Items removed from the Consent Agenda
 2) Action Item: Deliberation/decision regarding resolution #08-2025R providing clarification to 2025 golf fees
 3) Action Item: Deliberation/decision regarding the cooperative agreement between Elmore County and the City regarding the Animal Control Center and authorize the Mayor, City Clerk, and Chief of Police to sign.
- 22340 FINAL COMMENTS
- 22340 ADJOURN

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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN HOME, ELMORE COUNTY, IDAHO,
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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 March 25th, 2025. A quorum was established with, Councilwoman Garvey, Councilman Harjo, and Mayor Sykes being present. Councilwoman Wirkkala and Councilman Brennan by phone.

PRESENTATION

1) Presentation: Lost Paws TNR program

Beverly King and Shannon Evans with Lost Paws TNR came forward to discuss the importance of amending the City ordinance to allow participation of trap, neuter, and return within City limits.

Shannon Evans said that they are here to request clarification on whether the City Ordinance cited in the Chief of Police's letter, specifically 6-6-4B and 6-6-13, applies to TNR programs. She said that Danniele Strain, Animal Control Center Supervisor, ordinance 6-6-4B limits the number of cats per household to 3, and 6-6-13 addresses animals running at large. She said that they seek to understand whether these ordinances were written specifically for feral and stray cats that are unowned or if they are meant to address family pets. She continued to answer statements addressed in the Chief of Police's letter.

Shannon Evans continued by saying that they are not asking for funding from the City, although that would be greatly appreciated, they are requesting that they be permitted to continue their efforts. She asked if they are not allowed to continue, they asked what the City's plan along with Animal Control, to help these cats.

Shannon Evans read several letters from members of the community in support of the TNR program. She then asked the Mayor and Council if they had any questions they'd like to ask.

Councilwoman Garvey asked if a person is taking on feral cats, why can't they take on the responsibility of spaying or neutering those cats?

Shannon Evans said that more often than not, these cats showed up, and people took care of them, which caused more cats to show up. She said that most people were not educated on how to handle this or could not afford it, and that was where this program stepped in.

Councilwoman Garvey asked why the City needs to change its ordinance if you can just bring the cat to the vet.

Shannon Evans said that she and Beverly King were previously part of another organization that did TNR, and their board came to them and informed them that they were told by law enforcement that they were no longer allowed to provide that service, as it was illegal. She said that they are just trying to make sure that they are following the law. She said that they were told they could trap the cats and get them neutered, but it was the return part that was against the ordinances.

Councilman Harjo said that he was part of the Council and Staff that helped rewrite 6-6 of the City ordinances. He said during that rewrite, they went extensively through State law and compared it to other municipalities around the State to make sure that the City was in alignment with the rest of the State. He said he went through all of his notes, and he could not find any reference to any ordinances within the State that promote the release.

Councilman Harjo went on to describe places in the City that have large
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feral cat populations and how business owners have complained of them being a nuisance due to urine and feces. He asked about the ongoing maintenance of health that goes on after the cat has been treated by medical care and released, if there is any.

Shannon Evans said she wanted to address the nuisance issue and that she sympathized with the business owners, but the alternative to not fixing them is that their numbers continue to grow. She said that she hasn't studied the laws and ordinances for the State, but other cities in Idaho are participating in TNR programs, and that there has to be a way to work through it. She said that as far as the ongoing care after the release, the colonies they are helping with have caretakers. She said she gets calls all the time from caretakers asking them for help when an issue arises, and they help.

Councilman Brennan said the term "controlled colony" sounds like ownership to him.

Shannon Evans explained that controlled colony is a phrase that rescuers and trappers use to say that they started with this colony and none of them were fixed, and now all of them are fixed, it's controlled and sustained, and there won't be any more babies.

Councilwoman Wirkkala asked that Shannon Evans and Beverly King stay until the end of the meeting, as she has something she wants to get on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Councilwoman Garvey said that they need to look at several things, and get clarification on feral cats, as the definition states that a feral animal may or may not be owned by a person.

RECOGNIZING PERSONS IN THE AUDIENCE

- Tyler Merryman said that he really likes the trap and neuter part of the TNR program, but does not like the release part. He said they have a lot of cat allergies in his household, and the feral cats get onto his patio furniture. He also mentioned urine and feces problems, as well as that his dog had been attacked on his property.
- Shannon Evans responded to Tyler Merryman's comments about farmers wanting cats, but it's not as simple as dropping them off at barns. She said she has reached out to farmers to see if they are interested in barn cats and hasn't had much luck in that front.
- Bill Vanhandle wanted to continue the discussion of creating an airport overlay zone. He said that he was encouraged by Councilwoman Wirkkala's acknowledgement of the benefits of industry coming to Mountain Home, and wanted to know if that support includes industry coming to citizen's private property.
- Crystal Moore stated that she resides in the county and was strongly in favor of the TNR program. She said she wanted to speak on behalf of the animals and the cruelty that she had seen on Facebook and that she had seen firsthand. She said that they do need to get the population under control and find homes for them. She also mentioned that there was someone who was trapping cats and immediately killing them, whether they are stray or someone else's pet.
- Beverly King said that they had done a TNR over the weekend for cats that had been abandoned by someone who had moved. She said that they were told the person who had abandoned these cats had worked for the Sheriff's department. She said that she was currently fostering them and working to get them to a shelter.
- Lorrice Akers asked if TNR isn't acceptable and these cats are a nuisance, why was the Animal Shelter not doing anything.

- Nesha Merryman said that they went to the Animal Shelter and were told that it was illegal for people to feed cats outside of their property, and they were given a live trap to place on their property, and that Animal Control would come pick them up.

- Decker Sanders said that for several years, he and his wife had made their yard a habitat that would attract a lot of wild birds. He said that they have about 40 quail that nest in his backyard. He said that there is a cat that has become a predator, that has even gone after his dog. He said it had been previously trapped, and several months later, this same cat returned. He tried to get in touch with Animal Control to trap it again, but was not able to. He trapped it himself and took it to Animal Control, and was told not to do that again, going forward, without getting in touch with Animal Control first.

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 said that he received a message on his personal Facebook page regarding TNR from a gentleman named Les and emailed it on to the City Clerk, the Mayor, and the City Attorney for it to be entered as public record.

- Councilman Brennan said that he's had written correspondence with Terri Manduca, Paula Riggs, and Marcella Trueba about New Business #2.

CONSENT AGENDA

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Councilwoman Wirkkala asked if the resolution could be explained in layman's terms for the citizens to understand why they would approve this resolution.

Tiffany Belt, City Clerk, said that the resolution is because the date of the interim financing for the LID has expired, so while they are closing it out, they have to extend that date.

Councilman Harjo said he had a brief discussion via email with Tiffany Belt regarding a change by interlineation for the meeting minutes from March 11, 2025, to correct a misquote by the speaker at the time.

Councilwoman Garvey made a motion to approve the consent agenda and change through interlineation the verbiage mentioned by Councilman Harjo. Councilman Harjo seconded the motion.

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.
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OLD BUSINESSNEW BUSINESS1) Items removed from the Consent Agenda

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

2) Action Item: Deliberation/decision regarding resolution #08-2025R providing clarification to 2025 golf fees.

Councilwoman Garvey said that the only changes made to this were that weekday passes are now Monday through Friday instead of Monday through Thursday and how tournament and league payouts for season pass holders.

Mayor Sykes said that he agreed that they had a great meeting with great dialogue. He asked for clarification on whether changing Monday through Thursday was due to TJ Gomez's, the Golf Pro's, request.

Councilwoman Garvey said the problem was that one spot stated weekday passes were available Monday through Friday, while another stated Monday through Thursday. She said it needed to be clarified, that it had always been weekdays, Monday through Friday.

Tiffany Belt said that they did some digging and found that between the 2019 and 2021 seasons, the language on the top became apparent on every resolution from that date forward. She said prior to 2019, a weekday was Monday through Friday.

Councilwoman Garvey said that in the meeting, the discussion was to honor it because it was not clear, and that so many people had already purchased their weekday passes, or that they needed to offer refunds. She said that next year it can be changed, but season pass holders need to be informed before they purchase their passes. She also said that league play and tournaments are covered by season pass holders.

Councilman Brennan added to the discussion of the definition of Friday and where it falls, and the definition of weekdays and weekends. He said that he remembers clearly that TJ Gomez came to the City Council and recommended that they move Friday to being defined as weekend play. He said that the Council followed suit with his recommendation at the time. He said that in his email correspondence with Terri Manduca that she confirmed in email that TJ Gomez himself suggested charging weekend rates on Fridays, but her email said specifically to transient golfers to drive revenue to the City. He said this was a 2019 discussion for a 2020 implementation. He said that he would like to keep Friday defined as weekend play. He said to maybe make an exception to this year, but to correct the resolution.

Councilwoman Garvey said that Councilman Brennan is half correct. She said that there are two different things that are being discussed. She said that historically, if she went to play and did not have a season pass, and was going on a Friday, that was considered weekend rates. She said that is still how they have been and will continue to operate. She said what she is discussing is the weekday pass and that weekday passholders can golf Monday through Friday.

Councilman Brennan asked why they are defined differently.

Councilwoman Garvey said that it has always been that Fridays are weekend rates for non-pass holders and that it's just the weekday passes that got murky.

Mayor Sykes clarified that there is an unlimited pass and that there is a weekday pass that can be purchased.

Councilman Harjo said that they had a lot of clarification on process and procedure as well as the limited amount of exception to be made on to Council Minutes - March 25th, 2025

rectify unclear verbiage on the passes and resolutions. He said that coming out of that meeting, the week day pass was to be Monday through Friday, and the adult unlimited pass counts towards tournament and league play, as well as the weekday pass for league play.

Councilwoman Garvey said that she feels we should honor these changes for those that have already paid for their passes for the season.

Councilman Harjo said that they also defined that twilight fees will begin two hours before sunset, 7 days a week, but that is always subject to the Golf Managers discretion.

Councilwoman Garvey made a motion to approve the deliberation/decision regarding resolution #08-2025R providing clarification to 2025 golf fees as written. Councilman Harjo seconded the motion.

Councilman Brennan asked Tiffany Belt if this was a resolution that needed to come back annually or if it was only mandated if they wanted to change the fees.

Tiffany Belt said that if you want to amend the fees, the resolution will need to come back.

Councilman Brennan said that he would like to see it done differently but that he would go with the motion as is, but he stated for the record that he would be asking for it to come back to Council if that happens before January 2026.

The following vote was recorded:

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

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

3) Action Item: Deliberation/decision regarding the cooperative agreement between Elmore County and the City regarding the Animal Control Center and authorize the Mayor, City Clerk, and Chief of Police to sign.

Councilwoman Garvey asked if Councilmembers Brennan and Wirkkala received the edits that she sent to them. She said that she was able to get the opinion of Legal, he provided edits, and he said that the rest looked good.

Councilman Harjo said that it was briefly discussed with Councilwoman Garvey about language regarding invoicing and due dates. He asked if Legal could add a passage with the suggestions of the Clerk and Treasurer of when that is appropriate. He said that it is his only suggestion for an addition.

Councilwoman Garvey said that that can easily be added, but that we need to figure out how they are going to bill, whether that's monthly, quarterly, whatever is easiest to figure out.

Paula Szafranski, City Treasurer, said she would follow whatever the Council decides.

Mayor Sykes said that he thought yearly would probably be the easiest, just send one bill.

Paula Szafranski said that yearly would create outstanding revenue for the audit, and we don't want to do that.

Councilwoman Garvey and Paula Szafranski agreed that quarterly would

be good.

Councilman Brennan asked that we keep in mind Councilman Harjo's suggestion of an intergovernmental agreement with the County on waiving fees in both directions as billing is discussed.

Tiffany Belt stated that she understands the intergovernmental agreement to waive fees. However, the Animal Shelter and Building Department fees are two completely different pots, and as Staff, that's going to get messy. She said that she can guarantee the City's auditors are not going to like it.

Councilman Brennan asked for clarification from Jon Thompson, Police Chief, on a section on the agreement. He asked what his intent was from changing three dogs to three kennels.

Chief Thompson said that it was changed to three kennels from three dogs if they have a situation where the County brings in three dogs from one household. Typically, those dogs are housed in the same kennel. He said that he doesn't think the intent is to restrict the County from other kennels. He said this change opens up more access to the County.

Councilwoman Garvey said that she will figure out the best course of action for where to add the language requested by Councilman Harjo, and she will email it out once it's been cleaned up.

Councilwoman Garvey made a motion to approve the cooperative agreement between Elmore County and the City regarding the Animal Control Center with the pending edits.

Councilman Brennan said that he'd like to see reserved space for potential County animals, rather than only if they aren't full of City animals can they come in. He said he'd like to see more time and attention spent on that before approval.

Councilwoman Garvey said that language is not even in the current MOU. She said that it's struck out that portion in the edits, and she added per the Chief's request that if the Animal Shelter is at capacity, the County understands that this agreement is based on overall availability of space.

Councilman Brennan said that he would like to see some kind of guaranteed space for the County.

Chief Thompson said that he thinks the revision stating that they would give up to three kennels is more than sufficient. He said it is a City facility staffed by City employees and is here for the benefit of the City. He said that staff does not want to get into a position where they are flooded with more County dogs that they can't take in City dogs.

Councilman Harjo said that he agrees with Councilman Brennan's request.

Councilwoman Garvey said that she will rewrite with those edits and send it out.

Councilman Harjo asked Tiffany Belt, with edits coming back, if it needs to be brought back in its full and complete state or with the minor edits that will be made to approve.

Tiffany Belt said that would be the best way.

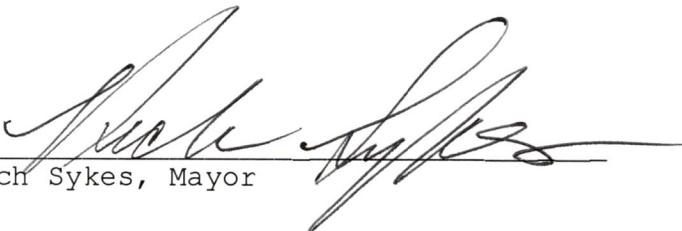
Mayor Sykes stated that this will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

FINAL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Wirkkala asked to add to the April 22nd agenda to discuss possibly implementing a City ordinance for TNR. She said that pushing it out a month should give Legal time to research the State law concern, as mentioned earlier.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 P.M. by orders from Mayor Sykes.


Rich Sykes, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Tiffany Belt, City Clerk

