

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
January 24, 2019 6:30 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall

In attendance: Mayor Anne Watson (Chair) and City Manager Bill Fraser, Councilors Conor Casey, Ashley Hill, Glen Hutcheson, Jack McCullough, Dona Bate. Rosie Krueger. Deputy City Clerk Sheila Healy acted as secretary.

The mayor called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

19-018. Without objection the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

19-019. Offering comments at General Business and appearances were Richard Sheir and Dan Dickerson.

19-020. Councilor McCullough moved approval of the consent agenda. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

19-021, 19-022, 19-023, 19-024.

Discussion regarding appointments to the Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee, Investment Committee, Tree Board Committee and the Solid Waste Management Committee was opened.

Shaina Kasper spoke regarding her candidacy for the Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee

Solid Waste Management Committee candidates Donna Barlow Casey, Ellen Cheney and Kurt Ericksen addressed the council.

Councilor Hill moved to go into executive session pursuant to *Title I, VSA §313* to discuss appointments to city commissions. Councilor McCullough seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor McCullough moved to come out of executive session, seconded by Councilor Hutchinson. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilor McCullough moved to appoint James Findlay Shirras to the Tree Board, Luis Cecere to the Investment Committee, Shaina Kasper and Jannell Perry to the Social & Economic Justice Committee, and Ellen Cheney to the Solid Waste Management Board. Councilor Hill seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

19-025. Hannah Blackmer, Amy Macrellis, Jess Turner, Eric Bigglestone, Bob Watson, Karen Weisman, and Dan Groberg participated in the discussion of the Farmer's Market layout. Councilor Bate moved to accept the layout as presented, Councilor McCullough seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- 19-026. State's Attorney Rory Thibault offered a presentation/update to the council. Discussion followed. No formal action taken.
- 19-027. After brief discussion, Councilor Bate moved to set the Annual City Meeting for Tuesday, March 5th, 7am-7pm in the City Hall Auditorium. Councilor Hill seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- 19-028. Mayor Watson opened the second public hearing on the budget. City Manager Bill Fraser opened the discussion. Offering public comments were: Nancy Chickering, Dan Dickerson, Tasha Ranjo, John Snell, and Polly Nichol.
- Councilor Casey moved to add a full-time parks position to the budget, to begin in January- six months into the fiscal year. Councilor McCullough seconded. Discussion followed.
- Mayor Watson called a recess at 8:30. The meeting reconvened at 8:35.
- Discussion continued and included Dan Dickerson. Councilor Hutcheson moves to amend Councilor Casey's motion by moving start date for new parks position to the beginning of the fiscal year. Councilor Bate seconded. Motion failed on a 2-4 vote (Nay: Councilors Casey, Hill, Krueger, and McCullough. Aye: Councilors Bate, Hutcheson)
- After more discussion, the underlying motion carried 4-2 (Nay: Councilors Hill and Krueger. Aye: Councilors Bate, Casey, Hutcheson, and McCullough). Mayor Watson closed the public hearing.
- Councilor McCullough moved to adopt the budget as reflected by changes made tonight. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried 4-2 (Nay: Councilors Hill and Krueger. Aye: Councilors Bate, Casey, Hutcheson, and McCullough).
- 19-029. The Mayor opened the charter amendment public hearing. Participating in discussion were Richard Faise and Tim Heney, The mayor then closed the public hearing.
- Councilor McCullough moved to approve the language with the addition of the word "energy." Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 19-030. The public hearing on the warning of the ballot was opened. After brief discussion which included Finance Director Todd Provencher (regarding changes to article 5 (budget) approved earlier in the meeting), the Mayor closed the public hearing, hearing no public comment.
- 19-031. Councilor Bate moved to approve the proposed warning as amended. Councilor Hutcheson seconded. After a brief discussion with Finance Director Provencher, the motion was amended without objection to read "as presented except that article five will include the number 9,466,121 and article 14 will add the word "energy" between "minimum" and "efficiency." The motion carried unanimously.

19-033. Councilor Krueger reinforced the need to assist federal employees who are struggling due to the government shut down. She encouraged the people of Montpelier to run for public office.

Councilor Hill reinforced the need to assist federal employees who are struggling due to the government shut down.

Councilor Hutchinson promoted be at Bagitos Wednesday mornings and expressed excitement about the new public arts commission.

Councilor Bate provided updates on the work being done by the Regional Planning Commission.

Councilor McCullough added that he is talking to members of the Legislative House Committee on Government Operations about Montpelier's charter changes. Brief discussion followed.

18. 19-034. The mayor reminded councilors to fill out the evaluation by February 7th 6:30

19-035. The Deputy City Clerk reminded councilors to sign the liquor license applications.

19-036. The City Manager reported that the federal government shutdown has hampered the city's ability to help the wastewater treatment plant.

The mayor adjourned meeting at 9:09pm.