

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
February 13, 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. City Clerk John Odum acted as secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 6:33

- 19-040. Review and approve agenda. The agenda was approved with the inclusion of an extra executive session regarding a disciplinary matter.
- 19-042. Councilor McCullough moved to approve the consent agenda. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- 19-043. Public Works Director Tom McArdle and City Engineer Kurt Motyka came forward for a discussion on the city infrastructure. No formal action taken.
- 19-044. The Council opened a discussion of use of the “North Branch East” lots. Laura Gephardt of the Montpelier Development Corporation, Kevin Casey of the Planning Department, and Elizabeth Courtney added comments. Councilor Krueger moved to direct the city manager pursue the interim plan as presented which will retain long term options for either building/parking, open space or some combination of both. Additionally, direct the Manager to conduct a planning process which considers various needs and land uses throughout the downtown using the suggestions that the city manager’s working group came up with as a basis for this work. Councilor McCullough seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- 19-046. Kevin Casey opened a brief discussion of the Revolving Loan Fund Reorganization. Councilor moved to direct the City Manager, staff, and committees to prepare updated guidelines for each of the new proposed loan funds and to present updated guidelines and procedures for Council approval over the next 3-6 months. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- 19-047. Co-chairs Peter Kelman and Julia Chafetz of the Social and Economic Justice Advisory Committee came forward for a discussion of the committee’s charge. Councilor McCullough moved the council approve the proposed charge (attached to the agenda). Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 19-050. The council discussed “community Indicators.” Laura Gephardt, Peter Kelman and Laura Chafetz offered comments. Councilor Casey moved the council adopt the community indicators as amended. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor called a recess at 7:54. The meeting reconvened at 8:01.

- 19-048. Assistant City Manager Sue Allen, Recreation Director Arne McMullen, Chris Hancock, and Ken Ballard (of Ballard, King and Associates) came forward for a presentation and discussion of recreation building options. No formal action was taken.
- 19-049. Public Message Board. Councilor Krueger took point on a discussion of a possible city internet discussion board and possibly recommending changes to the public meeting laws to accommodate it. Councilor Hill moved to direct city staff to reach out to the Secretary of State's office to provide an advisory opinion about the current state of the law and what nuance may exist there to allow for something like this. Councilor Krueger seconded and the motion carried 5-1 (Councilor Bate voting nay). More discussion followed.
- 19-052. Councilor Hutcheson noted his weekly constituent meetings at Bagito's. Councilor Casey scooter noted that a Bird scooter survey underway was underway, and that he had re-engaged in his sister city efforts. Councilor Bate noted interest on the transportation committee about the scooters, and noted a recent positive meeting on microtransit. Councilor Krueger shared her hope for progress on Ledgewood Terrace's status and a disposition a city-owned parcel on Berlin Street. Councilor McCullough noted concerns he has received from constituents and noted the prompt response from city staff. Councilor Hill echoed the sentiment.
- 19-054. The City Clerk reported that early voting is light.
- 19-056. Councilor Hill moved the council enter Executive Session to discuss personnel, litigation and personnel in accordance with Title I, VSA §313, Executive Sessions (a)(2). Councilor McCullough seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Hearing no objection, the Mayor returned the meeting to open session and subsequently adjourned.