

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
March 27, 2019 6:00pm
City Council Chambers, City Hall

In attendance: Mayor Anne Watson (Chair), Councilors Dona Bate, Conor Casey, Lauren Hierl, Ashley Hill, Glen Hutcheson, and Jack McCullough, and City Manager Bill Fraser. City Clerk John Odum acted as secretary.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Council Vice President Bate, at 6:00pm. Mayor Watson and Councilor Hill were not present.

19-098. Without objection, the Chair declared the proposed agenda approved by unanimous consent.

19-099. The council took up the matter of the appeal on the construction of the parking garage. Councilor McCullough moved the Council find that premature general public knowledge of Council discussion would clearly place the public body at a substantial disadvantage in light of pending or probable civil litigation to which the public body is or may be a party. Councilor Hutcheson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (4-0). Mayor Watson arrived and took over the gavel at 6:06.

Councilor McCullough moved the Council go into executive session in accordance with Title I, VSA §313, Executive Sessions (a)(1)(E) to discuss pending litigation to which the city is party. Councilor Hutcheson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Hill arrived at 6:20.

Councilor Hutcheson moved to return to open session. Councilor McCullough seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 7:08.

19-101. Councilor McCullough moved approval of the consent agenda. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor called a recess at 7:10. The meeting was reconvened at 7:15.

19-102. Planning Director Mike Miller introduced the zoning public hearing, which was opened by the mayor at 7:28. Commenting were Kirby Keeton, Will Schebaum, and Michael Howard. The Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:36. Councilor Bate moved the council adopt the interim zoning amendments recommended by the planning commission regarding sections 3007 and 3203. Councilor Hierl seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

19-103. Finance Director Todd Provencher, City accountants Ruth Dockter and Heather Graves, and Theresa Kadinsky of Fothergill Seagall and Valley came forward to present the audit report. After discussion, Councilor Casey moved to accept the audit report and Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- 19-104. Fred Connor came forward for the discussion of his request for tax stabilization. After discussion, Councilor Bate moved to amend the April 2018 tax stabilization award to Connor Brothers at the Montpelier Armory LLC to level 4 tax stabilization benefit to 50% for 10 years. Councilor McCullough seconded, and the motion carried 4-2, with Councilors Casey and Hill voting nay.
- 19-105. Tim Labombard, Larry Moquin, and Danielle Bombardier came forward for discussion of a possible responsible employer ordinance. Comments were offered by Tiffany and Daniel Beauvin. No formal action was taken.
- 19-100. Tom Mulholland came forward to discuss an issue with unplowed snow near his residence.
- 19-106. City Manager Bill Fraser opened the discussion of a possible rental unit inspection program. Planning Director Miller came forward for the discussion. Kevin Casey participated, as well as Laura Gephardt. No formal action taken.
- 19-107, 19-108 For a discussion of appoints to the Tree Board and the Conservation Commission, Councilor McCullough moved the Council conduct the discussion in Executive Session in accordance with Title I, VSA §313, Executive Sessions (a)(3) the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 9:34.
- Councilor Hill moved the Council come out of executive session. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 9:46. Councilor McCullough then moved the Council make the following appointments: Shawn White to Tree Board, Stephen Syz to Conservation Commission. Councilor Hill seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 19-110. Councilor Bate reported that the microtransit group has been meeting and will put out a white paper. They are also discussing routes with GMTA routes. Brief discussion followed before she further noted that the Park Commission was pleased with their new truck.
- Councilor Casey reported on the status of the non-citizen voting charter change proposal, suggesting council action.
- Councilor Hutcheson was pleased about the river thawing and also reported that he had great conversations with Another Way. Finally, he reminded listeners of his weekly constituent meetings at Bagito's.
- Councilor Hierl offered a brief Social Justice Committee report.
- 19-111. The Mayor broached the idea of changing any new or improved Recreation Department facility to a biodiesel heating system. She also noted that the City Hall art committee had an upcoming meeting. Brief discussion followed.

- 19-113. City Manager's Report on an upcoming vote regarding the International Building Code for which Montpelier would have votes.
- 19-109. Other business: Councilor Hill moved to designate the City Manager, the Building Inspector, the Fire Chief and the Planning Director as Montpelier's designees to vote on the International Building Code. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Without objection, the Mayor adjourned the meeting by acclaim at 9:59.