

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
February 11, 2015
City Council Chambers**

In attendance: Mayor John Hollar (Chair), Councilors Justin Turcotte, Dona Bate, Anne Watson, Tom Golonka, Thierry Guerlain and Jessica Edgerly Walsh. City Manager William Fraser was in attendance. City Clerk John Odum served as Secretary of the meeting.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

- 15-037. Councilor Watson moved approval of the proposed agenda sans item 5 (reviewing the Hazard Mitigation Plan) at the City Manager's request. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 6:31.
- 15-038. City Manager Fraser announced that Tom McArdle had been hired as the new Director of Public Works.
- 15-039. Councilor Watson moved the Council approve the Consent Agenda, and was seconded by Councilor Guerlain. Councilor Turcotte asked that items (c) and (g) (approval of the Annual Certificate of Highway Mileage and the Summary Memo and Budget Status Reports for the General Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Cemetery Fund, Parks Fund, Parking Fund, Senior Center Fund and District Heat Fund) be tabled for later discussion, and the motion on the table was so amended without objection. The motion as amended passed on a 5-0 vote (Councilor Golonka abstained, citing a conflict of interest regarding the liquor licenses).
- 15-041. The Council considered the following candidates for appointments to the Energy Advisory Committee: Theodore Blair Fetter, Cara Robeck, Kate Stephenson, and Daniel Crisp. A discussion of expanding the committee membership and appointing all those interested (as well as the Bicycle Advisory Committee) followed. Candidates Cara Robeck and Dan Crisp addressed the Council. Further discussion followed.
- Councilor Watson moved that the Council enter into executive session in accordance with statute. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 6:46.
- Councilor Watson moved the Council return to open session, and was seconded by Councilor Bate. The motion carried unanimously at 6:52.
- Councilor Watson moved that the Council appoint Theodore Blair Fetter, Cara Robeck, Kate Stephenson, and Daniel Crisp to the Energy Advisory Committee, and was seconded by Councilor Guerlain. After a brief discussion, the motion was approved unanimously at 6:54.
- 15-042. The Council considered appointment to the Bicycle Advisory Committee. Candidates Jennifer Gordon, Suzanne Eikenberry and Dan Homeier all addressed the Council.

Councilor Golonka moved the Council appoint Jennifer Gordon, Suzanne Eikenberry and Dan Homeier to the Bicycle Advisory Committee. Councilor Watson seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously at 7:03.

- 15-043. Assistant City Manager Jessie Baker was joined before the Council by Peter Wells and Justin Dextrateur to review the development teams' recommendation of DEW Construction Corporation as the 1 Taylor Street Construction Manager At-Risk.

Councilor Golonka moved the Council authorize the City Manager to negotiate and enter into a contract with DEW Construction Corporation to provide Construction Manager At-Risk services for the 1 Taylor Street project. The motion was seconded by Councilor Edgerly Walsh before passing unanimously at 7:13.

- 15-044. The City Manager briefed the Council on the status of the proposal to integrate the Winooski and North Branch Rivers back into the landscape of downtown Montpelier, indicating that the discussion on whether to go forward with the proposal would extend into next year. A brief discussion followed. Assistant City Manager Baker added to the discussion. Ben Eastwood rose to comment.

- 15-045. Items (c) and (g) from the consent agenda (approval of the Annual Certificate of Highway Mileage and the Summary Memo and Budget Status Reports for the General Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Cemetery Fund, Parks Fund, Parking Fund, Senior Center Fund and District Heat Fund) were taken from the table for discussion. DPW Director McArdle, City Manager Fraser, and Assistant City Manager Baker fielded questions from Councilor Turcotte.

Councilor Turcotte moved the Council approve consent agenda items (c) & (g). The motion was seconded by Councilor Watson, and carried unanimously at 7:34.

- 15-046. Councilor Bate encouraged citizens to prepare for the City Meeting (noting the upcoming community access television candidate panels), and had questions about the Annual Report.

Councilor Guerlain asked if councilors would prefer receiving the weekly Manager's Report exclusively via email (and was met with positive responses all around).

Councilor Turcotte congratulated Mr. McArdle and thanked DPW for their snow removal work. He also noted the Senior Center fundraising dinner on Friday.

Councilor Watson passed along constituent concerns about sidewalks and received a brief report from the City Manager on the matter. She also noted she was the winner of a Rowland Fellowship Award.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh reported that the crossing button near the Pioneer Street Bridge wasn't working.

- 15-047. Mayor Hollar congratulated Councilor Watson on the award. He took an informal poll of

Councilors regarding preferences for art on the walls of the Council Chambers.

15-048. The City Clerk reported that taxes were due on Tuesday the 17th, due to the holiday. He also indicated that early voting was underway, and that there would be early voting hours the Saturday before Town Meeting Day (February 28th)

15-049. The City Manager reported on the new form and guidelines for Police Department complaints. He also reported that the new winter parking ban system was going “okay,” and that there have been challenges. A discussion followed.

The Council took up the issue of contract negotiation items which may include lease of real estate, District Heat Contract with State and Police Union negotiations. Councilor Watson moved that the Council find that premature general public knowledge of the Council’s discussions would place the City at a substantial disadvantage. Councilor Turcotte seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 7:56.

Councilor Watson moved that the Council enter executive session under statute, to discuss the aforementioned issue of contract negotiation items which may include lease of real estate, District Heat Contract with State and Police Union negotiations. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded the motion, which carried unanimously at 7:57.

Councilor Watson moved the Council return to open session and was seconded by Councilor Edgerly Walsh. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Watson moved the Council enter into executive session in accordance with statute, for the purpose of discussing the City Manager’s annual evaluation. Councilor Golonka seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Councilor Watson moved the Council return to open session. Councilor Guerlain seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Councilor Bate moved the Council adjourn. Councilor Golonka seconded. The motion carried unanimously.