

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
June 8, 2016, 5:30 PM
City Council Chambers

In attendance: Mayor John Hollar (Chair), Councilors Justin Turcotte, Dona Bate, Anne Watson, Tom Golonka, Jean Olson and Anne Watson. Councilor Jessica Edgerly Walsh was not present. City Manager William Fraser was in attendance. City Clerk John Odum served as Secretary of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by the Mayor at 5:30. Members of the Planning Commission were also present for a concurrent meeting.

16-164. Planning and Development Director Michael Miller offered a presentation to initiate the discussion of the proposed expansion of the the Design Review District. Kim Cheney (Planning Commission Chair) and Jon Anderson (planning Commission Vice Chair), joined Mr. Miller at the front table.

Comments and concerns were offered from Dave Bellini, Ben Huffman, Sandy Vitzthum, Steve Murphy, Rebecca Copans, Arthur Foelsche, Joel Hartman, Al Richey, Susan Abdo, Charlie Wheeler, Ron Wild, Linda Benoit, Leslie Walz (Planning Commission member), Roger Weingarten, Mary Andes, Eileen Simpson (Planning Commission member), Ruth Hare, Diane Ziegler, Eric Gilbertson (Design Review Committee member), Kaj Samson and Devon Coleman (State Architectural Historian), There was some back and forth discussion between commenters, Councilors and Messrs. Miller and Anderson.

The Chair called for a recess at 7:33PM. The meeting reconvened at 7:43.

The discussion on Design Review continued, with statements from Bob Shiel, Jon Anderson, Kim Cheney, and further comment from Ben Huffman. No formal action was taken.

16-165. Hearing no objection, the proposed agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

16-167. After a brief discussion, Councilor Bate moved approval of the Consent Agenda, with the proposed street closings approved contingent on those streets' businesses having been informed. Councilor Watson seconded and the motion carried unanimously after further brief discussion.

16-168. The 2nd Reading/Public Hearing on the proposed Parking Ordinance amendment opened at 8:07. Tom McLeod spoke to the Council. After a brief discussion, Councilor Bate moved the Council continue the hearing to the July 13 meeting and was seconded by Councilor Turcotte. The motion carried unanimously at 8:13.

16-169. The Council received a power point presentation from consultant Peter Fairweather to initiate a discussion of the proposed Economic Development Strategic Plan. Participating in the discussion were Ruth Hare, Planning Director Miller, Montpelier Alive Director Ashley Witzenberger and Montpelier Alive Chair Sarah Jarvis.

Councilor Bate moved the Council adopt the Economic Development Strategic Plan and direct staff to put together a plan for implementation, including exploring the possibility of Montpelier Alive as a partner. The motion was seconded by Justin. Further discussion followed. The Chair ruled a proposed amendment from Councilor Turcotte to be out of order (amend to add that the plan should be added to the next meeting consent agenda).

The motion carried on a 4-2 vote (Councilors Golonka and Turcotte voting nay, all other councilors present, along with the Mayor, voting aye).

- 16-170. Planning Director Miller introduced a discussion on the city's Growth Center. Councilor Watson moved the Council approve the recommended revision to the growth center boundary for submission to the Downtown Board. Councilor Olson seconded. The motion carried 4-0 (Councilor Turcotte abstained).
- 16-171. Mr. Miller introduced the proposed new zoning and building fee schedule requested by the Council. A brief discussion followed. Councilor Golonka moved the Council accept the fees as recommended. Councilor Bate seconded. After further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.
- 16-172. There was brief discussion regarding the Council Goal "Keep Montpelier Affordable," but a complete discussion was informally postponed to a later meeting. No formal action was taken.
- 16-174. Councilor Bate noted her upcoming lack of availability. Councilor Olson expressed concerns about outreach to citizens affected by proposed Council actions.
- 16-176. The City Clerk noted that water/sewer bills were due on the 15th.
- 16-177. City Manager Fraser made note of the coming July 6 quick meeting. He also reported that Econo lodge had been cited for building violation, and that while an eminent domain action would not be viable, the housing authority may have some interest in trying to develop the property. He added that he had reached out to the Econo Lodge attorney. Some discussion followed.

Mr. Fraser went on to remind councilors of the coming personnel hearing next Tuesday (a brief discussion followed), noted the 21st century policing conference Friday at Capitol Plaza, commented on the need to set a meeting of the Water/Sewer Rate Committee soon, took note of the study of street topology underway, and finally indicated that Finance Director Sandra Gallup had announced she would be retiring.

Councilor Watson gave an update on the railroad pesticide spraying issue. A brief discussion followed.

Hearing no objection, the Chair adjourned the meeting my unanimous consent at 9:30PM.