

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
January 24, 2018, 6:00 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall

In attendance: Mayor John Hollar, City Manager Bill Fraser, Councilors Anne Watson, Ashley Hill, Rosie Krueger, Dona Bate, Justin Turcotte, and Jean Olson. City Clerk John Odum acted as secretary.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

18-027. Without objection, the proposed agenda was approved with the following amendments: Adding the Belladonna liquor license renewal request to the consent agenda. Adding an Amanda Pelkey Day proclamation to the consent agenda

18-028. Ben Eastwood expressed concerns about processes in regards to the recent incident at the High School. The City Manager offered a brief response.

18-029/18-047. Councilor Watson moved approval of the consent agenda, and was seconded by Councilor Hill. Without objection, the motion was amended at Councilor Turcotte's request to remove items B and C for consideration. The motion carried unanimously.

18-030. Mark Sousa of Green Mountain Transit came forward to discuss GMTA's budget request. After discussion, Councilor Watson moved to fund GMTA through the city budget at the same level as last year assuming the implementation of the proposed option 2. Motion died for lack of a second.

Councilor Hill moved to provide \$40,000 in the city budget to fund the GMTA line. Councilor Bate seconded. After further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

18-031. Members of the Montpelier Community Fund Board came forward to discuss their grant recommendations. Discussion followed. Councilor Hill moved to accept the Board's budget recommendations and was seconded by Councilor Turcotte. Motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor called a recess at 7:00. The meeting reconvened at 7:05.

18-032. City Manager Bill Fraser opened the budget discussion with a power point presentation.
18-033. Brief discussion followed. Montpelier-Roxbury School Superintendent Brian Ricca and
18-034. School Board Chair Jim Murphy offered a power point presentation on the proposed School budget. Discussion followed. The public hearing was formally opened. Councilors Watson and Kruger recused themselves from the school budget discussion. The City Clerk reviewed the proposed charter changes appearing on the ballot.

The public hearings for the budget, the proposed City Charter changes, the proposed bonds appearing on the ballot, and the petitions for ballot articles submitted to the clerk for consideration were opened in tandem at 7:34PM.

With no testimony from the public on the budget, the bonding ballot articles, the

proposed City Charter changes, or the ballot articles received by petition forthcoming, the Mayor closed the concurrent public hearings at 7:35PM.

- 18-035 The City Clerk reviewed the petitions for articles to be placed on the ballot that had passed the legal threshold for inclusion. After a brief discussion, no formal action was taken.
- 18-036. Jeremy Hansen came forward to discuss a regional internet fiber project through Central Vermont Internet (CVI). Discussion followed. Councilor Bate moved to place the following question on March Town Meeting Ballot: "Shall the City of Montpelier enter into a communications union district to be known as Central Vermont Internet, under the provisions of 30 V.S.A. Ch 82?" Councilor Watson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 18-037. The Mayor opened the public hearing on the proposed warning for the 2018 Annual City Meeting election. Hearing no comments from the public, the hearing was immediately closed.
- 18-038. Councilor Bate moved approval of the warning for the 2018 Annual City Meeting and was seconded by Councilor Turcotte. The motion carried unanimously.
- 18-042. The Mayor took consent items B) Approve Water/Sewer Bond Necessity Resolution, and C) Approve General Fund Bond Necessity Resolution, of the table. Following discussion, Councilor Bate moved to approve consent agenda items B and C, and Councilor Kruger seconded. The motion carried 5-1 (Councilor Turcotte voting nay).
- 18-041. The 1st reading of proposed changes to the sprinkler ordinance was opened. Councilor Kruger started the discussion. Fire Chief Bob Gowans, Kirby Keaton, Barbara Conrey, Ben Eastwood, Jim Libby, Gene Troya, Tim Heney, Phil Dodd, and Jesse Remick all offered comments.
- Councilor Olson moved to repeal the current city sprinkler ordinance until further review. Councilor Turcotte seconded. Discussion followed. Councilor Hill made a motion to postpone the motion until the next meeting and was seconded by Councilor Watson. Discussion followed. Motion carried unanimously. After further discussion, Councilor Hill moved that Council pass 1st reading and schedule 2nd reading for the next Council meeting. Councilor Watson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
- 18-039. Farmers Market representatives Karen Weisman, Ashton Kiral, and Alan Page came forward to discuss the proposal to move the Farmer's Market onto Main Street. Assistant City Manager Sue Allen and Police Chief Tony Facos participated in discussion. Councilor Bate moved approval of the proposed move by the Farmers Market to State Street for 2018, contingent upon meeting with all relevant department heads. Councilor Kruger seconded. After further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.
- 18-040. The Mayor opened the second public hearing on the proposed dog ordinance. At the request of Danis Regal, the second reading was recessed until the next Council meeting.

- 18-043. Councilor Bate started a brief discussion on the bike rack plan implementation from the alternative transportation fund. Councilor Turcotte acknowledged the work of the Police Department and the City Manager regarding the recent shooting at the high school. He also thanked staff for the updates to the web page. Councilor Kruger echoed Councilor Turcotte's comments on the incident at the school and encouraged city staff to take advantage of counseling services provided. Councilor Watson also thanked the Police Department for their response to the incident. She also expressed anticipation for the passage of the school bond and the repairs it will fund. Councilor Hill thanked citizens who came out to speak and applauded the community.
- 18-044. The Mayor noted that the city had endured much in recent days, also applauding the community.
- 18-045. The City Clerk noted that candidate petitions could be turned in beginning the next day, and that the deadline for filing was February 4th. He also noted the online voter guide.
- 18-046. The City Manager applauded the police and EMTs who responded to the incident. He also noted that he had emailed assessment materials to councilors.

Without objection, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 10:00PM