

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting**  
**April 25, 7:00 PM**  
**City Council Chambers, City Hall**

In attendance: Mayor Anne Watson, Councilors Dona Bate, Jack McCullough, Glen Hutcheson, Rosie Krueger, Conor Casey, and Ashley Hill (at 7:11), and City Manager Bill Fraser. City Clerk John Odum acted as secretary.

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The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.

- 18-132. The proposed agenda was approved by acclamation with amendments including the addendum (Item 18-145), an additional discussion of the Pocket Park, and a full discussion of the Farmers Market street closure.
- 18-133. Maurice Martineau addressed the Council on his concerns regarding a potential crosswalk on Pioneer and River Street, the lack of a bus shelter, and bikes on the sidewalk. Brief discussion followed.
- 18-134. Councilor Krueger abstained from discussing and voting on the consent agenda. Item h was pulled at Councilor Bate's request. Councilor McCullough moved approval and Councilor Casey seconded. The motion carried 4-0-1.

Councilor Hill arrived at 7:11PM.

A discussion of the Farmer's Market street closure plan was opened. Comments and concerns were shared by Karen Williams (Woodbury Mountain Toys), Nancy Martell (Pinky's), Sarah Lesser (Salaam), Jess Turner (Capital Kitchen) Lauren Parker (The North Branch) and Maurice Martineau. Discussion with Fire Chief Bob Gowans and Assistant City Manager Sue Allen followed.

Councilor Bate moved the Council make it a condition of proceeding as planned that the Farmers Market make an arrangement that makes it better for the stores for the first 3 weeks. After brief comments, Councilor Bate altered her motion to make it a condition of the Farmers Market using the closure of State Street to they go back to the setup they used in the trial, and that the Market come back to the Council after 3 weeks (without objection). Councilor McCullough seconded. Montpelier Alive Executive Director Dan Groberg spoke. Without objection, 3 weekends was changed to 4 weekends. David Brownlee expressed concerns. More discussion followed before the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

- 18-135. Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee members Kate Stephenson (Chair), Geoff Fitzgerald, Carl Johnson, and Barbara Conrey offered a presentation and update. Discussion followed. Comments were offered from Maurice Martineau. No formal action was taken.
- 18-136. The Tax Increment Financing presentation and discussion was opened by Stephanie Haley and Gail Henderson-King of Whittenburg Real Estate Investment and Peter

Fairweather of Fairweather Consulting (on behalf of the Montpelier Development Corporation. They were joined by Assistant City Manager Allen. Dan Groberg participated in the discussion. No formal action taken.

The Chair called a recess at 9:02. The meeting was reconvened at 9:07PM.

- 18-137. Maggie Neale was joined by Public Works Director Tom McArdle for the discussion of the Scribner Street Right of Way. Discussion included Maurice Martineau. Councilor Hill moved (with Councilor Krueger seconding) that the city commence surveying process, set the date for June 13<sup>th</sup>, and the site visit at 6:15. The motion passed unanimously at 9:26.
- 18-138. The Mayor opened a public hearing on the Tax Stabilization Application for Connor Brothers - Montpelier Armory, LLC at 9:26. Discussion included Fred Connor. The hearing was closed at 9:47.
- 18-139. Public Works Director Tom McArdle was joined by staffers Zach Blodgett, Kurt Motyka, and Corey Line for a PowerPoint update including Capital Improvements. Discussion followed. No formal action taken.
- 18-140. The Council returned to consent agenda item h) which had been tabled for discussion at Councilor Bate's request. No formal action was taken.
- 18-141. Councilor Bate reported on attending Incident Command System training. Councilor Hutcheson noted his community meeting at Open Hands café and reported on the previous week's meeting, including a Tree Board report.
- 18-142. The Mayor made note of the coming Green-Up day as well as the "bio blitz" in July with the North Branch Nature Center.
- 18-143. The City Clerk noted the coming public discussion on non-citizen municipal voting.
- The Mayor commented on the strategic planning process and a potential discussion on plastic bags in the city.
- 18-144. The City Manager opened a brief discussion of EC Fiber. No formal action taken.
- 18-145. Councilor Hill moved that the Council enter into executive session under Title I, VSA §313, Executive Sessions, (a)(2) to consider real estate acquisition related to the Winooski East alternate transportation path. Councilor McCullough seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 10:55.

Without objection, the Council returned to open session and was subsequently adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:30PM.