

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
October 3, 2018 6:31 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall

In attendance: Mayor Anne Watson (Chair), Councilors Conor Casey, Ashley Hill, Glen Hutcheson, Rosie Krueger, Jack McCullough. City Manager Bill Fraser. Deputy City Clerk Sheila Healy acted as secretary.

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

18 -289. Without objection Mayor Watson switched items ten and eleven on agenda, The agenda was then approved by acclaim.

18 -291. Councilor McCullough moved approval of the consent agenda. Councilor Casey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

18-292. The City Manager and Kurt Motyka provided an overview of the Sewer Fund Bond Necessity Resolution (Water resource recovery facility). Mayor Watson opened the public hearing. Comment was offered by: Linda Burger, Steve Whitaker, Dan Grover, Bob Watson, Eric Biggleston, Yvonne Baab, Elizabeth Parker, William Moore.

After discussion, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

18-293. Mayor Watson opened the public hearing for the TIF District Bond Necessity Resolution. Offering comments were: Sara Defelice, Roberta Garland, Eve Jacobs-Carnahan, Steve Whitaker, Dan Grover, Eric Biggleston, Yvonne Baab, Elizabeth Parker, William Moore. The Mayor then closed the public hearing.

18-294. Mayor Watson opened the public hearing on the non -citizen voting charter amendment. Roberta Garland provided an overview of the charter amendment, brought to the Council by petition (301 signatures were needed, 430 were collected). Additional comments were offered by Yvonne Baab. The Mayor then closed the public hearing.

18-295. Mayor Watson provided an overview of the proposed Montpelier City Charter change regarding sustainability with the intent of regulating plastic bags and other similar issues. After a brief discussion, Mayor Watson opened the public hearing.

Councilor McCullough moved to amend the proposed Charter change to adopt the language in "plan c" as read by Councilor Hutcheson. Councilor Kreuger seconded. After discussion, Councilor McCullough again read the amendments aloud- (Changes to 5301b, 2B). Discussion followed. Offering comments were: Joe Yoder.

Councilor Casey moved to amend the motion to strike the word "tax" from "plan c" in the proposed language. Councilor Kreuger seconded. Steve Whitaker participated in discussion. The vote to amend the motion passed unanimously. Further discussion followed.

Councilor McCullough moved that the Charter change be used to regulate use of plastic straws rather than ban them. Councilor Hill seconded. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Hill moved that city staff look at language to implement energy efficiency ordinances in the community. Councilor McCullough seconded. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously

The public hearing was closed.

18-296. Mayor Watson opened public hearing on setting date and time for Special City Meeting. After brief discussion, the Mayor closed the public hearing and Councilor McCullough moved to set the time and date of the Special City Meeting to November 6th 7am to 7pm. Councilor Kreuger seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

18-298. The Mayor opened public hearing on all 4 ballot items with amended languages and warning. Participating in discussion were: Joe Yoder, Steve Whitaker. The Mayor then closed the public hearing. Councilor Krueger moved to approve the warning with including item four as amended. Councilor McCullough seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

18-300. Councilor Casey reported that the city is exploring a project with a company called the Bird- similar to bike share app with electric scooters, and also on his continued research on the inner workings of city government- this week with the Montpelier fire department.

Councilor Hutcheson reported on We walk week, and informed voters that he will be holding his usual weekly listening session at Bagitos.

Councilor Hill reported that she attended the VT League of Cities and Towns platform meeting, and urged others to get involved in the League of Cities and Towns.

Councilor McCullough reported that the Byrd scooter is fun, but raised questions of safety and expressed interested in conducting more research. Councilor McCullough also noted that public comments on the TIF proposal have been reflected in changes in design for the parking garage.

18-301. Mayor Watson reported that she attended a workshop about how biodiesel can be used as a home heating fuel. She also urged the public to respond to the City's budget survey in order to help frame future budget discussion.

Mayor Watson adjourned the meeting at 8:14 without objection.