

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
May 13, 2020 6:30pm
Videoconference

In attendance: Councilors Jay Ericson, Jack McCullough, Dan Richardson, Conor Casey, Dona Bate, Lauren Hierl, as well as Mayor Anne Watson. City Clerk John Odum acted as secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM.

- 2020-145. Without objection, the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
- 2020-147. Councilor McCullough moved approval of the consent agenda. Councilor Richardson seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Brief discussion followed.
- 2020-148. Assistant City Manager Niedermayer spoke about Above & Beyond award recipient Norma Maurice.
- 2020-149. Social and Economic Justice Advisory Committee Appointment. Bogdan Laurencia discussed his candidacy. Brief discussion followed. Councilor Casey moved his appointment to a 2-year term, Councilor Richardson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2020-150. David Weir discussed his candidacy for the Energy Advisory Committee. Councilor Richardson moved to appoint David Weir, Donald DeVoil, Kate Stevenson, and Geoff Fitzgerald to 2 years seats on the Energy Advisory Committee. Councilor McCullough seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2020-151. Scott Van Beck addressed the council on his candidacy to the Recreation Advisory Board. Councilor McCullough to appoint him and Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2020-152. Councilor McCullough moved to discuss the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission appointment in executive session under Title I, VSA §313(a)(3) Councilor Casey seconded and the motion was approved unanimously at 6:51. Councilor McCullough moved to return to open session and was seconded by Councilor Bate. The motion carried unanimously at 6:55. Councilor McCullough then moved to appoint Marcella Dent to the position and was seconded by Councilor Casey. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2020-154. Stephanie Clarke, David Rugh and Greg Rabideau opened the parking garage update. Discussion followed with comments from Sandra Vitzthum, Bill Koucky (via a letter), Dan Costin, Andrea Stander, Dot Helling, Jill Muhr, Rebecca Davison, and Nat Frothingham.
- Councilor Richardson moved the Council needed to seek legal counsel and that premature public knowledge of the discussion would put the city at a disadvantage. Councilor Ericson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilor McCullough, seconded by Councilor Ericson, moved the Council enter executive session under the grounds previously voted on, and to include City Manager Fraser, Stephanie Clarke, David Rugh and Greg Rabideau. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Richardson moved to come out of executive session at 8:42. Councilor Ericson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Richardson moved the City Council accept the revised garage design as proposed. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously after brief discussion.

The Mayor called a recess at 8:44. The meeting reconvened at 8:50.

- 2020-158. The Council took up the matter of the Down Home parklet reuse. Tom Golonka spoke. After discussion, Councilor Bate moved to approve moving the parklet from Down Home on Langdon Street to Mail Street in front of Capitol Plaza to be used by J Morgans subject to a safety review. Councilor Hierl seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- 2020-155. Council received a 5 Home Farm Way Update. Brief discussion followed which included Ellsworth. No formal action taken.
- 2020-157. The Council opened a discussion on Coronavirus/COVID-19 related issues. Dan Jones spoke. No formal action taken.
- 2020-153. After a brief conversation on a Strategic Plan update, Councilor McCullough moved to adopt the strategic plan as adapted by the City Manager. Councilor Ericson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2020-160. Council Reports. Councilor Bate reported on neighborhood complaints between neighbors. Councilor Casey reported on a WCAX piece about city restaurants. Councilor Ericson noted the Green Up Day rescheduling and thanked volunteers, singling out Dan Jones for praise. Councilor Richardson echoed councilors' comments. Councilor McCullough noted the passing of Corky Nielsen. Councilor Hierl updated the council on work being done by the group working on the energy ordinance update.
- 2020-161. The Mayor expressed her approval of the tennis court policy.
- 2020-163. The City Manager spoke about Mr. Nielsen and made brief comments on policy/financial decisions and implications for warm weather and citizen expectations.
- 2020-164. For the Police Chief selection update, Councilor McCullough moved pursuant to Title I, VSA §313(a)(3) that the council enter executive session. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Without objection, The Mayor declared the council return to open session and subsequently adjourn by unanimous consent.