

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
June 10, 2020 6:30PM
Videoconference

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:32.

2020-183. Without objection, the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

2020-184. General Business and Appearances: Addressing the council were Tracey Conino on school reopening, Kim Watson regarding face mask requirements, Noel Riby-Williams and Stephanie Pinard on Black Lives Matters action with state, Thomas Gram and, Anthony Iarrapino, Maggie Lenz, and Shaina Kasper on the Social and Economic Justice committee budget.

5. 2020-185. The consent agenda was moved by Councilor McCullough sans item d. Councilor Ericson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

6. 2020-186. Councilor McCullough read item d. Juneteenth Proclamation and moved its adoption. Councilor Hierl seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Hierl read aloud and moved approval of the Resolution Condemning Racism and Police Brutality and Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously (5-0, as Councilor Richardson had momentarily dropped from the videoconference session).

Councilor McCullough moved to reconsider the previous motion and Councilor Ericson seconded. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Councilor Hierl re-moved the reconsidered motion and was seconded by Councilor Bate. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Discussion included: Carolyn Wesley, Stephanie Goromy, Laura Baker, Clair Costin, Rachel Temple, Ray Costin, Lauren Griswold, David Hershey, Thomas Gram, Alison Burns, Shaina Kasper, Julia Chafets, Bogdan Laurentiu, Constantinos Stivaros, Kate Brown, Ira Shadis, Rebecca Galvin, Kim Watson, and Elizabeth Parker.

Councilor Casey moved to have a special council meeting at 11:30 on the following Friday. Councilor Hierl seconded, and the motion carried unanimously after brief discussion.

Comments were offered from Tony Facos and Brian Peete.

The Council recessed at 8:36 and reconvened at 6:41.

- 2020-190. After discussion, Councilor Ericson moved to create a Lobbying Committee to include Councilors Richardson, Casey, and Hierl. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2020-189. After brief discussion and the opening of the public hearing at 8:44, Councilor Bate moved to accept this final Ordinance Chapter 13 amendments as presented for third reading. Councilor McCullough seconded and the motion carried 5-0 (Councilor Casey voting nay on a roll call vote). The public hearing was closed.
- 2020-188. The Council discussed Coronavirus/COVID-19 related issues. No formal action taken.
- 2020-187. The Council opened the First Reading of Temporary Parklet Ordinance. Councilor McCullough moved approval of the parklet ordinance first reading and Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2020-191. The Summer Schedule was discussed. No formal action taken
- 2020-188. The Coronavirus/COVID-19 related issues discussion resumed. Councilor McCullough moved to approve the proposed plan, Councilor Casey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- A discussion of the Langdon Street closing followed, which included Dan Groberg, Constantinos Stivaros, and included letters from Brad Lamell and Melissa Merrihew.
- 2020-194. Council Reports: Councilor Bate offered appreciation for the cemeteries.
- 2020-192. Kelly Murphy offered a FY21 Budget Update for discussion. Comments were offered from Constantinos Stivaros. Councilor McCullough moved to approve the staff plan to bring the budget into balance for fiscal year 2021. Councilor Richardson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2020-194. Council Reports continued. Councilor Casey: encouraged listeners to support city employees. Councilor Ericson offered thanks to Kari Bradley, Mary Mullally and Montpelier Alive on the mask partnership. Councilor Richardson noted business re-openings. Councilor McCullough reported on feedback about a downtown business not enforcing mask use and also praised the press conference with Brian Peete before saying that it was an honor to serve the city. Councilor Hierl expressed thanks to people who came out to speak, city staff, and welcomed new Police Chief Brian Peete.
- 2020-195. The Mayor thanked the Police Department for their work.
- 2020-196. The City Clerk noted that water/sewer bills and taxes were due Monday.
- 2020-197. The City Manager offered thanks to all who organized the rally on Sunday.
- Without objection, the Mayor adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 11:11.