

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
September 23, 2020, 6:30pm
Videoconference

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30.

- 2020-287. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
- 2020-288. Steven Whitaker addressed the Council on public restrooms.
- 2020-289. The Consent Agenda was moved by Councilor McCullough and seconded by Councilor Richardson. After brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously.
- 2020-290. In regard to the Homelessness Task Force Appointment, Councilor McCullough moved the Council enter executive session in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 313. Councilor Hierl seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 6:37. At 6:44, Councilor McCullough moved to return to open session, was seconded by Councilor Richardson, and the motion carried unanimously (5-0. Councilor Bate was temporarily unavailable). Councilor Richardson moved the Council appoint Diane Matthews to the Homelessness Task Force. Councilor Ericson seconded and the motion carried unanimously (6-0).
- 2020-291. The Council discussed appointing a voting representative for Vermont League of Cities and Towns annual meeting. Brief discussion. No formal action.
- 2020-292. The Council held a brief Central Vermont Public Safety Authority discussion. Councilor Bate moved to appoint Councilor Richardson to the CVPSA Board. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried 5-0-1 (Councilor Richardson recused himself). Stephen Whitaker and Kim Cheney participated in discussion.
- 2020-293. The Mayor opened the Winter Parking- Alternate Side of the Street Proposal Ordinance Change 1st Reading at 6:56. Donna Barlow Casey and Zach Blodgett participated with comments from Heather Corey and Stephen Whitaker. Councilor Casey moved to proceed to second reading at the next meeting. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously. At 7:37 the hearing was closed.
- 2020-294. The Council opened a Policing Discussion. Councilor Richardson moved to make a request to the School Board that the city officers be included in any joint committee that is formed to discuss the future of the SRO (School Resource Officer) in the Montpelier-Roxbury schools Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Stephanie Gomory and Stephen Whitaker participated in discussion. Councilor Richardson moved that [the Council] direct staff to create a charge based on the language we have discussed in this meeting [and] the written items I had itemized as well as the contents of the City Manager's memo to develop a charge for the Police

Advisory Committee with a goal to advertise for members. Councilor McCullough seconded. Discussion followed and the motion carried unanimously.

A recess was called at 8:45. Upon the Council's return at 8:50, discussion continued that included Police Chief Peete.

- 2020-295. The council received its COVID-19 Update from the Assistant City Manager. After discussion, Councilor McCullough moved to direct city staff to proceed with proposal 1 as a first step to open up the City Council chambers for public participation in Council meetings while we're addressing the other issues we need to address. Councilor Ericson seconded. Discussion followed which included Heather Corey before the motion carried unanimously.
- 2020-296. The Council reviewed meeting dates. No formal action taken.
- 2020-298. Councilor Bate praised the Manager's report and Councilor Richardson for participating in the CVPSA. She also thanked the Parks Commission for pump station development and added comments on public bathrooms. Councilor Casey touched on potential charter changes and budgetary COVID concerns. Councilor Richardson offered congratulations to John Hollar on the bike path and echoed Councilor Casey's concerns about COVID issues. Councilor McCullough also congratulated the Parks Department and the mountain bike association. He also noted services available for people impacted by COVID. Councilor Hierl shared a Social and Economic Justice Committee report and started a brief discussion on Halloween. Finally, she expressed return about downtown trash.
- 2020-299. The Mayor offered thanks for the North Branch Trails work.
- 2020-300. The City Clerk gave a report on the coming election.
- 2020-301. The City Manager led a review of coming agendas, legislative committee work and public bathroom concerns

The Clerk swore in Councilor Richardson for the CVPSA.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:04.