

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
August 18, 2021, 6:30pm
City Council Chambers and videoconference

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

6:32 call to order.

2021-222. The proposed agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

2021-223. General Business and Appearances. Steven Whitaker spoke on parklet sidewalk incursions and access, truck access around Aubuchon's, Taylor Street conditions, drainage in the crosswalks, disability access sidewalk concerns, the conditions of Guertin Park (and responsibility for it), the Homelessness Task Force and Downtown Bathroom Committee effectiveness, and suggested that the GMTA was in violation of its transit center lease by locking up bathrooms.

Peter Kelman spoke about clear and timely communication between citizens and city especially regarding the coming District 3 appointment. Other examples and recommendations were given.

Morgan Brown spoke about the sound quality.

2021-224. Councilor Richardson moved the consent agenda without the minutes. Councilor McCullough seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2021-225. Appointment to Development Review Board: Catherine Burgess addressed the council. Councilor McCullough moved the Council enter executive session pursuant to Jack move pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313 to discuss appointment of a public officer. Councilor Richardson seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 6:49. Councilor McCullough moved to come out of executive session and Councilor Richardson seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 6:51. Councilor McCullough moved to appoint Catherine Burgess to the Development Review Board. Councilor Richardson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2021-226. Homeless State Policy and Encampment Policy: Shawn Brown, Commissioner for the Department for Children and Families spoke, along with Sarah Philips. Comments were offered by Ken Russell, Lawrence Sadler, Dawn Little, Steven Whitaker, David Paperski, and Morgan Brown.

Councilor Richardson moved to table the Homeless Camping Policy until the next meeting. Councilor Bate seconded. Dan Dickerson and Morgan Brown made comments before the motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor called an 8:28 recess. Council reconvened at 8:38.

- 2021-227. Social and Economic Justice Committee Equity Report: Shaina Kasper introduced discussion and Kesha Ram Hinsdale and Tabitha Moore presented. Comments were offered by Peter Kelman and Stephen Whitaker
- 2021-229. VEIC Net Zero Report: Kate Stephenson, Adam Sherman, and Kalee Whitehouse spoke. Councilor Bate moved to accept the report. Councilor Richardson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-230. Covid Mask Wearing in City Facilities Proposal: Councilor Bate moved to approve the order which shall remain in effect while the CDC recommends mask wearing indoors in our county or until the Montpelier City Council and/or the City Manager amends the order. Councilor Richardson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-231. Other Business: The District 3 replacement process was discussed. Councilor McCullough moved (with a second from Councilor Bate) that to fill the District 3 vacancy we require applicants to submit an application supported by 25 signatures with a letter to be submitted by noon on August 27th with the decision to be made at September 1st meeting. Peter Kelman commented. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-232. Council Reports: Councilor Bate asked that everybody have a laptop to better facilitate Zoom at the next meeting. Councilor Hierl gave a police review committee report.
- 2021-234. City Clerk's Report: The square dancing event was cancelled.
- 2021-235. The City Manager acknowledged Mary Smith was at her first in-person council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 by unanimous consent.