

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
April 13, 2022, 6:30pm
City Council Chambers

In attendance: Councilors Jack McCullough (chair), Dona Bate, Conor Casey, Lauren Hierl, Jennifer Morton, and Cary Brown. City Clerk John Odum acted as secretary.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

- 2022-102. Identification of remote legislative body participants (none).
- 2022-103. After the addition of h. Liquor license, and i. Minutes – February 23, March 9, 23, 28, 31, at the request of the Clerk, the Consent Agenda as amended was accepted by the Council by unanimous consent without objection.
- 2022-104. The City Manager read a prepared statement regarding an individual’s behavior at meetings. Ken Russell echoed the comments and noted the murder of Fern Feather. Stephen Whitaker addressed the allegation of inappropriate behavior. Mr. Whitaker went on to address issues of snow clearance and body cameras. Thomas Moore, Vicki Lane, Mary Messier, and Morgan Brown addressed the tone and conflicts of the homelessness meeting and immediately thereafter. Mr. Brown also commented on the consent agenda.
- 2022-105. Councilor Bate moved approval of the Consent Agenda and was seconded by Councilor Casey. The motion carried unanimously.
- a. ARPA Standard Allowance for lost revenue
 - b. Street Closures
 - c. Body Worn Cameras
 - d. Grout Road Bridge Final Design
 - e. Certificate of Compliance and Town Highway Grant Application
 - f. Budget to Actual
 - g. Utility Relocation Agreement SOV and City of Montpelier
 - h. Liquor license
 - i. Minutes – February 23, March 9, 23, 28, 31.
- 2022-106. Ward Joyce spoke on his potential appointment to Preservation Committee. Councilor Casey moved to appoint Ward Joyce to the Historic Preservation Committee. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2022-107. The City Manager noted National Safety Public Communicators week. Police Chief Peete, Barre City Fire Chief Douglas Brent, and Barre City Fire Deputy Chief Joe Ellsworth addressed the Council Acknowledged were Steve McKenzie, Eric Nordenson, Carrie McCool. Stephen Whitaker, Kimberly Cheney, and Justin Drechsler, commented.

Councilor Casey moved to authorize the City Manager to purchase the dispatch consoles and support all these grant efforts. Councilor Hierl seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2022-111. Mike Miller opened the Elks Club Process discussion. Comments were offered from Nat Winthrop, Stephen Whitaker, Thomas Weiss, and John Snell.

Councilor Hierl moved to direct city staff to develop a financial proposal and draft RFP to present to the council related to the former Elks Club property planning process for the project manager. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Chair called a recess at 8:45 PM and the meeting was reconvened at 8:55.

2022-108. The 2nd Public Hearing on the proposed zoning changes was opened at 8:57. Mike Miller presented. Comments were offered by Patti Komline, Thomas Weiss, Eve Mendelsohn, Brenda Haushauer, Kirby Keeton, Zack Watson, Stephen Whitaker, Dana Hall, Mary Messier, Ward Joyce, and Peter Kelman. The public hearing was closed at 9:57 PM. Councilor Bate moved to approve the unified zoning bylaw as amended. Councilor Morton seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Bate moved to adopt the river hazard amendments as presented. Councilor Brown seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

2022-109. Guertin Park Structure discussion. Initiating discussion were Ken Russell and Zach Hughes. Other comments were offered by Peter Kelman, Morgan Brown, Dawn Little, Vicki Lane, Ward Joyce, Mary Messier, Stephen Whitaker, Chief Peete, Thomas Fallon, and Nat Frothingham. No formal action taken.

2022-112. NBRC Grant Option priorities discussion. Linda Berger commented. No formal action taken.

2022-114. Council Reports: Councilor Hierl gave a Social Economic Justice Advisory report. Councilor McCullough noted the recent passing of Lucy Nichol passed away. Councilor Brown encouraged citizens to take advantage of the opportunity for free trees in their neighborhoods. Councilor Bate expressed concerns about the management of public comments.

2022-117. The City Manager noted the recent passing of Stephen Walke.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58PM.