

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting – WORKING NOTES ONLY
May 25, 2022, 6:30 PM
City Council Chambers

In attendance: Mayor Anne Watson (Chair), Councilors Lauren Hierl, Cary Brown, Jack McCullough and Dona Bate. City Clerk John Odum acted as secretary.

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

2022-157. All members were present in person. The mayor reviewed the meeting logistics.

2022-158. The agenda was approved without objection.

2022-159. General Business and Appearances. The City Manager gave a brief statement on the recent school issue/concern regarding threats of violence. Linda Berger spoke on the USDA Funding, the water system analysis, and the Dump Station. Thomas Moore spoke on a retail cannabis facility, water bills, and tax bills. Stephen Whitaker spoke on the 2-minute speaking limit in meetings and associated concerns. He also expressed concerns about a blocked fire escape, the city's responses to public records requests, trash buildup on the bike path, people defecating on the bike path, and the appropriate or inappropriate use of the consent agenda and seeing two public employees sitting in an idling truck and criticizing the union contract. Elaine Ball spoke on coming Pride Month events. Peter Kelman addressed homelessness policy progress.

2022-160. Councilor McCullough moved to remove item g from the consent agenda and pass the remainder. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

- a. Minutes
- b. Raised Bed Project at 12-16 Main Street Approval
- c. Northern Borders Grant Application
- d. 2022 VTrans Bike and Pedestrian Program Grant
- e. Pride Flag Display Request
- f. Water System Hydraulic Analysis and Preliminary Engineering Report (PER)
- h. Street Closure Applications
- i. MPD Request to trade the old, unmarked vehicle for a newer, more reliable and fuel-efficient unmarked vehicle.

The council discussed item g (Contract Award of Vector Dump Station) with Kurt Motyka. Linda Berger participated. Councilor McCullough moved to approve consent agenda item g. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2022-161. Montpelier baseball proclamations discussions. After discussions, Councilor McCullough moved to approve both proposed proclamations included in the agenda packet. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2022-162. Council discussed the proposed proclamation declaring the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. Comments were offered by Councilor Casey in his professional capacity. Stephen Whitaker offered comments. Councilor Hierl moved

to adopt the proclamation and Councilor Brown seconded. The motion passed 4-0-1 with Councilor Casey recusing himself.

- 2022-163. Councilor McCullough moved the council appoint Tim Senter to be the city representative to the Capitol Complex Commission. Councilor Bate seconded. Following comments from Stephen Whitaker, the motion carried unanimously.
- 2022-164, 165 At 7:17PM the mayor opened the USDA Grant Public Hearing and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Rural Utility Services (USDARD RUS) Program Project and received a funding overview and water resource recovery facility odor update. Kurt Motyka presented. Linda Berger and Stephen Whitaker spoke. The public hearing was closed at 8:15.
- 2022-166. The Elks Club RFP discussion was kicked off by Josh Jerome. Councilor McCullough moved to approve the draft RFP and funding. Councilor Casey seconded. Comments were offered from Peter Kelman and Stephen Whitaker. The motion carried unanimously

The mayor called a recess at 8:29, and the meeting reconvened at 8:39.

- 2022-167. The council discussed the Home Energy Ordinance. Comments were offered by Stephen Whitaker and Peter Kelman. No formal action taken.
- 2022-168. Polly Nichol gave a Housing Task Force Report. Comments were offered by Peter Kelman and Stephen Whitaker. Mike Miller participated. No formal action.
- 2022-169. The council considered the proposed Housing Trust Fund recommendations. Councilor McCullough moved to adopt the recommendations to assign to a new Housing Committee the addressed tasks and dissolve the Housing Trust Fund when the membership of the new Housing Committee is in place. Councilor Bate seconded. Peter Kelman gave comments. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2022-170. The Assistant City Manager opened the Public Records Fee Policy. Comments were given by Stephen Whitaker and Vicki Ann Lane. Councilor Bate moved to approve the policy as amended (in discussion). Councilor Brown seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2022-172. Councilor Bate shared that she was looking forward to nicer weather. Councilor Brown spoke on the gun violence issue in relation to Vermont and the greater culture. Councilor Casey noted that Gunsense will be at the Farmer's Market. Councilor Hierl suggested public restrooms, and reports from legislators be on coming agendas.
- 2022-173. The mayor spoke on gun violence and hoped there could be motivation for solutions.
- 2022-174. The city clerk noted he would be singing at the Memorial Day event.
- 2022-175. The city manager discussed the summer meeting schedule.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 10:11PM.