

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
June 8, 2022, 6:30 PM
City Council Chambers

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM.

2022-176. The meeting logistics were reviewed.

2022-177 With no objections to the agenda, it passed by unanimous consent.

2022-178 General Business and Appearances. Stephen Whitaker expressed several concerns including on the 2-minute public comment limit, a blocked fire escape, an overflowing dumpster into the river, the lack of public restrooms, the garbage behind Shaw's, public records requests, a broken water pipe at City Center, the condition of flags, the public feedback he has received, and the cleanliness of the streets, during public comment. He was removed from the meeting after a ruling of procedure violations by the mayor.

The mayor called a recess at 6:35. The meeting reconvened at 6:42.

Richard Shier commended the council and asked city manager to explain upcoming online meeting. The City Manager responded.

Vicki Lane reported issues with the video feed.

2022-179. Councilor McCullough moved the consent agenda, Councilor Morton seconded. All voted in favor

2022-180. Rep. Mary Hooper (in person) and Sen. Perchlik (via Zoom) joined the council for the discussion of legislative action. Peter Kelman offered comments

2022-181. Appointments to Development Review Board. Both Rob Goodwin and Sharon Allen addressed the council. Mayor Watson noted that Gene Leon applicant. Councilor Mccullough moved to go into executive session under 1 V.S.A. § 313(3) at 7:28. Councilor Bate seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Motion to end executive session under at 7:30 was made by member McCullough and seconded by Councilor Bate.

Council member Mccullough moved to appoint Robert Goodwin and Sharon Allen with Gene Leon as an alternate. Council member Hierl seconded, and the appointments passed unanimously.

- 2022-182. The council: Receives presentation from Casella Waste Systems on the status of the leachate treatment pilot system at the Coventry Landfill. They also Authorized the Department of Public Works to coordinate with Casella to apply for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) 2022 Pretreatment Grant Funds for Businesses and Municipalities administered through the Agency of Natural Resources, Department on Environmental Conservation
- 2022-183. Water/Sewer Budgets. Finance Director Kelly Murphy gave a Presentation, no action needed.
- 2022-184. Finance Director Kelly Murphy gave a Presentation on proposed water/sewer rates. After a brief discussion, the motion to approve rates was made by Council member Bate and seconded by Councilor McCullough. Motion carried unanimously. Vicki Lane gave public comment, including some directed at Council Member Morton who then left the meeting.

The mayor called a recess at 8:30 and reconvened at 8:40

- 2022-185. Donna Barlow Casey, public works director, gave a current overview of the district heat program. Alyssa Schuren asked a question which was addressed by Kurt Motyka.
- 2022-186. Police Review Committee officer recruitment. Police Chief Brian Peete gave a presentation. No formal action
- 2022-187. Mike Miller spoke. Council member Bate moved to approve the schedule as proposed with a second from council member McCullough. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2022-189. Council Member Bate mentioned that the Mountaineers games have started, and that the Barre Street bike path pilot will be starting at the end of June or first of July. Councilor Casey mentioned a rally slated to start at the state house this coming Saturday at 2pm. Council member McCullough, in regard to the evening's earlier allegations of the council's adopted two-minute time limit, looked up the state statute and confirmed that the procedures of the council were in fact consistent with statute.
- 2022-190. Mayor Watson gave her congratulations to the upcoming Montpelier Graduating class.
- 2022-191. The deputy city clerk reminded residents of the upcoming due date for Water & Sewer payments.
- 2022-192. City Manager Fraser noted the allegations of unlawful violations during an open meeting will cause a need for a special meeting.

Adjournment at 10:31 by unanimous consent.