

City Council Meeting
Wednesday, June 22, 2022, 6:30 P.M.
City Council Chambers

Present: Mayor Ann Watson, City Councilors Lauren Hierl, Jack McCullough, Jennifer Morton Conor Casey, Cary Brown, and Dona Bate. Deputy City Clerk Crystal Lamell acted as secretary.

Call To Order by the mayor at 6:30PM.

2022-196. Remote participants introduced themselves and meeting logistics were reviewed.

2022-197. With no objection the agenda was approved.

2022-198. General business and appearances: Mayor Ann Watson noted feedback on the 2-minute restriction set by council on comments from the public.

2022-199. Consent Agenda:
a. Minutes
b. Payroll and Bills
c. Tax Anticipation Note (TAN)- FY23 Authorization
d. FY22 Resolution to Commit Funds
e. Montpelier Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) ammonia loading evaluation
f. Authorize the Mayor, or in her absence the Assistant City Manager to sign all closing documents related to the purchase of 203 Country Club Road.

Motion to approve was made by Council member McCullough and seconded by Councilor Casey. Resident Linda Berger asked a question regarding item e. Consent agenda passed unanimously

2022-200. Appointments to the Housing Committee.

It is anticipated that this discussion will be conducted in Executive Session Dianne Sherman, Peter Kelman, Jessica Oparowski, Martine (Mia) Bisagni, Carolyn Ridpath, Carol Moorman, and Irene Mendez, all spoke to their nominations. Council member McCullough made the motion to enter into executive session in accordance with Title I, VSA §313, Executive Sessions (a)(3) the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee seconded by Councilor Brown, all voted in favor at 7:00pm.

A motion to return from executive session was made by McCullough, seconded by Brown at 7:48pm. Council members McCullough and Bate moved to appoint the following to the housing committee:

- Jo Ann Troiano
- Carol Moorman
- Jessica Oparowski
- Irene Mendez
- Diane Sherman
- Emma Zavez
- Rebecca Copans
- Stan Brinkerhoff
- Sean Sheehan

Along with Council members Jack McCullough and Cary Brown. Motion Passed unanimously at 7:48pm

2022-201. Prostitution and Sex Work ordinance discussion. Police Chief Brian Peete gave a presentation.

The council took a recess at 8:30 and reconvened at 8:43. Police Review Committee members Justin Dressler, Abby Jermyn and Alyssa Schruen addressed the council. Public comment was received by Rylie (last name unknown) who lives in Montpelier. Christine (last name unknown) from Montpelier. Henri Banks from the Ishtar Collective, Thomas Graham a Montpelier resident, Kiana (last name unknown) also from Montpelier, Maggie Karen with New Englanders Against Sexual Exploitation, Aaron Clark of Montpelier, Sonia Torrent of Montpelier, Rachel Foster from Brooklyn NYC (cofounder of World Without Exploitation), Mollie McElroy- Berlin VT, Martha (last name unknown) of Waterbury VT, Tricia Grant – Maine, Nicole Bell- Founder of Lift in Massachusetts, Jessica Benke of Portland Oregon, Robin Levasseur from Rhode Island, J Leigh Oshiro- Brantly from the Ishtar Collective, Michael Shively - National Center of Sexual Exploitation- Lucy Jermyn, Montpelier. Lauren Hersh- - Florida.

Member Bate motioned that the City Council support all three of the PRC recommendations with the following amendment from council member Casey; that the H268 is dead, so we should say “support legislation” that repeals consensual sex work. Councilor Heirl seconded the motion after a brief council discussion. Vote on the motion passed with Brown dissenting.

Councilor McCullough made a second motion to set the 1st public hearing to repeal the ordinance for the next meeting. Motion was seconded by Member Bate, all voted in favor.

- 2022-203. District Heat Budget & Rates 10:30 Finance Director Kelly Murphy gave a presentation, Council member McCullough moved to approve the budget, which was seconded by member Bate, motion passed without objections.
- 2022-207. City Council Reports. Member Bate quickly noted that she was looking forward to the upcoming July 3rd celebration. All other council members passed.
- 2022-210. City Manager's report. Manager Fraser noted that the Elks closing was scheduled for July 1st.

Without objections the meeting was adjourned at 10:40pm.