

Meeting of the Montpelier City Council
August 24, 2022, 6:30PM
City Council Chambers

Present: Mayor Anne Watson, Councilors Dona Bate, Jennifer Morton, Jack McCullough, Conor Casey, and Cary Brown. Councilor Jennifer Morton participated by Zoom. City Clerk John Odum acted as secretary.

Call To order by the mayor at 6:31 PM.

- 2022-244. Councilor Morton introduced herself as a remote participant.
- 2022-245. After an order change, the proposed agenda was passed by unanimous consent.
- 2022-246. Maurice Martineau spoke on hunting at the Elks Club. Aaron Clark spoke on the decision of the council to support decriminalizing prostitution and the meeting procedures. Thomas Fallon spoke on the status of the 12-16 Main Street lot.
- 2022-247. Councilor McCullough moved approval of the consent agenda and was seconded by Councilor Casey. The motion passed unanimously.
- a. Stormwater Utility Funding Application
 - b. State Street Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Engineering Services Agreement
 - c. Homelessness Task Force- Consultant Recommendation Approval
 - d. Public Art Commission's Mural Invoice/Contract Approval
 - e. Taste of Montpelier Road Closure
 - f. Montpelier Police Department- Communications Infrastructure Grant Letter of Support Request
 - g. Council Proclamation- September of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
 - h. VCDP Grant in Partnership with Downstreet Housing & Community Development Approval
 - i. City Council Meeting Minutes
 - j. Cemetery Truck Purchase Approval
 - k. Dispatch Consoles – Authorize Final Terms for Municipal Lease Financing
- 2022-248. Councilor McCullough moved to appoint all the (presented) applicants to the Public Arts Commission (Thomas Mulholland) and Conservation Commission (Jennifer Leigh Brown, Paul Marangelo, Randi Hacker). Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2022-249. 2nd Reading: Prostitution Ordinance. The public hearing opened at 6:58 PM. Comments from: Diana Tierney, Henri Bynx, Savannah Sly, Maurice Martineau, Joseph Page, Mariah Infanger, Tom Kelley.

Councilor McCullough took the position of chair of the meeting at 7:15 PM. Comments from: Thomas Gram, Michael Shively.

The mayor returned to chair the meeting at 7:18. Comments from: Eva Ambrose, Kathy Tarrant, Maggie (last name not given), Emma (last name not given), Aaron Clark, Thomas Fallon, Teff (last name not given), Martha Hafner (on homelessness), Chuck Clark, Abbey Jerman, Mitha Choudhury, Dr. Stephany Powell, J. Leigh Oshiro-Brantly, Tricia Brant, Deanna Stephens, Sheila Belisle, Gabrielle Prieto, and Sue Haynie. Public hearing was closed at 8:06. Councilor Casey moved to remove section 11-706 and 11-707 of the city ordinances. Councilor Brown seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting went into recess at 8:17 and reconvened at 8:27.

2022-251. The State Street Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) public hearing was opened at 8:28. Kurt Motyka spoke. The mayor closed the hearing at 8:32. No formal action taken.

2022-253. 203 Country Club Road Project Updates. Ethan Atkin and Dan Vogin (of The Hub) presented. Darien McIlwaine, Brad Watson, and Peter Kelman spoke. Cameron Niedermayer participated. Councilor McCullough moved to direct city staff to issue a request for proposals (RFP) to come to council at the next meeting, and to the draft RFP for 60 days and see what other interest there is in the use of the building before making a decision. Councilor Brown seconded.

Councilor McCullough moved to amend the motion to direct the city manager to release a request for information (RFI) for uses of the property for a three-year lease, with a component of public activity and with the responses ready to be acted on at the next meeting. Councilor Brown seconded. Comments from: Stan Brinkerhoff, Peter Kelman, Bard Watson, Nat Winthrop. Voting aye were Councilor Hierl, McCullough, Casey, and Brown. Councilor Bate voted nay. Councilor Morton abstained. Motion carried 4-1-1.

On the motion as amended. Voting no: Councilors Hierl, Casey, Bate. Voting aye: Councilors McCullough, Brown, Morton. The mayor votes nay. Motion failed 4-3.

Councilor McCullough moved to authorize the city manager to enter into a three-year lease with The Hub. Councilor Bate seconded. Voting aye: Councilors Hierl, McCullough, Casey, Bate. Voting nay Councilors Brown, Morton. Motion carried 4-2.

Councilor Morton left the meeting at 10:10 PM. The mayor called a recess at 10:10. The meeting reconvened at 10:15.

2022-252. 203 Country Club Road project manager recommendation discussion with Michael Miller and Josh Jerome. Comments from Peter Kelman. Councilor McCullough moved to approve awarding the project manager contract to White and Burke. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

2022-255. The mayor reported on her office hours and expressed gratitude to voters.

2022-256. City Council Reports. Councilor Casey noted the passing of his mother and thanked those who reached out. Councilor McCullough lauded the Police Department's Facebook presence regarding identification of suspects. Councilor Hierl reminded listeners of the committee stipend program.

2022-258. The City Manager reported that the city did not get the Northern Borders Grant and thanked staff for their work. He also reported on the Housing Task Force, Main Street paving, current hiring processes, and noted a near crisis regarding shortages in police and Public Works.

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 PM.