

Meeting of the Montpelier City Council
September 14, 2022, 6:30PM
City Council Chambers

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

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

- 2022-259. Meeting Logistics were reviewed, and Councilors Hierl and Morton introduced themselves (participating remotely).
- 2022-260. The agenda was approved without objection.
- 2022-261. Thomas Mulholland spoke on his participation on the Public Art Commission.
- 2022-262. Councilor McCullough moved approval of the consent agenda (follows) and Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- a. 0 Easy Street Open Space Agreement Amendment
 - b. Recommendation for Barre Street Recreation Path Project
 - c. Walk for Children Road Closure
 - d. CVEDC BGS Regional Economic Development Grant Applications
 - e. City Council Meeting Minutes
 - f. FY23 (Month of August) Financials
- 2022-263. Councilor Bate moved to appoint Phyllis Rubenstein and Sienna Tuinei to the Conservation Commission. Councilor Casey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2022-264. Councilor Bate moved to define the Homelessness Task Force as having a membership with a term limit of 2 years, for the 1st year half will have one-year terms and half with two-year terms, and there will be alternates. Councilor McCullough seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2022-263. Councilor McCullough moved to appoint to the Conservation Commission Phyllis Rubenstein for 4 years and Sienna Tuinei for 2 years. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- 2022-267. Hunting At 203 Country Club Road discussion. Comments from Maurice Martineau, Walt Goodwin, and Peter Kelman. Councilor Casey moved to approve option 1 as presented by the city staff (no changes from current use). Councilor Morton seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2022-265. The mayor opened the public hearing for the 1st Reading of the parklet ordinance update at 7:21. Comments from Wes Hamilton. The public hearing was closed at 7:26. Council Bate moved to direct the manager to amend the ordinance as per discussion and bring it back for 2nd reading. Councilor McCullough seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2022-266. Year End Financial Report from Kelly Murphy. Comments from Peter Kelman. No action taken.
- 2022-268. 203 Country Club Road public process plan discussion. Comments from Peter Kelman and Emma Zavez. No action taken
- 2022-270. Public Arts Commission composition discussion. Comments were offered by Thomas Mulholland. No action taken.

The meeting went into recess at 8:22 PM and reconvened at 8:32 PM.

- 2022-273. City Council Reports. Councilor Bate noted the Vermont State Housing conference Nov 16. Councilor Casey praised DPW on the roadwork and noted might have an issue coming to council from his “day job.” Councilor McCullough reported that he got his COVID booster and encouraged others to do so.
- 2022-274. The mayor noted the celebration of VPIRG 50th anniversary, and also a celebration of women in politics with Emerge Vermont. She also noted coming testimony at the statehouse on clean cars and clean trucks rules the state is considering.
- 2022-275. The City Clerk reported on the recent citizen 2020 recount.
- 2022-276. The City Manager reported on several issues from the Homelessness Task Force meeting. He also noted his position as chair of the Committee on Professional Conduct at the international municipal managers organization, as well as a coming personnel announcement. He thanked Donna Barlow Casey for her work, gave an update on the Assistant City Manager search, and noted it was Assistant City Manager Cameron Niedermeyer’s last meeting.
- 2022-269-71 Councilor McCullough moved to go into executive session to discuss the composition of the Public Arts Commission pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(3) and (4) relating to the

appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee or dismissal or disciplinary action of a public officer or employee. Councilor Brown seconded, and the motion passed unanimously at 8:46 PM. At 9:44 PM, Councilor McCullough moved to come out of executive session and was seconded by Councilor Bate. The motion carried unanimously.

2022-269,71 Councilor McCullough moved that the council take the following steps: first, put Mr. Mulholland on administrative leave from the Public Art Commission, second to refer the issue discussed to the Community Justice Center in hopes of reaching a resolution, and third, if resolution is not reached to authorize the City Manager to fact-find and to come back to the council with a recommendation. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilor McCullough moved the council make a finding that premature general public knowledge (of the collective bargaining and potential HUB lease) would clearly place the public body, or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage regarding contracts, labor relations, and agreements of employees. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 9:48.

Councilor McCullough moved to enter executive session to discuss the issues relating to the lease of the building at Country Club Road and the issue of the collective bargaining agreement with employees. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 9:49.

At 11:03 PM Councilor McCullough moved to come out of executive session. Councilor Bate seconded. Vote was 6-0 in favor.

At 11:04 PM, the mayor declared the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.