

Meeting of the Montpelier City Council
November 9, 2022, 6:30PM
City Council Chambers

Present: Councilors Jack McCullough (chair), Dona Bate, Jennifer Morton, Conor Casey, Lauren Hierl, and Cary Brown. City Clerk John Odum acted as secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM.

2022-271. The meeting logistics were reviewed.

2022-272. The proposed agenda was approved with the addition of a Central Vermont Public Safety Authority (CVPSA) discussion and removing consent agenda items b and d for discussion.

2022-273. John Snell shared a farmers market report. Richard Sheir spoke on guns. Stephen Whitaker addressed the following items: The Homelessness Task Force, the condition of Confluence Park, the availability of transit center bathrooms, the Rialto bridge and Langdon Street curbs, garbage in the city garbage cans, enforcing sound and exhaust rules on vehicles, and the 2-minute comment limit. Peter Kelman congratulated the mayor and Councilor Casey on their elections, urged them to announce they will be resigning from the council, and would like their replacement process explained to the public.

2022-274. Consent Agenda. Councilor Casey moved the consent agenda with items b and d pulled for discussion. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- a. Minutes for October 26, 2022, Council Meeting
- c. Rock Salt Contract
- e. Good Samaritan Peer Street Outreach Program
- f. Dispatch Console Workstation Purchase

The discussion of item b (response to allegation of open meeting law violation and ADA violation) included comments from Stephen Whitaker. Councilor Bate moved to deny the violation of open meeting law assertion and ratify the report of the city manager. Councilor Brown seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The discussion of item d (School Street Closure) included Kurt Motyka. Speaking on their concerns were Steve Stoufer and Jon Boucher. Also speaking were Stephen Whitaker and Peter Kelman. Councilor Bate moved to approve the closure of school street and Councilor Casey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2022-275. The council held an outdoor recreation and economic development with Alec Ellsworth. No action taken.

2022-276. Alec Ellsworth and John Snell gave an emerald ash borer update. No action taken.

The mayor called a recess at 7:49 PM. The meeting was reconvened at 7:59.

- 2022-277. The council held a TIF/ TAX stabilization discussion with Stephanie Clark from White and Burke. Councilor Bate moved to formally dissolve tif district with the option of reapplying in the future and to authorize the mayor and the city manager to send a letter to the Vermont Economic Progress Council formally dissolving the district. Councilor Casey seconded. Linda Berger offered comments. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2022-278. A discussion of public records responses by the city was presented by Stephen Whitaker. No action taken.
- 2022-281. The council held a CVPSA discussion with Initial comments by Councilor Bate. Comments were offered from Stephen Whitaker and Police Chief Brian Peete. No action taken.
- 2022-281. Councilor Hierl reported on the election and thanked Police Chief Peete for his service. Also acknowledging Chief Peete were Councilors Morton, McCullough, Casey, Bate, and Brown. Councilors also thanked voters and volunteers. Councilor Casey noted he would be stepping down from the council. Councilor Bate expressed frustration with the 2-party system, encouraged voters to run for office, and encouraged citizens to contact the state on the homelessness issue.
- 2022-283. The city clerk thanked election volunteers and the public.
- 2022-284. The city manager thanked election workers, noted the promotions of Kurt Motyka and Zach Blodgett in the public works department, and touched on the hiring processes for Finance Director and Police Chief. He also noted the opening of an overflow homeless shelter and thanked the Homelessness Task Force.
- 2022-279. Councilor Bate moved to enter executive session to discuss the potential purchase of a property pursuant to 1 V.S.A § 317(13) and include Alec Ellsworth, Bill Fraser, and Kelly Murphy. Councilor Hierl seconded, and the motion carried at 9:25.
- At 9:39 PM, Councilor Hierl moved to come out of executive session. Seconded by Council Member Brown. Vote was 5-0 in favor.
- At 9:40 PM, the chair adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent.