

Meeting of the Montpelier City Council
November 16, 2022, 6:30PM
City Council Chambers

Present: Mayor Anne Watson, Councilors Jennifer Morton (remote), Jack McCullough, Conor Casey, Lauren Hierl, and Cary Brown (remote). City Clerk John Odum acted as secretary.

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

2022-285. Councilors Brown and Morton identified themselves as remote participants and the mayor reviewed meeting logistics.

2022-286. Without objection, the proposed agenda was approved by unanimous consent (5-0) with the addition of a discussion of council vacancies.

2022-287. Stephen Whitaker objected to the two-minute speaking limit and spoke on clearing the storm drains, removing the Guertin shelter, the lack of public restrooms, the unavailability of the information booth to the unhoused, closed caption availability, School Street closure, winter ban parking, and why autocracies fail. Peter Kelman spoke on the announcement by the Division of Children and Families regarding homeless support.

2022-288. Councilor Casey moved the consent agenda and was seconded by Councilor McCullough. The motion carried unanimously.

- a. MPD Request Authorization to purchase a new Radio Base Station
- b. Budget to Actuals October 2022
- c. Municipal Planning Grant Application

A recess was called at 6:42 PM. The meeting reconvened at 6:45 PM.

2022-289. Appointment to Planning Commission. Brian Mills addressed the council. Councilor McCullough moved to appoint Brian Mills to the Planning Commission. Councilor Hierl seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2022-290. Legislative agenda discussion. Maggie Lenz and Nick Sherman of Leonine addressed the council. Councilor Casey moved to approve the 2023 legislative agenda. Councilor Hierl seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2022-291. Chris Lumbra presented updates on energy issues and progress in the city government. No action taken.

2022-294. The council discussed anticipated council vacancies. Peter Kelman and the City Clerk offered comments. Councilor McCullough moved that the council intends to appoint a temporary replacement for a council opening on District 2 on December 21 that petitions bearing the signatures equal to the number of signatures to appear on the

ballot and complete an application by December 16 to be appointed December 21. Councilor Hierl seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2022-296. The mayor thanked her supporters and all the voters. She noted she was looking forward to being a state senator.

2022-298. The city manager reported on the budget congress and noted he will recommend a local options sales tax be implemented.

The mayor called a recess at 8:46. The meeting was reconvened at 8:56.

2022-292/293. At 8:57 PM, Councilor McCullough moved to go into executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A § 313(a)(2) "Information pertaining to the location of real or personal property for public agency purposes prior to public announcement of the project and information pertaining to appraisals or purchase price of real or personal property for public purposes prior to the formal award of contracts thereof." Councilor Hierl seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilor McCullough moved that on the conclusion of the previously approved executive session, the council enter executive session in accordance with 1, VSA § 313, (a)(3) to discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee. Councilor Hierl seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

At 10:14 PM, Council Member McCullough moved to come out of executive session and was seconded by Councilor Casey. Vote was 5-0 in favor

At 10:15 PM, Mayor Watson adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent.