



America's Small Town Capital

Mayor - Jack McCullough

City Council Members:

Dona Bate
Cary Brown
Lauren Hierl
Pelin Kohn
Sal Alfano
Tim Heney

William Fraser
City Manager

Kelly Murphy
Assistant City Manager

Mary Smith
Assistant to the City Manager

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, September 28, 2023
William J. Fraser, City Manager

Disruptive Comments at Sept. 27th Montpelier City Council Meeting

MONTPELIER, VT—An individual attending on Zoom unmuted themselves without being called on to speak and made anti-Semitic comments at the Montpelier City Council meeting on September 27th.

City staff immediately muted the individual and worked to remove them from the Zoom meeting within 30 seconds of the disruption.

The City has operated on the honor system regarding allowing individuals to unmute themselves during Council meetings and has had a strong track record of respectful behavior at hybrid meetings.

This rare, unfortunate occurrence by this individual is an unacceptable violation of the trust we hold in our community. The City Council and the entire City administration strongly condemn the comments and actions of the individuals who disrupted the meeting.

Moving forward, the City will be making changes to our Zoom attendance policy at City Council meetings to prevent disruptions in the future. Zoom participants will be muted upon entry to the meeting and will be permitted to unmute when called on by the Mayor. Participants who wish to speak may raise their hand and will be identified in the order they join the queue.

To comply with YouTube's policy on hate speech, the anti-Semitic comments will be removed from the ORCA Media recording of the September 27th meeting. In compliance with Vermont Public Records law, the full recording will be available by request from ORCA Media.

###

#