

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting**  
**January 14, 2015**  
**City Council Chambers**

In attendance: Mayor John Hollar (Chair), Councilors Justin Turcotte, Dona Bate, Anne Watson and Thierry Guerlain. Councilors Tom Golonka and Jessica Edgerly Walsh were absent. City Manager William Fraser was in attendance. City Clerk John Odum served as Secretary of the meeting.

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The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

15-011. Councilor Watson moved approval of the agenda and was seconded by Councilor Bate with the addition of an executive session on personnel. The motion carried unanimously (4-0) at 6:30.

15-013. Councilor Bate moved approval of the Consent Agenda, and was seconded by Councilor Watson. Motion carried unanimously at 6:32.

15-014. The Mayor opened a discussion regarding appointments to the City's Conservation Commission. Candidates were recognized and those present (Ben Eastwood, Jeff Schumann, James Brady, Emily Byrne and Charlie Hohn) were given an opportunity to address the Council and answer Councilors' questions (candidates Chris Hilke and John Jose were not present).

Councilor Watson moved the Council enter Executive Session in accordance with Title I, §313, *Executive Sessions*. Councilor Guerlain seconded the motion, which carried unanimously at 6:47.

Councilor Turcotte moved the Council return to open session. Councilor Guerlain seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 7:09.

Councilor Guerlain moved the Council appoint the following to the Conservation Commission: Chris Hilke to a 3-year term expiring January 15 2018, Ben Eastwood to a 2-year term expiring January 15 2017, James Brady to a 2-year term expiring June 15 2017, Emily Byrne as an alternate to a 1-year term expiring January 16 2016 and Charlie Hohn as an alternate to a 1-year term expiring January 16 2016. Councilor Turcotte seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 7:11.

15-015. Eliza Leeper, John Vanderen, Bernie Lambek, and Ron Wild of the Community Fund Board made presented their grantmaking recommendations to the Council. A discussion followed.

Vicki Lane and Janna Clar rose to address the Just Basics grant.

Roslyn Haldane of the Sexual Assault Crisis Team addressed the Council appealing the Board's decision to reject their application due to its late arrival.

Councilor Guerlain moved approval of the recommendation, and asked that the Board report back to the Council at the next meeting on the question of the Sexual Assault Crisis Team request. Councilor Watson seconded the motion. Further discussion followed. Motion carried 4-1 (Councilor Bate voted nay, the Mayor voted aye with the majority) at 7:54.

- 15-016. The Mayor opened the first Public Hearing on the proposed FY '16 municipal budget at 7:56. City Manager Fraser opened the discussion with a power point presentation.

John Snell addressed the Council regarding the Tree Board budget.

Martha Englert of the Central Vermont Community Land Trust addressed the Council advocating to restore Housing Trust Fund monies to the budget. She was followed by Auburn Watersong, Jack McCullough (who provided a memo to the Council), JoAnn Troiano, Liz Genge, Vicki Lane, Polly Nichol, Kathleen Kanz, Jim Libby, Susan Mesner and Nancy Sherman also speaking in support of the Fund. Some supporters advocated placing the question on the ballot as an alternative.

Marion Drew and Vicki Lane addressed the Council advocating for the restoration of funding for the Police Department canine. Chief Facos addressed the Council in response to questions from Ms. Lane.

Ms. Lane further advocated for returning some of the Community Fund applications to the ballot, as well as criticizing the size of city employee salaries.

Council discussion followed the public comments. Ms. Troiano and Ms. Lane returned to the microphone to add further comments on the Housing Trust Fund. Councilor Turcotte shared testimonials from three absent (unnamed) constituents concerning the level of taxation (characterized as too high) and concerns over heating for low-income residents.

The Mayor closed the public hearing at 9:17 PM.

The Mayor called a recess at 9:19. The Council reconvened at 9:28

- 15-017. The Mayor opened the first public hearing on the warning for the March 3, 2015 Annual City Meeting at 9:28 PM.

Michael Sherman had questions about the ballot article reauthorizing Downtown Improvement District Funding. A brief discussion of the topic among Councilors followed.

Vicki Lane had a question about the school board.

The Mayor closed the public hearing at 9:30.

- 15-018. Councilor Guerlain moved that the Annual City Meeting be set for Tuesday, March 3rd, from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. in the City Hall Auditorium. The motion was seconded by

Councilor Bate and approved unanimously at 9:31.

A discussion of the date, time and location of the pre-town meeting public meeting of the budget forum with Vibrant and Affordable Montpelier followed briefly.

15-019. Councilors engaged in a brief discussion of the process and timing of the City Manager's Review.

15-020. Councilor Bate asked about the City's selection as a semifinalist for the \$5 million Georgetown University Energy prize. Councilor Watson offered details and responded to council questions. Assistant Manager Jessie Baker added details.

Councilor Guerlain took a moment to appreciate citizen involvement and passion.

Councilor Turcotte reminded citizens to request a city Annual Report, complimented the Library for qualifying their budget request for the ballot, and noted his desire to continue the conversation about supporting organizations.

Councilor Watson shared questions and thoughts about the Housing Trust Fund.

15-022. The City Clerk noted the upcoming filing deadlines for the 2015 Annual City Meeting ballot (January 22 for ballot articles, and February 2 for candidates).

15-023. City Manager Fraser reported on the progress of the Public Works Director search

Councilor Watson moved the Council enter Executive Session in accordance with Title I, §313, Executive Sessions to discuss a personnel matter. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 9:42 PM.

Councilor Guerlain moved the Council return to open session and was seconded by Councilor Watson. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Bate moved the Council adjourn. Councilor Guerlain seconded. Motion carried unanimously.