

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
June 10, 2015
City Council Chambers

In attendance: Mayor John Hollar (Chair), Councilors Justin Turcotte, Dona Bate, Jean Olson, Tom Golonka and Jessica Edgerly Walsh. Councilor Anne Watson was not present. City Manager William Fraser was in attendance. City Clerk John Odum served as Secretary of the meeting.

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

15-149. Incoming Councilor Jean Olson was sworn into office by the City Clerk

15-150. Hearing no objection, the Chair declared the proposed agenda approved by unanimous consent.

15-152. Councilor Bate asked that item c (approval of a resolution to commit fund balance funds) from the consent agenda be tabled for discussion. Councilor Golonka moved that the Consent Agenda without item c be approved, and was seconded by Councilor Bate. Motion carried on a 4-0 vote (Councilors Golonka, Turcotte, Olson, Bate voting aye).

15-153. Councilor Golonka formally introduced Francis (Paco) Aumand to the Montpelier City Council as the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority's first Executive Director. A brief interaction with Councilors followed.

Councilor Golonka moved the Council authorize the City Manager and staff to work with Mr. Aumand as the City's representative and to assist in the collection of needed information as the CVPSA embarks on this important endeavor. Councilor Turcotte seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

15-154. The Council heard presentations from two groups of Montpelier High School students on city policy proposals that emerged from class projects ("Project Citizen"). The first was an analysis and a recommendation around skateboarding within the city, and the second related to limiting and/or recycling plastic bags from local businesses.

The Councilors engaged in discussion with both groups, and recommended they continue developing their proposals. The Mayor indicated he would look closely at the specific recommendation regarding skateboarding.

15-155. Police Chief Tony Facos came forward to introduce a requested parking rate increase for short-term parking on Stone Cutters Way (for consistency with hourly rates in those areas). Discussion followed. Kevin Casey of the Planning & Development office also added an update on smart meters.

Councilor Golonka moved the Council approve the increase as proposed (\$.50 per hour). Councilor Bate seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 7:28.

- 15-156. Mr. Casey addressed the Council in regards to the proposed Montpelier Transportation Advisory Committee (MTAC), discussing the structure agreed upon by the related city committees and departments. There was significant discussion, and the Council made several recommendations regarding the clarity of the proposed committee's authority and membership.
- Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the Council approve the creation of the committee with a direction to staff to return with further edits to the workplan (based on the Council's feedback). Councilor Turcotte seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 7:46.
- 15-157. At 7:48PM, the Mayor opened the First Public Hearing/Reading of a proposed amendment to Chapter 11 of the City's Code of Ordinances that would designate parks as smoke free zones.
- Linda Quinlan, Laura Gamble, Dan Gates rose to testify in opposition.
- Ron Rippon, Ginny Burley and Sasha Bianchi rose in support.
- The Mayor declared the public hearing closed at 8:00PM. Further discussion followed.
- Councilor Turcotte move to indefinitely postpone consideration of this and any amendments to the code of ordinances regarding smoking bans indefinitely. Councilor Golonka seconded. After a brief discussion, the motion failed on a 4-1 vote (Councilor Turcotte voting aye, Councilors Golonka, Edgerly Walsh, Bate and Olson voting nay).
- Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the Council set the Second Public Hearing/Reading for June 24, 2015, and was seconded by Councilor Bate. At 8:14, the motion passed on a 4-1 vote (Councilor Golonka opposed, all others present in favor).
- 15-158. The Chair opened the discussion on the consideration of a proposed process for a downtown smoking ban. After some discussion, Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved that the discussion be postponed until March when the Council will reconsider its annual goals. Councilor Bate seconded.
- Ms. Burley and Mr. Rippon rose in favor of the idea of a downtown smoking ban. Ann Charles rose in opposition.
- The motion carried unanimously at 8:26.
- 15-159. The Chair recalled item c from consent agenda. Finance Director Sandra Gallup came forward to answer Council questions about the proposed fund balance commitment resolution. After some discussion, Councilor Bate move approval of item c from the consent agenda, and was seconded by Councilor Turcotte. The motion carried unanimously at 8:33.
- 15-160. Councilor Olson shared that she was honored by her appointment to the Council.
- Councilor Turcotte welcomed Councilor Olson to the Council. He also thanked Ms.

Gallup and the Investment Committee for their work, before encouraging members of the public to provide feedback on the city's zoning proposals.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh commended police officers on Car Share parking enforcement and flexibility to avoid towing.

15-162. The City Clerk noted that the coming Monday was the utility bills due date as well as a Board of Abatement meeting.

15-163. The City Manager reported on the Senior Executives Institute at the University of Virginia before leading a brief discussion among Councilors on the summer meeting schedule.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved that the Council enter into executive discussion to discuss the Fire Union contract in accordance with Title I, VSA§313, Executive Sessions, (a) (1) "Contracts, labor relations agreements with employees, arbitration, mediation, grievances, civil actions, or prosecutions by the state, where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the state, municipality or other public body, or person involved at a substantial disadvantage." Councilor Turcotte seconded the motion, which carried unanimously at 8:42.

Hearing no objection, the Mayor declared the meeting returned to open session by unanimous consent at 9:00PM. Immediately thereafter, the Mayor, hearing no objection, declared the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.