

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
November 4, 2015, 6:30PM.
City Council Chambers**

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

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

- 15-285. City Manager Fraser asked that agenda item 7 (15-290 – a discussion of Council Goal D) be removed. The City Clerk asked that Council approval (as the local liquor control authority) for Myles Court Barbershop to hold BYOB closed-door events (wedding party group haircuts) be added to the Consent Agenda. Without objection, the Chair declared the agenda approved with the requested modifications, by unanimous consent.
- 15-286. Jed Guertin addressed the Council regarding a potential Berlin Pond focused charter change. Mr. Guertin spoke in favor of protecting the pond.
- 15-287. Finance Director Sandy Gallup and Assistant City Manager Jessie Baker presented an update to inform the discussion of City Council Goal B: Balance and Control Municipal Budgeting, Taxes and Services Relative to Current Population and Grant List Tax Base. Both remained at the table to answer Council questions during the discussion. No action was taken.
- 15-289. Without objection, the Chair moved up the discussion of the Consent Agenda (agenda item 15-289).
- Councilor Watson moved approval of the Consent Agenda (as amended), and was seconded by Councilor Edgerly Walsh. A discussion of item c (an agreement with Novus Broad Brook Solar, LLC) followed. Planning Director Michael Miller and Alex Bravakis of Novus Broad Brook Solar came forward to provide background. The motion then carried unanimously (5-0) at 8:02PM.
- That included an estimate from the vendor that this project would reduce the cost of the cities electricity by about \$50,000 per year.
- 15-288. Mr. Miller stayed at the front table to participate in the discussion of City Council Goal J: Create a Hospitable Environment for Housing Development and Grand List Growth. The zoning plan under development was discussed. No action was taken.
- The Chair called a recess at 8:41. The Council reconvened at 8:52, with Councilor Watson serving as Chair (Mayor Hollar was not present).
- 15-291. Mr. Miller was joined at the front table by City Community Development Specialist Kevin Casey for the discussion of City Council Goal G: Alleviate Parking Pressures in

Montpelier to Maintain a Vibrant Downtown. The Mayor returned and resumed chairing the meeting at 8:58.

- 15-292. Assistant City Manager Jessie Baker came forward for the discussion of City Council Goal H: Explore and Encourage Intra-municipal and Other Regional Efforts with the Goal of Maintaining Service Levels and Reducing Costs (this goal includes the Recreation Department transition, which was the primary topic of discussion).
- 15-294. Councilor Turcotte thanked the Police Department for their handling of the recent Statehouse protest. He also made note of complaints about the taste of city water and steps he had taken to respond. He further offered concerns around the implementation of Act 64 (regarding Lake Champlain water quality), before encouraging Councilors to participate in the Veterans Day parade.
- Councilor Edgerly Walsh thanked DPW for the recent work on streets in her neighborhood. She also requested that a discussion of the Nature Center's activities be included on a future agenda.
- 15-296. The City Clerk noted the coming tax due date and the new online election system.
- 15-297. City Manager Fraser made note of the continuation of the Mowatt hearing next Wednesday, and Monday's hearing regarding the employment status of the previous Planning Director.

Hearing no objection, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:00PM.