

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
December 14, 2016, 5:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers

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

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

16-352. With the addition of a discussion on the Public Safety Authority (requested by Councilor Olson), the proposed agenda was approved (as amended) by unanimous consent.

16-352(a). In regards to the continuation of the discussion regarding the City Manager's contract, after some discussion no motion was made for executive session.

The Mayor called a recess at 5:35. The meeting reconvened at 5:38.

The following citizens addressed the council in favor of renewing the City Manager's contract: Speakers – Anna Scoppettone, Diane Zeigler, Wayne Fawbush, Page Guertin, Stuart Williams, Vicki Lane, Dennis Malloy, Stephen Walke, Marilyn Mode, Carolyn Scoppettone, Roger Weingarten, Diane Baker, Carolyn Herz, Robbie Harold, Nancy Sherman, John Snell, Chuck Karparris, John Odum.

Statements were read by Councilors Watson and Turcotte.

16-354. There was discussion regarding consent agenda items D (Skating Rink MOU) & B (Detailed Budget Status Reports) which included City Manager Bill Fraser, Assistant City Manager Jessie Baker and Finance Director Todd Provencher. Councilor Olson moved approval of the consent agenda, and was seconded by Councilor Bate. The motion carried unanimously at 6:53.

16-353. Dot Helling addressed the council with Sandy Vitzthum and Janet Petit (?) about the Montpelier Indoor Recreation and Aquatics Task Force.

Boots Wardinski presented an excessive force complaint regarding a recent protest at TD Bank. Police Chief Tony Facos gave an update on the complaint (a letter was delivered last week).

16-355. Kate Stephenson and Dan Jones delivered a Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee update, including the announcement that the group had won an award. Coming events were noted, including a presentation on the design contest.

16-356. A "preview" of the budget discussion was offered. Public Works Director Tom McArdle, Assistant City Manager Baker, and Finance Director Provencher participated.

The Chair called a recess at 9:05 PM. The meeting reconvened at 9:11 PM.

16-357. Assistant Manager Baker was joined by Senior Center Director Jana Clar, Recreation Department Director Arne McMullen and Parks Director Geoff Beyer for a Community Services departmental update.

Councilor Watson moved the Council receive the presentation from staff on Community Services integration, planning, operations, emerging issues and budget implications. And was seconded by Councilor Bate. The motion carried unanimously at 9:15.

The presentation continued, further discussion followed.

The Council received an update on the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority from Councilors Golonka and Bate. Chief Facos added comments.

16-362. Councilor Bate spoke in favor of approaching budget matters in a way that lines up expenditures with vision.

Councilor Olson reported on the downsizing meeting the prior Saturday.

Councilor Turcotte asked for an update on the Econo Lodge empty building situation. Health Officer Bob Gowans came up and offered details. Discussion followed.

Councilor Watson reported on the Flag Design Committee. City Clerk Odum volunteered to participate.

16-364. The Clerk reported that utility bills were due the next day.

16-359. Councilor Olson moved the Council enter into executive session as per statute to discuss the Mowatt real estate proposal, and Harris Hall Zoning litigation. Councilor Bate seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Chair declared the Council returned to open session by unanimous consent.

Hearing no objections, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.