

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
August 28, 2013
Montpelier City Hall Council Chambers

In attendance: Mayor John Hollar (presiding), City Councilors Thierry Guerlain, Alan Weiss, Andy Hooper, Tom Golonka and Anne Watson, and City Manager Bill Fraser. Jessica Edgerly Walsh was not in attendance. City Clerk John Odum acted as Secretary of the meeting.

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

13-206. The City Clerk noted the previous meeting's minutes were not available. At Councilor request, items b and 6 were removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

Councilor Watson (seconded by Councilor Guerlain) moved approval of the remaining consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously at 6:32 PM.

13-208. The Mayor welcomed members of the parking committee (Brian Cain of the Capitol Plaza, Michael Clasen representing the State, and Planning & Development staffer Kevin Casey) to discuss the council's goal to "support the work of the Parking Committee in an effort to alleviate parking pressures in Montpelier." Mr. Cain went through the report.

Mr. Cain reviewed the reports analysis of the seasonal nature of city parking issues, as well as identifying the stakeholders. He also spoke to challenges of fees, enforcement and signage.

Mr. Clasen reviewed parking mitigation programs (such as buses and car/van pools) underway at the state, as well as their search to identify new parking spaces. Mr. Cain then reviewed recommendations from the committee at this point.

The mayor had questions about the proposed signage for weekend Carr Lot parking. In response to the mayor's questions, Chief Facos reviewed enforcement of the two hour parking limit.

Chief Facos discussed the potential of "smart" technology to assist in consistent enforcement.

Councilor Weiss asked for clarification about Chief Facos's role in the committee, as well as the status of some particular parking spaces on Baldwin Street.

Chief Facos mentioned potential opportunities to work with Barre Town on parking technology studies.

Councilor Guerlain asked about the status of the newly approved parking spaces. He also had questions about the approach to the parking ban.

Councilor Watson asked about parking on State Street and the potential impact of any angle parking plan.

Councilor Weiss asked the committee members about parklets. Mr. Cain indicated the committee had not considered them.

The Mayor asked for clarification about the coach parking proposal.

Councilor Guerlain asked about enforcement of anti-idling rules among coaches, and encouraged reminders to be included on signage.

In response to a question from Councilor Hooper, Kevin Casey of the planning department discussed the capabilities of "smart" parking meters.

Councilor Weiss asked the committee about the potential for Montpelier Alive to include promotional materials in the coach spaces.

Councilor Watson encouraged that action on meters and fees be proceeded with quickly.

Chief Facos explained his recommendation for a more flexible approach to setting meter fees if and when the council goes in the direction of smart parking meters.

Councilor Watson moved that the council approve creation of 4 new temporary parking spaces for coach buses as proposed, to expire October 30th (and to including signage indicating no idling), and approve signage for parking at the Carr lot on the weekends. Seconded by Councilor Guerlain, the motion passed unanimously at 7:19.

- 13-210. Councilor Guerlain volunteered for the position of voting delegate to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns' Annual Business Meeting. Councilor Golonka presented a formal motion nominating Councilor Guerlain. Councilor Watson seconded. Approved at 7:22 by a vote of 5-0, with Councilor Guerlain abstaining.

City Manager Fraser explained the function of the Voting Delegate to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns' Annual Business Meeting.

- 13-211. Councilor Weiss asked about the opportunity for the council to discuss parklets.

Councilor Guerlain noted the wrong year was denoted on the council materials. He asked that the dating notation be changed.

- 13-212. Mayor Hollar referenced his research on the "motion to table." He suggested the council not make motions to table. He noted he was meeting with the Farmers market about long term options.

- 13-214. The City Manager explained his approval under the council's previous authorization for parklets, to allow for the one day parklet demo program scheduled. Councilor Weiss asked for clarification on what would and would not be allowed.

Councilor Watson - seconded by Councilor Hooper - moved to go into executive session to discuss Carr Lot negotiations. The motion carried unanimously at 7:29.

Councilor Guerlain moved the council return to open session and adjourn. Councilor Golonka seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 8:04.