

**Minutes of the Special Montpelier City Council Meeting
August 29, 2012
City Council Chambers, Montpelier City Hall**

In attendance: Mayor John Hollar (presiding), City Manager Bill Fraser, City Councilors Andy Hooper, Thierry Guerlain, Alan Weiss, Angela Timpone, Anne Watson, and Tom Golonka. City Clerk John Odum acted as Secretary of the Meeting.

At 6:32 PM the Mayor called the meeting to order.

12-217. The Mayor gave a brief outline of the District Heat project as it has been tentatively amended, subject to approval by the Council. Mayor Hollar expressed his belief that the project as amended with the state was superior to the previous plan. He indicated that the capacity costs due by the city to the state would now be more scalable, subject to the customer base. He also noted that the city had provided a minimal build commitment (to State and Elm) to the state in the new agreement, adding that this is consistent with the city's plan to this point. The Mayor also spoke of ongoing discussions on the organizational structure (including the possibility of an independent entity administrating the project at some point).

Councilor Guerlain spoke about his experience since his vote on the project last week. He explained his previous opposition, stating that he intended to support the modified project proposal.

Councilor Golonka thanked Administration Secretary Jeb Spaulding for working with the city, and stated his belief that the modified proposal is significantly superior to the plan he voted against the previous week in its financial flexibility, and in its enhancement of the partnership between the city and state. He indicated he would continue to be critical going forward, but would vote yes.

Councilor Timpone thanked the community for its engagement on the issue, as well as city staff for its work. She also praised the other Council members for their willingness to work constructively. She expressed concerns about the possibility of creating a third party entity to manage or administer the project.

Mayor Hollar thanked Secretary Spaulding and others for their work.

Councilor Weiss thanked those citizens who called him to express opinions on the issue, noting that opinions ran both for and against the project, but with a majority in favor. He also spoke on the differences between the project as originally conceived and the project proposed last week, which put more control in the hands of the State of Vermont, rather than the City. He expressed frustration that under the newly designed project, no city buildings would be served under the initial deployment. He indicated he would vote against the project.

Councilor Hooper felt that the city's risk had been reduced in the recent negotiations and would therefore vote to approve it.

Councilor Watson spoke positively of the project, finding it economically, environmentally and socially sound.

Barney Bloom addressed the Council. He thanked the Council and staff for their work in the last week. He spoke appreciatively as a representative of the Courthouse.

Zachary Hughes addressed the Council in support of the project and hoped more buildings could be included as soon as possible.

Bill Brown rose to express his pleasure in the process over the last week. He quoted recent news articles detailing concerns associated with severe weather associated with climate change. He also cited economic and national security issues surrounding petroleum.

Jed Burton rose to thank City Manager Bill Fraser and Mayor Hollar for their work in the last week. Ben Eastwood also thanked the Mayor and Council for their work, and hoped that communication on the reasoning behind votes could improve.

City manager Fraser clarified that the city is committed to the state buildings in the new plan, but the project intention to build beyond that minimum has not changed. Mayor Hollar thanked Governor Shumlin for his support on the project.

Councilor Golonka moved that the state enter into a new agreement with the state outlined in the memorandum dated August 29th, including the ten items that it lists. Councilor Hooper seconded. At 7:03, the motion carried 5-1, with Councilors Golonka, Watson, Timpone, Hooper and Guerlain voting aye, and Councilor Weiss voting nay.

At 7:04, Councilor Guerlain moved for adjournment. Councilor Timpone seconded. The motion passed unanimously.