

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
December 11, 2013
Montpelier City Hall Council Chambers**

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

The mayor called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

13-298. Paul Gamble suggested the Carr Lot committee consider the inclusion of public artwork in its development plan. He referenced a federal grant opportunity that could be available, if the council was interested. The mayor spoke supportively of the idea. Councilor Hooper asked if the timing would work. Councilor Guerlain spoke supportively of integrating any art as part of a citywide approach.

The mayor received unanimous consent to add the opportunity for a motion expressing the council's approval of the proposal to the agenda. A motion to that effect was then offered by Councilor Guerlain, seconded by Councilor Weiss, and passed unanimously at 6:37 PM.

13-299. Councilor Hooper moved approval of the consent agenda (sans the minutes from the previous meeting), Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 6:39.

13-300. Councilor Golonka reviewed the Final Charter for the Public Safety Authority, including the status of the overall effort, and the next steps to be taken.

Councilor Weiss moved that the council place the following wording on the Annual Meeting ballot: "Shall the voters of the city of Montpelier adopt the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority Charter." The motion was seconded by Councilor Edgerly Walsh.

Councilor Guerlain had questions about the timing laid out in the document, and Weiss and Golonka detailed how the timing related to Barre Town. Mr. Guerlain asked further about the dynamics of discussions with the town of Berlin. After discussions of the timing of the hearings followed, the motion carried unanimously at 6:53.

13-302. Councilor Weiss moved that the council receive, with commendations to the chair and committee, the report from the Charter Change Committee. Councilor Hooper seconded, and the motion carried unanimously at 6:57.

The City Clerk recommended that additional language be added to facilitate the council's desire to have greater control over dog licensing fees. ("SUBCHAPTER VII. § 5-708. Pet licensing fees: The general grant of ordinance-promulgating authority in Subchapter VII shall include the authority to adopt and enforce ordinances, including any related fees, for the purpose of regulating and licensing the keeping of dogs or other pets.").

Councilor Weiss moved that the council authorize that the report, with the recommended animal license language included, be filed with the City Clerk to be

considered for inclusion on the ballot, with a grant of authority to city staff to make typographic corrections as needed. Councilor Hooper seconded.

Councilor Guerlain had questions about the relationship of the proposal to the schools. The mayor asked Charter Committee Chair Nancy Sherman to elaborate on any discussions about the school section.

The motion carried unanimously at 7:02.

- 13-303. City Manager Fraser narrated a power point presentation laying out the proposed budget for the next fiscal year.

Councilor Hooper asked for clarifications on personnel funding. Councilor Weiss spoke highly of the performance measure system. He expressed his desire to see the funding restored for a citizen survey, recommending the council take the \$20,000 out of Montpelier Alive's budget for that purpose.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh echoed praise for the performance measures, and suggested that an online citizen survey would be cheaper. Ms. Edgerly Walsh had further questions about changes in the emergency management budget. Mr. Fraser and Fire Chief Robert Gowans elaborated; making note of the transition to a new community communication system that is funded and hosted by the state.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh concluded her questions with inquiries into circulator bus, cemetery, and road funding.

- 13-304. Councilor Guerlain asked the City Manager about proposed parking lot changes at the high school. Councilor Weiss followed up with concerns that potential plans might conflict with state regulations.

Councilor Guerlain then asked about the status of the road work on Barre Street. Public Works Director Todd Law indicated that it should be completed by the end of this week or early next week.

Councilor Guerlain concluded with questions about the status of the Carr Lot project, and broached the topic of the council's upcoming meeting schedule. A general agreement to cancel the next meeting followed.

Councilor Watson asked about the schedule for taking the annual council photo. After discussion, a consensus to schedule it on January 8th at 6:00 followed.

Councilor Weiss offered a season's greetings to all.

Councilor Watson spoke on behalf of the schools, expressing gratitude for the community support in wake of a tragedy this week.

- 13-306. The City Clerk noted the upcoming water/sewer payment date.

- 13-307. City Manager Fraser reported that library authorities want to know if they should come to an upcoming council meeting to present their budget. Councilor Golonka suggested it would be a good idea, and there was general concurrence among the other councilmembers. It was suggested the presentation could be on January 15th.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Hooper. The motion carried unanimously at 7:53 PM.