

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
February 18, 2015
City Council Chambers**

In attendance: Mayor John Hollar (Chair), Councilors Justin Turcotte, Dona Bate, Tom Golonka, and Thierry Guerlain. Councilors Jessica Edgerly Walsh and Anne Watson were 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.

15-050. The Mayor reviewed the proposed agenda, with the addition of items 15-060A (Discussion on authorizing the City manager or his designee to negotiate with other bidders in addition to groSolar on the solar photovoltaic bid) and 15-061A (Discussion of the Downtown Transportation Fund Grant). Without objection, the agenda as amended was approved by unanimous consent.

15-052. Councilor Turcotte moved approval of the consent agenda. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion passed unanimously (4-0) at 6:34.

15-054 Central Vermont Public Safety Authority Board Members Doug Hoyt, Alexandra Pastor, Michael Smith and John Hannigan came forward (Board member Kim Cheney was absent). The agenda item (which also served as a meeting of the PSA Board) was introduced (and called to order at 6:35PM) by Councilor Golonka, who serves as PSA Board Chair. Councilor Bate also participated as a member of the PSA Board.

City Councilors praised the work and goals of the PSA. A brief discussion followed. The PSA meeting was then adjourned by Mr. Golonka at 6:41PM.

15-053. Public Works Director Tom McArdle was joined at the table by Brian Tuttle (supervisor of the street and water/sewer operations) to review the City's winter operations. A discussion followed. No action was taken.

15-061A Planning Director Mike Miller came forward for a discussion of the Downtown Transportation Fund Grant to fund infrastructure improvement on Taylor Street in conjunction with the development at 1 Taylor Street. Discussion followed.

Councilor Bate moved that the Council Authorize City Staff to move forward with an application for the Downtown Transportation Fund Grant not to exceed \$100,000. Councilor Guerlain seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 7:17PM. (review)

The grant discussion gave rise to a brief discussion of the status of utility polls in the City. Mr. McArdle returned to the front to answer councilors' questions. The Mayor disclosed for the record that he represented Fairpoint in his professional practice.

15-060A Mr. Miller returned to the table to introduce the discussion on authorizing the City Manager (or his designee) to negotiate with other bidders in addition to groSolar on the

solar photovoltaic bid. Mr. Miller explained the dynamics of the project and the need to expand the previously granted negotiating authority and answered Councilors' questions. The City Manager added his perspective.

Councilor Turcotte moved the Council authorize the City Manager (or his designee) to negotiate with other bidders in addition to groSolar on the solar photovoltaic bid. Councilor Guerlain seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 7:35.

15-056. Councilor Bate encouraged citizens to seek out a copy of the City Annual Report.

Councilor Guerlain delivered a positive report on happening at the Kellogg Hubbard Library.

Councilor Turcotte encouraged citizens to turn out to vote on Town Meeting Day.

15-057. The Mayor reported on the Union Elementary anniversary, including the lantern walk. He commended the school board as well as city staff on their work on the budget.

15-058. The City Clerk reported that Saturday February 28th, the City Clerk's office will be open from 10AM-2PM for early voting only.

15-059. City Manager Fraser noted the availability of the city Annual Report, reminded citizens to vote in the coming election, and noted Montpelier's recent best small downtown in America designation.

Councilor Guerlain moved the Council enter executive session under statute, for the purpose of discussing the City Manager's annual review and contract renewal. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 7:41PM.

Without objection, the Council returned to open session and then adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:14PM.