

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
February 27, 2013
Library, Montpelier High School**

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hollar at 6:31 PM.

13-056. Councilor Weiss moved approval of the consent agenda, Councilor Guerlain seconded. The City Clerk apologized that the previous meeting's minutes were not available, and had several liquor license renewals to add for approval. Councilor Weiss modified his motion to accommodate the changes. The consent agenda passed unanimously at 6:32.

13-057. Representatives from the Barre District Office of the Vermont Department of Health Bonnie Alexander (Nutritionist) and Sasha Bianchi (Director) made a presentation to the Council, detailing their service of towns in Washington and Orange counties. According to the presenters, Montpelier is considered "underserved" as not everyone eligible for the WIC program is participating. Councilor Timpone engaged the presenters in a brief discussion of why some citizens who are eligible may not be taking advantage of the program. Councilor Watson was curious about the underlying data.

Ms. Alexander also reviewed the immunization program, particularly in regards to pertussis. Ms. Bianchi reviewed the department's efforts coordinating, developing and enhancing emergency preparedness, including citing the resources available to the city.

Councilor Guerlain encouraged the presenters to connect with Nat Frothingham (who was present at the meeting) for coverage in the Bridge.

13-058. At 6:45, the Mayor opened a Joint Public Hearing with Superintendent Brian Ricca and School Board representatives to consider the proposed articles relating to bonding on the City's March 5th Annual Meeting ballot. Joining them were Sandra Gallup and Todd Law, directors of the city's Finance Department and Department of Public Works, respectively.

The work planned for school buildings and facilities was discussed, with emphasis on the fact that the work planned primarily constitutes maintenance and upkeep, rather than enhancements, with some exceptions (notably bathrooms and security doors).

Councilor Guerlain asked for clarification on the Union Elementary heating system.

Mr. Law and Ms. Gallup reviewed the infrastructure bond request in article 9 and the sewer bond request in article 10.

Councilor Weiss asked about the financial relationship with Berlin as regards the sewer bond.

Jessica Edgerly Walsh asked about the duration of the River Street sewer project and its impact. Mr. Law indicated that 3 or 4 months was the current thinking.

Ron Wild asked about contingency plans for “off-peak” hour construction on River Street. Mr. Law indicated it could be looked at, but that evening work presented challenges and increased costs. Law noted that peak traffic hours would be worked around.

The public hearing concluded at 7:05.

- 13-059. Jeff Schumann and John Akielaszek (2 of the 4 candidates for the Tree Board) introduced themselves to the Council and briefly outlined their interest in the appointments.

Councilor Timpone moved the appointment of Sarah Hoffmeier, John Akielaszek, Jeff Schumann and Ken Libertoff to the Tree Board. Councilor Hooper seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 7:07. Mr. Akielaszek took the opportunity to pass out some materials relating to tree pests.

- 13-060. Energy Committee candidate Jim Stiles introduced himself to the Council and reviewed his background and interest in the Energy Committee. Councilor Watson noted that Tim Shea (the other candidate) sent his regrets that he couldn't attend.

Councilor Watson moved appointment of Jim Stiles and Tim Shea to the Energy Committee. Councilor Timpone seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 7:10.

- 13-061. Councilor Guerlain moved that Nancy Schulz and Mike Philbrick be appointed to the Bike Advisory Committee. Councilor Hooper seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 7:11.

Councilor Weiss noted that there is another bike advisory committee (which he participates in), and hoped that the city committee would make a point to interact and coordinate its efforts. Mayor Hollar noted that James Sharp serves on both committees.

- 13-062. Sidewalk Steward Harris Webster gave a brief summary of the three years of volunteer sidewalk monitoring through the interfaith community, reviewing the positive and cooperative interactions with the city in that time. He encouraged the City Council to establish a City Pedestrian Board or Committee under the city's purview to continue the work.

City Manager Bill Fraser commended the work of the Steward and the volunteer group, and supported the idea of a city committee.

Councilor Guerlain sparked a brief discussion of the potential interaction between a sidewalk committee and city efforts around bikes.

Councilor Weiss moved that the city create a pedestrian board. Councilor Timpone seconded. The motion was approved unanimously at 7:22.

13-063. Councilor Watson reminded the Council about Monday's Energy Fair before thanking Councilor Timpone for her service, noting this was her last meeting as a councilor.

Councilor Timpone thanked the District 3 voters, as well as the Council and Mayor, in addition to former Mayor Hooper and former Councilors Jarvis and Sherman. Councilor Timpone jokingly appropriated Richard Nixon's "you won't have me to kick around anymore" quote.

Councilors Hooper, Guerlain and Timpone thanked Councilor Timpone for her service. Their sentiments were echoed by the mayor.

13-064. The City Clerk noted that the Clerk's office would be open the Saturday prior to Town Meeting Day for three hours to accommodate early voting. Councilor Weiss asked the Clerk to review his office's partnership with the Quirky Pet, soliciting donations from dog owners to purchase a pet microchip reader for the police department.

13-066. City Manager Fraser reviewed call force staffing arrangements underway that could address firefighters' concerns about coverage under the new staffing level. He also thanked Councilor Timpone for her service.

Councilor Timpone moved the council adjourn at 7:29 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilor Guerlain and passed unanimously.