

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
January 7, 2015
City Council Chambers**

In attendance: Mayor John Hollar (Chair), Councilors Tom Golonka, Justin Turcotte, Dona Bate, Anne Watson, Jessica Edgerly Walsh and Thierry Guerlain. City Manager William Fraser was in attendance. City Clerk John Odum served as Secretary of the meeting.

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

15-001. Councilor Guerlain moved the Council approve the proposed agenda. Councilor Turcotte seconded the motion, which carried unanimously at 6:30.

15-003. Councilor Watson moved approval of the Consent Agenda and was seconded by Councilor Bate. The motion passed unanimously at 6:31.

15-004. City Manager Fraser opened the discussion concerning the appointment of an Investment Committee to oversee future investments. Candidates Terry Field and David Brownlee addressed the Council on their interest and qualifications and responded to councilors' questions.

Councilor Watson moved the Council appoint Terry Field and David Brownlee to the Investment Committee with the understanding that those appointees will work with Tom Golonka and Sandy Gallup as the complete committee. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. A discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously at 6:46.

15-005. The Mayor opened a continuation of the discussion of the FY '16 Budget.

Councilor Guerlain acknowledged the feedback he had received on the preliminary budget documents before moving that the part of the budget proposal (regarding Montpelier Alive funding) be eliminated, such that the DID funds as originally envisioned and allocated remain as such. Councilor Turcotte seconded. Discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously at 6:56. Sarah Jarvis rose to thank the Council and add comments.

Discussion continued, with additional information provided by Finance Director Sandy Gallup and Planning & Development Director Michael Miller.

Councilor Guerlain moved that the Council formally invite the citizen's budget committee to make a presentation to the Council. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 7:33PM.

Councilor Turcotte moved that the Council receive a recommendation from the City Manager to find cuts to offset the restored Montpelier Alive funding in the budget proposal. Councilor Guerlain seconded the motion. Further discussion followed. The motion failed on a 1-5 vote (Councilor Turcotte voting aye, Councilors Guerlain, Bate,

Edgerly Walsh, Watson and Golonka voting nay).

Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved that the Council move forward with the proposed budget with the previously approved change regarding the DID and Montpelier Alive. Councilor Bate seconded. Motion passed unanimously at 7:49.

The City Manager praised Seth Wood's work on the budget books.

- 15-007. After a brief discussion initiated by Councilor Golonka, he moved that Councilor Edgerly Walsh be appointed to the Housing Trust Fund. Councilor Watson seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 7:50. Councilor Golonka concluded his report by praising the budget book format.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh wondered where citizens who may be having trouble keeping warm could look for help. Fire Chief Robert Gowans came forward to respond, indicating people in such need should contact the Police Department to get in touch with Rick DeAngelis. They could also call the fire department during working hours.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh announced she will be running for re-election.

Councilor Bate offered a reminder that "Citizens to Protect Berlin Pond" is now the "Vermont Clean Water Coalition." She also praised the budget book.

Councilor Guerlain praised the budget book and the budget process with city staff. He further reported that we had begun receiving the Recreation Department numbers he had requested at the previous meeting, before reporting on the recent Vibrant and Affordable Montpelier (VAM) meeting, adding a request that the city promote its upcoming budget forum on its website. The Mayor indicated that such promotion was already planned.

Councilor Turcotte also liked the budget book. He went on to note that Barre is using American-made solar panels in their solar projects. Councilor Turcotte concluded his report with questions about the railing on the corner of Hubbard and East State Streets, and about the City Annual Report.

- 15-008. The Mayor praised city staff for their work on the budget.

- 15-010. City Manager Fraser announced that the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the city website is out. He also discussed moving the February 25 Council meeting to February 18. The Council consensus was in favor of the change. A brief discussion of the schedule and format of the City Manager's review followed.

Councilor Bate moved to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Watson. The motion passed unanimously at 8:05PM.