

On Thursday evening, January 22, 2009, the City Council Members met in the Council Chamber.

Present: Mayor Hooper; Council Members Hooper, Sheridan, Weiss, Golonka, Sherman and Jarvis; also City Manager Fraser

Call to Order by the Mayor:

Mayor Hooper called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

09-013. General Business and Appearances

None.

09-014. Consideration of the Consent Agenda: V.A.

Approval of the minutes from the City Council's January 5th, and January 7th, 2009 Meetings.

Consideration of approving amendments of two Agreements pertaining to the US Rte. 2/Rte. 302 Roundabout Project (NHEGC-FEGC 028-3(34) S).

An amendment to our Professional Services Agreement for Civil Engineering with Lamoureux & Dickinson Consulting Engineers Inc. (Amendment #2), will cover costs associated with additional design efforts, services provided by a sub-consultant for railroad-related work and construction services as follows: increase limiting contract amount by \$61,791.51 for new contract of \$321,850.88.

An amendment of the Cooperative Agreement (CA) is also necessary. The CA was originally approved by City Council on May 7, 2002, allocating state and federal funding for the project and has been previously amended. A new amendment (Amendment #3) to the CA as requested by the City to a new total amount for all phases at \$3,450,000 to cover the current estimate for engineering, right-of-way and the construction costs. This amendment will update the reimbursement paid to the City for the engineering contract amendment described above and provide the revised federal funding for the recently awarded construction contract based on the bid received includes 10% contingencies for all construction related services. The funding ratio remains unchanged ... roundabout, railroad crossings and traffic signal @ 100% federal. Road/sidewalk work outside the roundabout limits @ 95% federal, 0% state, 5% local, and 100% city cost for non-participatory utility items and hazardous material handling.

Recommendation: Approval of contract Amendment #2 between the City of Montpelier and Lamoureux & Dickinson Consulting Engineers, Inc. Approval of Amendment #3 of the Cooperative Agreement between the City of Montpelier and State of Vermont. These approvals should also include the designation of the City Manager as the duly authorized agent to sign & execute the respective amendment documents on behalf of the City Council.

Consideration of becoming the Liquor Control Commission for the purpose of reviewing the following:

Applications for Catering Permits from Vermont Hospitality Management, d/b/a New England Culinary Institute, for ...

A Reception on Saturday, January 31st, from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. at the Vermont College Chapel.

A Vermont College Reception on Tuesday, February 3rd, from 9:00 to 10:30 P.M. at the Wood Art Gallery.

A Vermont College Reception on Friday, February 6th, from 9:00 P.M. to 1:00 A.M. at Alumni Hall on the Vermont College Campus.

A Vermont College Reception on Saturday, February 7th, from 7:00 to 9:30 P.M. at the Wood Art Gallery.

A "Corp" Dinner on Sunday, February 8th, from 5:30 to 10:00 P.M. at the National Life Guest House.

A "Corp" Dinner on Wednesday, February 11th, from 4:30 to 9:00 P.M. at the National Life Guest House.

Application for a Catering Permit from Yebba, Inc., d/b/a The Abbey Pub & Restaurant for a Cocktail Reception to be held on Wednesday, February 25th, from 3:00 to 7:00 P.M. in the Cedar Creek Room of the State House.

Approval of payroll and bills:

General Fund Warrant dated January 14, 2009, in the amount of \$1,263,517.16 and Community Development Agency Funds in the amount of \$8,150.00.

Payroll Warrant dated January 22, 2009, in the amount of \$137,105.04.

Motion was made by Council Member Sheridan, seconded by Council Member Hooper to approve the consent agenda. The vote was 6-0, motion carried unanimously.

09-015. Consideration of appointments to the City's Conservation Commission. V.A.

Staff advertised to fill a full-time seat being vacated by Linda Hinzl and an Alternate seat which has been vacant for some time now. Staff later learned that Ken Matzner had stepped down and Emma-Lynn Melvin's term is expiring at the end of February.

Also, on December 3, 2008, Council adopted an *Amendment Resolution to create the Montpelier Conservation Commission* which would create two (2) ex-officio youth (age 15-18) members to the Conservation Commission for renewable one-year terms.

As of the deadline, the following individuals indicated interest in serving on this Commission:

Karen Freeman 26 Murray Road	(Currently an Alternate; seeking a full-time slot)
---------------------------------	---

Dominic M. Ertli 2 North Franklin Street - #4	(Seeking a full-time position)
--	--------------------------------

Emma-Lynn Melvin 4 Whittier Street	(Seeking reappointment to her full-time, 2-year position)
---------------------------------------	--

Applicants for Youth Positions:

Devon Brownlee	Liam McSweeney
MHS Sophomore	MHS Sophomore
172 Chestnut Hill Road	12 Pearl Street

Recommendation: Appointments to fill three full-time seats ... one is a 3-year term; one is a 2-year term; and the reappointment is a 2-year term.

Also, appoint two youth members for 1-year terms.

Dominic Etli and Emma-Lynn Melvin were present and spoke of their interest in serving on the Conservation Board. Karen Freeman had been unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Motion was made by Council Member Sheridan, seconded by Council Member Hooper to appoint Karen Freeman to a 3 year term, Dominic M Etli to a 2-year term and reappoint Emma-Lynn Melvin to a 2-year term on the Conservation Board. The vote was 6-0, motion carried unanimously.

Devon Brownlee and Liam McSweeney, spoke of their interest in being appointed youth members on the Conservation Board.

Council Member Weiss asked Mr. McSweeney if it would be advantageous if on the first round of appointments one was appointed for one year and one for two years, and thereafter there would always be one but a less likelihood of two new student representatives coming on at the same time.

Mr. Hammer said they talked that over with Matt McClean who is the Community Based Learning Coordinator and at this point they didn't want to force any student to make a two-year commitment. This will actually carry over into the next school year if it is a one-year appointment. If they want to stay on they could stay on for a second year. There seems to be quite a bit of interesting so they may be cultivating some new members. Devon started coming to the meetings this fall and has been quite involved. They welcome students to be part of their meetings even if they are not appointed members.

Council Member Sheridan moved approval of the two youth appointments, with Council Member Sherman seconding the motion. The vote was 6-0, motion carried unanimously,

09-016. Conduct the first public hearing for an amendment to the City's Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10, MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC, Article VII, PARKING AND PARKING METER ZONES, as it pertains to Cedar Street. V.A.

It has recently come to staff's attention that a municipal ordinance regulating parking on Cedar Street, in support of existing signs, does not exist.

The easterly side of this one-way street has been posted with municipally installed and maintained signs for many years; however, a search of the ordinances revealed that Cedar Street is not referenced to within either 10-716 (PARKING PROHIBITED) or 10-717 (LIMITED PARKING). Furthermore, there is no record of how long the signs have been in place. Compliance has been consistently high, indicative of general consent to a reasonable restriction.

The following amendment to the Code of Ordinances is recommended ... new subsection:

ARTICLE VII. PARKING PROHIBITED.

(qqq) Cedar Street - Parking is prohibited on the easterly side of Cedar Street for its entire length; parking is also prohibited on the westerly side from the intersection with East State Street as measured at the curb line northerly for a distance of ninety-eight feet (98') to the driveway serving #2-4 Cedar Street; and from the marked crosswalk at the intersection of School Street southerly for a distance of twenty feet (20').

Council Members have received a copy of a memo from Todd Law, Public Works Director and Traffic Committee Chair, which further outlines the Committee's findings and how they reached this conclusion.

Recommendation: Conduct the first public hearing, with or without further amendments; set the date of February 11th for the second public hearing to consider this Ordinance amendment.

Mayor Hooper opened the public hearing at 7:20 P.M.

Tom McArdle, Assistant Director of Public Works, said Cedar Street for a number of years has had parking signs on the street prohibiting parking on the east side of the street. It was brought to the Traffic Committee's attention by the police department that there wasn't an ordinance that supported the prohibited parking. The actual dimension of the street requires that they do something about parking. It is a one-way street so they can support one side for parking and maintain room for one travel lane. Although they agree with the existing signage the Police addressed a corner which is driveways. They did notify all of the owners of record on the street. They do not have access to names of tenants. There are a few apartment houses on the street. They have asked the property owners to notify their tenants of this pending ordinance change.

Assistant Public Works Director McArdle said state standards require they separate parking spaces from marked crosswalks by 20 feet. Right now they park up to and even over that crosswalk.

Council Member Sheridan said looking at the "no parking" side of the street completely, that is the side with only one driveway entering. The other side has a couple of driveways. He wonders why they don't switch it around where the parking is on the side with fewer driveways.

Assistant Public Works Director McArdle said he thinks he was swayed by the fact that the parking signs have been in place for as long as anybody can remember.

Council Member Sheridan said he would like to know which side of the street gives the most parking spots. This is close to the center of town. It's worth looking into.

Mayor Hooper closed the public hearing.

Motion was made by Council Member Sheridan, seconded by Council Member Sherman to approve first reading and set the second public hearing for February 11th and that the requested information be provided at that meeting. The vote was 6-0, motion carried unanimously.

09-017. Conduct the final Public Hearing to solicit input on the proposed Municipal Budget for FY '10 (July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010). V.A.

The City Manager presented the City Councils FY '10 Budget at their First Public Hearing held on January 7th.

Council will again accept comments/questions during this public hearing regarding budget issues; interested citizens can phone these in by dialing 522-4642.

Recommendation: Following the second and final public hearing, the Council will adopt their budget to be proposed to the voters in March, with or without further adjustments.

Mayor Hooper said John Hollar, Chair of the School Board and Cindy Rossi from the School Business Office joined the Council to make the School budget presentation.

John Hollar said it was an austere budget and one that reflects the realities of Montpelier. There are continuing declines in enrollment so this budget reflects that reality. He outlined the priorities included in the budget and gave a presentation. He added these are current priorities and not new initiatives. The budget continues the existing programs which exist in the district largely without change, either in terms of significant reductions or additions.

A copy of the Montpelier School System's visual presentation is attached.

They discussed consolidation, as a way of trying to manage the decline in students. There was a general decision by the Board last night to revisit that and to look at the numbers to see if it makes sense to close the Main Street School and building an addition at the high school and consolidating the grades. There is a question about the funding that is available. There is 50 percent state aid that continues to be available for consolidation projects. There is also the potential for federal stimulus money. The House of Representatives has passed a very significant school construction projects bill, and much of that will be available in Vermont. He thinks they have a reasonable opportunity to apply for that money.

Mr. Hollar said they also need to take another look at their enrollment projections. At some point they are going to flatten out. That will go into the projections and they will revisit the savings they would incur from that. Hopefully, they will do that in a short period of time and come up with some forecast of whether this makes sense to pursue. If it does, there will need to be a fairly expedited public outreach process to try and gain support for that. Beyond that their options are limited. In this climate it is hard to understand why we don't have a discussion about how much overhead for the number of students in this region, but they can't have that conversation by themselves. It is very difficult to come in with another significant tax increase. We are asking people to spend a greater portion of their income to support the schools. They do know there will be an enormous amount of stimulus funding coming into the Vermont. There isn't a lot of competition for those funds right now. There aren't a lot of school construction projects in the works because of the moratorium that has existed for school construction. He thinks there will likely be a variety of criteria that are going to be established for eligibility for that money. They are probably as well situated as any community to try to take advantage of that if they make a decision and act.

Council Member Weiss said the general population of Montpelier is fairly stable. Has the school system done any type of a demographic study as to why we lost 400 to 600 students?

Mr. Hollar said they have undertaken a study like that. Early on when they looked at consolidation in 2002, Steve Klein who is an economist for the Legislature provided them with demographics. At the time it suggested we were a part of a statewide and national phenomenon. In general, families are just having fewer kids, and we are the poster child for that phenomenon in Vermont. Anecdotally he looked at his block, where they have been in their house for 18 years and the neighbors have been there for 20, 30 to 40 years and have raised their children. Their children

have grown up and gone. His general perception is that people live in Montpelier and stay here. Their kids leave, and as a result the population ages.

He doesn't think it is because of the city's schools. The schools are a positive side. We have award winning schools. They have been recently recognized again for the second year in a row for having a Silver Medallion School according to their measurements in the top 500 schools in the country. They meet periodically with recent graduates to talk to them about how they are doing and how did the schools do as a system in preparing them for their next phase. They have been most successful in doing that with college bound kids, and they need to broaden that. Almost universally they hear from students who go to very elite schools tell us they were as well prepared as any of their peers.

Council Member Weiss said it may be worthwhile in the immediate future if the Council and School Board work together on a demographic study. As far as he knows they don't have any hard core information. If all of the houses with the older folks in them eventually end up with two or three children, that could change the whole dynamic.

Mr. Hollar said the demographic projections they rely on are better than a crap shoot but not by a lot. It's very hard to find good high quality measurement instruments that tell you what the student population is going to be in five years.

Council Member Weiss said in 2010 the federal government is going to do the census so we should have some good data.

Mr. Hollar said they are saving about \$60,000 a year by moving out of 58 Barre Street, which is paying for half of the cost of the bond. It went a long way to making their operations more efficient. They simply didn't need to be in that space. There is room at the high school. That building at 58 Barre Street is an enormous drain on this community and he implores the Council to try to figure out how to manage it. In all humility the School Board wasn't able to do that. He thinks it is in part that it wasn't a school building and their administrative staff simply wasn't able to focus on it. They were focused on educating kids and that building always came last. He implores the Council to make a decision with that building to either close it or to make it more energy efficient.

Discussion followed on the contract negotiations at the school.

Vicki Lane asked if they were freezing salaries.

Mr. Hollar said they have had that conversation. Part of the problem, with declines in enrollment is they are spread out so you don't have wholesale classrooms that become available. There is no question they have more space now than they did five years ago. They really need to look at any option they can to lower their fixed costs.

Council Member Golonka said the Recreation Department's budget is approximately \$620,000 this year.

Mr. Hollar said that is a flat budget with no increase in the spending. If they had developed this budget knowing what we know now they would have taken a different view. Their reaction was that a flat budget with no increases for inflation was correct. The other more significant fact is that if they were to hold their per pupil spending increases to zero, that would require them to reduce their budget by about \$700,000. It's not possible to do that and maintain any semblance to the kind of programs they have. Maybe eliminating 11 or 12 teaching positions they could do that. But

when you are talking about the wholesale loss of programs it impacts the integrity of the school system they have.

Due to technical difficulties the Mayor moved to agenda item 09-021 Report by City Council while this issue was being resolved.

09-021. Report by City Council.

Council Member Sherman spoke about two of her contingents who spoke about the pictures of the old President and Vice President in the Federal Building and they were very eager to have the current President and Vice President's picture in place. The response that had been received was that it would be changed when they were ready to make the change.

Council Member Sheridan said there was a nice turnout of people on Tuesday night and it was very well attended. People were in very good spirits. He asked for an update on this issue he had received from Win Turner on College Street, which was supposed to go to Technical Review Committee. It is an issue around Emmons Street where there is no crosswalk.

Technical difficulties were resolved and the budget presentation resumed.

City Manager Fraser did a visual presentation on the municipal budget for FY'10. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes.

Mayor Hooper reminded everyone the Council is conducting their final public hearing and she asked if there were any in the audience who would care to comment on the proposed budget.

Adrienne Phillips Luhr said she would like to thank the Council for including the Kellogg-Hubbard Library and would like to speak on behalf of the parents and children. She grew up here in Montpelier. She was born and raised here, and moved back to Montpelier in 2001. People often ask her what is Montpelier like now compared to growing up here. What is great about Montpelier now is that our community is thriving. Anyone can agree that we have a great downtown, great shops and restaurants, and it is a great place to be an adult here. But what she loves most about Montpelier is as a parent raising children is what has stayed the same. She loves the fact that they are raising their girls and doing things with them that she did here as a kid. She loves taking them to the Montpelier pool where she learned how to swim and was a lifeguard. She takes them to the Kellogg-Hubbard Library, and she has a very vivid memory of going to Story Time in the basement, getting her first library card and taking out books, and she loves that the girls are there. It's so wonderful that the kids like to be there. They are studying there and reading books there. When you think about why you choose to move to some place, we have this current downtown which is very special about our past. It doesn't happen by accident. The funding we give to the Library is essential.

Nancy Graff said she was the Kellogg-Hubbard Library's first public trust in 1990 and has been on the State Board of Libraries. Attached is a copy of her remarks.

Vicki Lane said she is at least a 12th or 15th generation Vermonter. She can offer a little different perspective. One of the comparisons she had was that she, too, growing up in the Town of Windsor had the Library as one of her entertainment sources. They didn't have TV, and they were in the Library constantly. She had book after book out of the Library and she was reading books that were way more advanced than her age. That Library still stands in the Town of Windsor much the same as it did when she was a kid. She was last in it two or three years ago. It is not a Cadillac

library, but it provides the books and all of the other things that are necessary. The school system has a library. She spent many times in the Windsor High School Library. She does not think it is necessary for us to be paying a tremendous amount to get those services. She knows the Town of Windsor does just fine with the library that they have. They don't pay anywhere near \$300,000 a year for their library. They desperately needed \$500 one year for a new dehumidifier for their downstairs books. Her mother paid for it. She doesn't know why we seem to feel that in Montpelier if we are comparing our tax rates to a town such as Windsor that we need to feel that our library needs to be so much more than that town's. We have the state library system, the school libraries; we have umpteen libraries. She isn't saying anything against the libraries because reading is fundamental. But we don't have to pay a fortune for it. She could not afford a 21 cent increase in her taxes.

Hillary Farrington, Library Director at the Kellogg-Hubbard Library, which is great to use as a child. She came from a poor family and the library was her refuge. She went to college and it was only because of the public library in her town that made that happen. It gave her a sense of what she could be.

Ms. Farrington read a letter they received from a little girl who wanted to be here tonight. This is attached to the minutes.

Ms. Farrington continued with her remarks and a copy of those remarks are attached to the minutes.

Dan Pudvah, Executive Director of Kellogg-Hubbard Library, appeared and thanked the Council for including the Library in the budget. He had two brief statements to offer by folks who couldn't come tonight. One is from Louise Crowley, who is a resident and involved in the Master of Fine Arts Program at Union Institute and the other is a brief statement from Conrad Boucher, Rosie's father.

Mr. Pudvah said to amplify some of the information they provided back in November when Sarah Hoffman and he met with the Council, they compiled a synopsis of our cost containment over the last couple of years. They eliminated the custodian position and contract with a service which does cleaning at night. Now the existing staff deals with the snow shoveling and media room setup and unplugging toilets and season tasks such as storm windows. They have eliminated the Book Mobile but have maintained delivery to home day care centers and other sites through the use of their dedicated volunteer group.

Mr. Pudvah said they do charge an annual fee to patrons from towns that do not contribute tax support, and this charge is equal to the per capital tax support paid by Montpelier residents.

Hillary mentioned the energy audit. They have lowered the set point on the heating system which is programmed to lower the temperature when the building is not in use. They changed their health insurance at a significant reduced costs. They have cut down on the printing of certain publications. They have cut periodical magazine subscriptions by 40 percent and replacing some only through patron donations.

The Library staff is kept to a minimum with many staff members having multiple responsibilities, such as reference and technology. In addition, the Library has utilized the AmeriCorps and Vista Programs, Court Diversion, RSVP and other community groups to expand its volunteer core. About 80 volunteers help at the Library mending books, working on book sales, assisting with

shelving books, helping with fundraising, delivering books to the home bound and many other tasks for which they can't afford to pay the staff.

They now request a donation of \$2 for inter library loans in order to help defray the postage costs, and they have also increased overdue fines.

Council Member Weiss told Mr. Pudvah he appreciated all of the presentations but he doesn't understand why they are making them. There is roughly \$223,000 in the city budget, plus roughly another \$48,000 for a bond payment, and \$70,000 the Library is asking the citizens for in addition to all of that. What is his point of being here this evening? Do they want more money? Do they want less money?

Mr. Pudvah said they wanted to underscore the communications about why the Library is asking for funding the way it is this year. Based on the last public hearing it seemed as though they needed to increase their communications about that.

Council Member Weiss said in terms of what is available, is the Library in support of that as it stands right now?

Mr. Pudvah said they have not objected to that. They asked for more funding. The Council, through its own formula, gave less. They have accepted that, and they are going to ask the voters to support them on the ballot with the additional money.

Council Member Hooper said he forgot how the carve out was calculated.

Council Member Golonka said the carve out started about four years ago when the Library came into some financial problems and asked for 30 percent municipal support and the remaining 70 percent was divided among the towns per capita. The Council agreed with 60 percent because that is the circulation rate.

Mayor Hooper closed the public hearing at 9:03 P.M. on the FY'10 municipal budget.

Motion was made by Council Member Hooper, seconded by Council Member Jarvis to restore the part-time tree position with no increase in the budget as outlined in City Manager Fraser's memo.

Council Member Jarvis said with the amount of money the Library is requesting it is hard to cut our own positions. She thinks the parks serve more people than are served by the Library.

Mayor Hooper called for a voting on the motion. The vote was 6-0, motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Fraser said in his conversations with Geoff Beyer they learned that if they laid the position off the Department of Labor would no longer send people. Their compelling reason was not only did it provide the opportunity to get training and work, but it is a labor force that the community needs

City Manager Fraser noted that there is no tree board or like group that comes in to speak on behalf of the fire, police, or public works departments. He spoke of the tough choices that the departments had to make during this budget cycle and gave examples. He complimented staff for the work they have done.

Motion was made by Council Member Sheridan, seconded by Council Member Hooper to accept the budget with the change they had just made.

Council Member Jarvis said she wanted her opposition to the Library funding noted for the record.

Mayor Hooper called for a vote on the motion. The vote was 6-0, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hooper thanked the city staff for the work they had done in putting together this budget.

Council Member Weiss said he would like to see an agenda item every month, with two components. Somebody to report on what the state funding will look like in the next fiscal year and somebody to report on what the federal funding will look like in the next fiscal year, because those are two components which will impact any decisions the Council has to make at the local level. We need accurate suppositions.

09-018. Consideration of any petitions filed to be included on the City Meeting Warning for March 3, 2009. V.A.

The City Clerk will submit any petitions that have been filed.

Recommendation: Discussion; incorporate those items accepted into the Warning.

City Clerk Hoyt reported that three petitions had been received.

Green Mountain Youth Symphony with a request for \$3,000.

Community Connections with a request for \$6,000.

A Resolution request to the Vermont Legislature regarding Vermont Yankee.

City Clerk Hoyt noted that the wording on the petition sheets for the Vermont Yankee resolution had been slightly different but the intent was the same.

Motion was made by Council Member Hooper, seconded by Council Member Jarvis to accept the petitions for the Green Mountain Youth Symphony and Community Connections.

Council Member Weiss said if the council has a right to reject a petition, he would like to see them reject the Community Connections petition.

Council Member Hooper said they couldn't because they received the appropriate number of signatures.

Mayor Hooper called for a vote on the motion to accept the two petitions. The vote was 6-0, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion continued on the petition on Vermont Yankee.

Motion was made by Council Member Jarvis, seconded by Council Member Sherman to accept the petitions received regarding the resolution on Vermont Yankee as one petition.

City Manager Fraser said the real question is intent. A reasonable person would conclude that the intent of these two petitions are identical. Personally, this is not any kind of binding action upon the city.

Motion was made by Council Member Hooper, seconded by Council Member Weiss to call the question. The vote was 6-0, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Hooper called for a vote on the motion to accept the petition received regarding the resolution on Vermont Yankee as one petition. The vote was 5-1, with Council Member Golonka voting against the motion.

Motion was made by Council Member Weiss, seconded by Council Member Hooper to accept the wording as drafted in Article 25.

After further discussion Mayor Hooper called for a vote on the motion. The vote was 3-3.

Discussion continued and motion was made by Council Member Jarvis, seconded by Council Member Sheridan to accept the language on the petition that was as follows and add by petition.

Shall the voters of the city of Montpelier request the Vermont Legislature to deny the relicensing of Vermont Yankee? Given the viable alternatives and the risks posed by continued operation, ensure that Vermont Yankee will cease operation in March 2012, after having completed its 40 year design life by not granting approval for operation of the plant after that date.

Mayor Hooper called for a vote on the motion. The vote was 5-1, with Council Member Golonka voting against the motion.

09-019. Conduct the final Public Hearing for the March 3, 2009 City Meeting Warning. V.A.

Again, comments/questions during this public hearing regarding the Warning can be called in by dialing 522-4642.

Recommendation: Conduct the final Public Hearing for the March 3rd Warning; make any further revisions as necessary; finalize for publication.

Mayor Hooper opened the public hearing at 9:30 P.M. and read the Warning. There were no questions from the public and Mayor Hooper closed the public hearing at 9:35 P.M.

Council Member Hooper asked if they had decided they could not take out one item on which to render an opinion.

Council Member Sheridan said they decided if they wanted to be against things to write a letter in the paper.

City Manager Fraser said they should discuss how they want to take public positions on any of these issues. He would advise them not to put any politics on the ballot.

Motion was made by Council Member Sheridan, seconded by Council Member Jarvis to accept the warning after amending article 13 by adding (This amount is requested by the library board....) and adding the petitioned items. The vote was 6-0, motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Weiss asked why they were picking on the Library. They have come to an agreement with the Library and we have already told them we are going to consider other changes for next year.

Mayor Hooper said she would add in the discussion for the Library and the Senior Center as well as the Recreation Department.

09-020. Update on the ice conditions of the river.

Staff was asked for this update, including what strategy is currently being used and what the plan is for the next few months.

Recommendation: Receive update; discussion.

City Manager Fraser said staff was out of town and they would do an update at a future meeting.

09-021. Report by City Council.

Council Member Weiss said he had two things he wished to report. In a City Council meeting of March or April of last year he was duly appointed as the Mayor's representative to a Harry R. Sheridan Memorial Scholarship, and according to their rules that is a three-year appointment. He will continue to serve, and they are having a meeting next Monday to start the process of scholarships for residents of the U-32 and Montpelier school districts. As a citizen of one he represented today the 20 communities in Washington County at the 2:00 P.M. hearing of the county budget. The budget is adopted exactly as they presented it earlier, and he didn't make any dent in terms of getting any reduction. Most of it was Beverlee Hill's doing because she didn't think they could afford right now to take out \$35,000 cash on hand without knowing what the future is going to be.

Council Member Jarvis said she was interested to see in the newspaper today that Barre City is very much in the same boat as surrounding communities. They are bonding \$2 million for infrastructure and capital improvements.

Council Member Weiss replied he wanted to comment on that. The City Manager had great statistics in his presentation, but what he doesn't show is what the grand list is for each one of those communities. Of course, Barre has a higher tax rate than we do because their grand list is smaller than ours.

Council Member Sherman said she had attended a Green Mountain Transit Board meeting. Green Mountain Transit is now incorporated with Franklin County Bus Services. They are regionalizing and working with the Legislature.

09-022. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hooper said she is not going to report on Sabin's Pasture tonight. She would like to have it as an agenda item.

She reported that it was a great day on Tuesday celebrating the Inauguration and she wanted to thank Susan Ritz and Chris Wood.

Mayor Hooper said she was stopped by somebody at the State House who said "You are the Mayor and I just wanted to tell you what a great job the city is doing with winter plowing, and thank you."

09-023. Report by the City Clerk-Treasurer.

City Clerk-Treasurer Hoyt had nothing to report this evening.

09-024. Status Reports by the City Manager.

City Manager Fraser said talking about the Inauguration ceremony on Tuesday he pointed out that their legal capacity upstairs is 300 according to the Fire Marshall, and because of the photo in the paper saying there were 800 to 1,100 people in attendance the city may be subject to fines by the State of Vermont for exceeding that number grossly by our capacity upstairs.

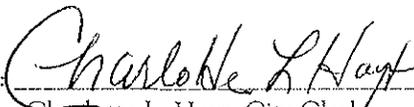
Agenda Reports by the City Manager:

09-025. No further items as of "press time".

Adjournment:

After motion duly made and seconded by Council Members Hooper and Jarvis, the council meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

Transcribed by Joan Clack.

Attest: 
Charlotte L. Hoyt, City Clerk