

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting**  
**January 22, 2015**  
**City Council Chambers**

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

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

15-024. Councilor Turcotte agenda moved approval of the proposed agenda with the add on item concerning the water park. Councilor Bate seconded the motion, which carried on a unanimous roll call vote at 6:32 PM.

15-026. Councilor Bate moved the Council approve the Consent Agenda. Councilor Watson seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote at 6:32.

15-027. The City Clerk reported on the two petitions for ballot articles received by the deadline and with sufficient signatures for consideration (funding for the Kellogg Hubbard Library, and funding for The Montpelier Bridge) noting that that, on the Bridge petition, not enough signatures had been verified to date and citing the statutes on verification and the grace period for petitioners to provide further signatures to replace the deficit (48 hours from time of notification).

Nat Frothingham, Publisher of The Montpelier Bridge, rose to address the Bridge's pending ballot petition. Mr. Frothingham was joined by Dan Richardson, who Mr. Frothingham identified as legal counsel. Mr. Richardson added legal analysis supporting the legality of the petition on behalf of Mr. Frothingham.

Morgan Brown rose to speak against the appropriateness of the Bridge petition.

Ivan Shadis rose in support of the Bridge petition.

City Manager Fraser summarized the opinion of City Attorney Paul Giuliani regarding the Bridge petition, added some comments of his own, and directed questions to Mr. Richardson and Mr. Frothingham.

The Council discussed the Bridge petition. Mr. Frothingham and Mr. Richardson remained at the table to answer councilors' questions.

Councilor Golonka moved the library petition be added to the ballot. Councilor Watson seconded. Morgan Brown rose to support the library. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote at 7:29.

Councilor Watson moved that the Bridge funding petition not be included on the ballot, and Councilor Golonka seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote at

7:30.

- 15-028. Ron Wild of the Community Fund Board briefed the Council on the Board's discussion on the requested funding for the Sexual Assault Crisis Team, and answered councilors' questions.

Councilor Watson moved the Council approve the Community Fund Board's recommendation that the Sexual Assault Crisis Team be allotted a \$750 grant from the Community Fund. Councilor Turcotte seconded. There was further discussion, including comments from SACT Director Keith Goslant. Motion then passed via roll call on a 5-1 vote (Councilor Bate voting nay).

- 15-031. As part of the discussion of the City Meeting Warning, Brian Ricca and Sue Aldrich (School Superintendent and Board Chair, respectively) briefed the Council on the proposed school budget and answered Council questions. Councilor Watson recused herself from the discussion.

- 15-029. The Mayor opened the second public hearing on the proposed FY '16 municipal budget at 7:51. Councilor Watson returned to her seat.

Rick DeAngelis addressed the Council in support of restoring Housing Trust Fund monies. Jack McCullough (Chair of the Housing Authority Board and the Housing Task Force) rose to respond to councilors' questions on the matter and add further comment in support of the Fund.

Councilor Turcotte moved the Council add \$21,000 to the proposed budget for the Housing Trust Fund. Councilor Guerlain seconded.

Calvin Smith rose in support of funding for the Housing Trust Fund. Morgan Brown rose to echo the sentiments in favor of the Housing Trust Fund, and added an offer of support for restoring funding for the Police K-9 program.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh made a motion to amend the motion on the floor to provide \$41,000 to the Housing Trust Fund. Councilor Bate seconded. Discussion followed. Motion to amend failed on a 4-3 roll call vote (Councilors Edgerly Walsh, Bate, Watson voting aye, and Councilors Golonka, Guerlain, Turcotte and Mayor Hollar voting nay).

The motion on the floor then passed on a unanimous roll call vote.

Councilor Guerlain moved the Council add \$2000 to the proposed budget to fund the Tree Board. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. A brief discussion followed, before the motion carried by unanimous roll call vote at 8:30.

Councilor Bate moved to change the Community Fund award to Just Basics to \$12,000. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded the motion. Councilor Turcotte recused himself from the discussion, citing a potential conflict of interest. Morgan Brown rose to note his support for the motion. The motion failed on a 1-4 roll call vote (Councilor Bate voting aye, Councilors Guerlain, Edgerly Walsh, Watson and Golonka voting nay, and Councilor

Turcotte abstaining).

Councilor Watson moved the Council approve the proposed municipal budget as amended. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous roll call vote at 8:42. The Mayor declared the Public Hearing closed and called a 5 minute recess.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:48. Scott Muller, Ryan McCall, and Win Turner came forward to offer a presentation on a proposed river park on city property at the confluence of the Winooski River and the North Branch.

15-030. Teresa Kajenski (of Fothergill, Segale and Valley), joined by Ruth Dokter and Sandra Gallup of the City Finance Department, presented the audit and compliance reports and responded to councilors' questions.

15-031. The Mayor opened the second public hearing on the warning for the March 3, 2015 Annual City Meeting. Sandra Gallup came forward to participate in the Council discussion. Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved approval of the warning, and Councilor Watson seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote at 9:29.

15-033. Councilor Guerlain had questions about the historic use of the term "warning."

Councilor Turcotte noted the return of birds to the park, before bringing forward some constituent concerns (a puddle at the bottom of Berlin Street that is not draining, and the rate of travel through school crossing areas).

Councilor Golonka announced his intention to run for re-election.

Councilor Watson offered an Energy Committee report and discussed GMP "e-homes" program. She also discussed ways to measure "Net Zero."

Councilor Edgerly Walsh passed on thanks from her constituents to the Department of Public Works for clearing the streets. She also noted that she had heard concerns about speeding on neighborhoods behind national life. Finally, she expressed concern about snow storage that could be releasing salt and sand into the river.

15-035. The City Clerk noted the upcoming ballot filing deadline for town offices up for consideration at the Annual City meeting.

15-036. The City Manager commended city staff for their work on the budget.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the Council adjourn. Councilor Watson seconded. The motion carried on a unanimous roll call vote at 9:38PM.