

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting  
July 8, 2015  
City Council Chambers**

In attendance: Mayor John Hollar (Chair), Councilors Justin Turcotte, Jean Olson, Tom Golonka, Donabate and Jessica Edgerly Walsh. Councilor Anne Watson was not present. City Manager William Fraser was in attendance. City Clerk John Odum served as Secretary of the meeting.

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Following the 5:30PM Special City Council Meeting (noted on the agenda for the regular business meeting as items 15-178 and 15-179), the regular City Council Meeting was called to order by the Mayor at 6:30PM.

- 15-178. Hearing no objections, the Mayor declared the proposed agenda approved by unanimous consent.
- 15-181. Public Works Director Tom McArdle introduced Corey Line as a new member of the Public Works administrative team.
- 15-182. Councilor Bate moved approval of the consent agenda, and was seconded by Councilor Golonka. The motion carried unanimously at 6:33PM.
- 15-183. Roger Cranse addressed the Council regarding his candidacy for reappointment to the Design Review Committee. After a brief discussion, Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the Council reappoint Roger Cranse and Philip Zalinger to the Design Review Committee. Councilor Bate seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 15-184. After a discussion, Councilor Bate moved the Council appoint the slate of proposed members of the Transportation Committee as presented (From the Pedestrian Committee: Mark Provost, Harris Webster, John Snell - Alternate, from the Bicycle Committee : Jenn Gordon, Dan Homeier, Anthony Menona – Alternate, from the Parking Committee: Michael Clasen, Brian Cain, Tawnya Kristen - Alternate, from the Energy Committee: Dan Costin, Dan Jones, Ken Jones – Alternate), as well as Councilor Bate as the Council liaison. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded the motion.
- Discussion followed. Jon Podreski (of the Bicycle Advisory Committee) and Eve Jacobs-Carnahan (of the Pedestrian Committee) joined the discussion. Motion carried on a vote of 4-1 (Councilor Turcotte opposed) at 6:48.
- 15-185. John Snell, Jon Podreski, Eve Jacobs-Carnahan, Planning Director Michael Miller, Public Works Director Tom McArdle and consultant Jim Donovan from Broadreach came forward to discuss adoption of the Montpelier in Motion Scoping Report.
- Councilor Turcotte moved the Council adopt the final Montpelier in Motion Scoping Study and authorize the manager to make non-substantive final changes and adjustments. Councilor Bate seconded. After further discussion, the motion carried unanimously at 7:05PM.

15-186. Mr. Miller returned to the front for the discussion of the schedule to readopt the City Master Plan. Significant discussion followed.

Councilor Bate moved the Council direct the Planning Director to proceed with the readoption of the plan with the required edits and also move forward with applying for a Planning Grant to open the plan for a more complete revision over the next year and a half. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. Further discussion followed. Motion carried 4-1 (Councilor Golonka voting nay) at 7:34PM.

15-187. The Mayor began the discussion of the potential acquisition of the property at 12 Main Street. The City Manager explained the process for condemning the property owned by Thomas J. Mowatt Revocable Trust for the purposes of establishing a bicycle route from 10 Main Street to the vicinity of the corner of Main and Barre Streets pursuant to the provisions of 19 V.S.A., Chapter 23 (Bicycle Routes) and 19 V.S.A., Chapter 5.

Jay White (a trustee of the trust that owns the property) came forward for discussion. Charles Larkin came forward to ask questions relating to the discussion. Steven Whitaker expressed concerns about a condemnation process.

A detailed discussion followed. Councilor Bate moved that the city begin the condemnation process related to 12 Main Street in accordance with 19 V.S.A., Chapter 5. Search title set a date of August 26 to make a site visit and conduct evidentiary hearing on necessity, and direct city personnel to search title to Mowatt Trust property and abutters and identify all owners and interested persons, send notice of date and time for site visit and hearing to the owners and interested persons of Mowatt Trust property and abutting lands and the City Planning Commission, post notice in the City Clerk's office, arrange for publication of notice not less than 10 days prior to hearing, and arrange for survey (if not already done). Councilor Golonka seconded the motion, which passed on a 4-1 vote (Councilor Golonka voting nay) at 8PM.

15-188. For the purposes of considering a resolution requesting membership in the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District and appointing a representative to the Governing Board thereof, Mayor Hollar recused himself citing a potential conflict of interest. Councilor Golonka assumed the Chair.

Rob Chapman and Attorney Paul Giuliani addressed the Council and answered questions on behalf of EC Fiber. Mr. Larkin also offered comments on behalf of the EC Fiber association, as did Mr. Whitaker.

Councilor Bate moved that Montpelier sign the resolution to be a member of the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District, that the Council appoint members to represent Montpelier, and that the City ask for regular reports on the district's status. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (4-0, the Chair did not vote) at 8:33PM.

Councilor Olson moved that John Bloch and Rob Chapman be appointed as the City's representatives to the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District (aka the EC

Fiber Board). Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (4-0).

Councilor Edgerly Walsh move to reconsider the prior motion appointing Mr. Bloch and Mr. Chapman to the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District. Councilor Olson seconded. The motion carried unanimously (4-0).

The underlying motion was amended without objection as follows: to approve the appointment of John Bloch and Rob Chapman to the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District until August 26<sup>th</sup>, and to direct staff to advertise for the positions. The motion carried unanimously at 8:36.

The Mayor returned to Chair and declared a 5 minute recess at 8:36.

- 15-189. The meeting reconvened at 8:40, at which time the Mayor re-opened the second public hearing regarding a proposed amendment to Chapter 11 of the City's Code of Ordinances. Assistant City Manager Jessie Baker reviewed posted changes to the proposed ordinance since the previous meeting. Ginny Burley of Central Vermont New Directions made a brief comment in support. Some discussion followed. The Mayor declared the public hearing closed at 8:42.

Councilor Turcotte moved to postpone consideration of the proposed ordinance until the Council's consideration of goals in. Councilor Golonka seconded. After a discussion, the motion failed on a 2-3 vote (Councilors Turcotte and Golonka voting aye, Councilors Bate, Olson and Edgerly Walsh voting nay).

Councilor Bate moved the Council approve the proposed change to the City's Code of Ordinances as posted. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. Further discussion followed, before the motion carried 4-2 (Councilors Olson, Bate, Edgerly Walsh, joined by Mayor Hollar voting aye, Councilors Golonka and Turcotte voting nay) at 8:51.

- 15-190. Finance Director Sandy Gallup came forward for the consideration of setting the FY 2016 Municipal Tax Rate of \$1.0037; the Water/Sewer Benefit Charge of \$.02; and Sewer Separation Charge of \$.07. Some discussion followed.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the Council set a FY 2016 Municipal Tax Rate of \$1.0037; the Water/Sewer Benefit Charge of \$.02; and Sewer Separation Charge of \$.07. The motion was seconded by Councilor Bate, and passed unanimously at 8:56.

- 15-191. Assistant City Manager Baker came forward to discuss the proposed FY16 District Heat rates. Councilor Bate moved the Council approve the District Heat Montpelier capacity rate at \$4.91/MBTUH and the energy rate at \$9.20/MMBTU for FY16. Councilor Turcotte seconded. A brief discussion followed, before the motion passed unanimously at 9:02.

- 15-193. Councilor Edgerly Walsh noted an email from Mia Moore (of the Central Vermont Solid Waste District board) bringing attention to a grant opportunity.

Councilor Bate thanked the community for coming out for July 3<sup>rd</sup>

Councilor Olson thanked dog walkers for cleaning up along stonecutters (utilizing the dog waste stations), and mused that some dog owners aren't as careful around commercial buildings as they should be.

Councilor Turcotte congratulated Councilor to Edgerly Walsh on the addition to her family before requesting an update from the City Manager on the status of the city-owned building currently housing the Vermont Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired (Mr. Fraser provided an update, which precipitated a brief discussion). Councilor Turcotte also thanked the Department of Public Works for paving and posting speed signs on Prospect Street at residents' requests.

- 15-194. The Mayor praised the July 3<sup>rd</sup> celebration, offering congratulations to Montpelier Alive and Director Ashley Witzenberger. He noted the ongoing concerns about pesticide spraying along the railroad tracks and updated the Council on discussions with Agriculture Secretary Chuck Ross, add in that a tentative framework for moving forward was developed, but that there were many questions that still needed to be addressed.
- 15-195. The City Clerk thanked the Fire Department for responding to a call involving burning cookies next to his home as he spoke.
- 15-196. The City Manager thanked Fire Department for putting up July 3<sup>rd</sup> decorations before recognizing retiring long-time city staffers Dean Utton and Sharon Blatchford (from Public Works and Human Resources respectively). He also thanked outgoing Public Works staffer Donna Barlow Casey.

Hearing no objections, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:15PM.