

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
July 9, 2014
Montpelier City Hall Council Chambers**

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

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

- 14-169. Paul Somerset made a statement to the council regarding a claim against the city relating to business flooding involving a city-maintained catch basin.
- Councilor Turcotte took a moment to speak about the July 3rd decision to curtail Independence Day celebrations and its impact on vendors.
- 14-170. Councilor Guerlain moved approval of the consent agenda. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 6:30.
- 14-171. Finance Director Sandy Gallup approached the council for the consideration of setting the FY 2015 Municipal Tax Rate of \$0.9767, the Water/Sewer Benefit Charge of \$.02 and Sewer Separation Charge of \$.07. A brief discussion followed. Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved approval of the tax rate as recommended. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 6:48.
- 14-172. The Council opened discussions on appointments to the Development Review Board. Candidates Kevin O'Connell and Glennie Sewell addressed the Council to discuss the position and answered councilors' questions.
- Councilor Guerlain moved the Council go into executive session to discuss the appointments Councilor Watson seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 7:01.
- At 7:20 Councilor Bate moved the council return to open session. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- Councilor Guerlain moved that the council appoint Kevin O'Connell and Jack Linley to the Development Review Board. Councilor Watson seconded. Councilor Bate encouraged Mr. Sewell to consider applying for an upcoming alternate position. The motion carried 5-1 (Councilor Bate voting nay) at 7:21.
- 14-173. The Mayor opened a discussion of the One Taylor Street redevelopment, focusing on both potential uses, as well as the appropriate role of the council. Erik Hoekstra and Larry Williams of Redstone joined in the discussion.

Nancy Sherman addressed the Council in favor of housing at the site. Ben Eastwood had questions about environmental remediation at the site. Jack McCullough (Chair of the Housing Task Force) introduced a memo supporting the housing option. Finally, Daniel Dickerson discussed parking at any potential housing development.

- 14-174. Councilor Golonka shared a brief update on the Public Safety Authority. Councilor Guerlain moved the Council formally appoint Councilors Bate and Golonka to the PSA governing body. Councilor Watson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously at 8:02. A short discussion followed.
- 14-175. Planning Director Michael Miller introduced a discussion of Council Goal #3 and the related action step of "Explore(ing) (the) feasibility of parking structures in Montpelier." The council indicated to the Planning Director that they remained interested in a further pursuit of the possibility.
- 14-176. Mr. Miller remained at the table for a review of Council Goal #5 ("Create a hospitable environment for development") moving from his initial recommendation (that the city hire a consultant to work on the development of an Economic Development Strategic Plan) into a broader discussion.
- Councilor Bate moved the council direct Planning Department staff to pursue a planning grant to fund an Economic Development Strategy plan. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. Further discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously at 8:48.
- 14-169. Councilor Turcotte advocated for the city to refund the \$25 portion of the July 3rd vendor fees that went to the city. Councilor Golonka moved that the city waive its \$25 portion of the July 3rd vendor fee next year for vendors who participated in 2014, and include a letter explaining the decision and encouraging them to return in 2015.
- 14-177. Councilor Bate commended the decision to close July 3rd celebrations early, and indicated she enjoyed herself. She also announced an August 16 Citizens to Protect Berlin Pond rally
- Councilor Guerlain reported on the July 3rd event positively.
- Councilor Turcotte encouraged any TV viewers having audio/visual troubles with the broadcast to contact him directly. He also had questions about District Heat, which the City Manager responded to.
- Councilor Watson asked the Assistant City Manager about the bike committee's progress in developing a plan.
- Councilor Edgerly Walsh echoed praise of the July 3rd event before offering a CIP committee report.

- 14-178. The Mayor reported on July 3rd, and shared an anecdote regarding the evening's storm in support of the decision to close early. He also reported on his appearance on A&E's "Tiny House Nation" program. He also noted that The New Republic was working on a report on District Heat, before noting the coming Food Truck event. Finally, he referenced a letter he received expressing concern about the adequacy of handicap parking around the statehouse.
- 14-179. The City Clerk reported that overseas absentee primary ballots would go out on Friday.
- 14-180. City Manager Fraser noted July 3rd, supporting the call to curtail the celebration due to weather.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the council adjourn. Councilor Watson seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 9:05PM.