

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting**  
**June 24, 2015**  
**City Council Chambers**

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

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

- 15-164. Without objection, the Mayor declared the proposed minutes approved by unanimous consent, with the additional to the consent agenda as recommended by the Director of Public Works (Approval of a construction cost proposal as submitted by Vermont Recreational Surfacing and Fencing Inc. for the replacement of guardrail along National Life Drive. Designation of the City Manager/Assistant City Manager as the duly authorized agent to execute the contract documents and any contract change orders if applicable.), and a discussion of pesticide spraying along the railroad tracks.
- 15-165. Mary Hooper rose to express concerns about a permit that has been issued to allow for pesticide spraying on a 2.5 mile section of railroad in the city.
- 15-166. At Councilor Turcotte's request, item i) - Approve Montpelier Parks Commission's request that the summer music series in Hubbard Park becomes an event sponsored by the City of Montpelier - was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion. Councilor Turcotte moved approval of the consent agenda as amended and Councilor Golonka seconded. The motion carried unanimously (5-0) at 6:38.
- 15-172. Stephen Norton and Elizabeth Grant came forward to express their grievances against the City Assessor. A discussion followed. No action was taken.
- 15-167. Conservation Commission candidate John Jose addressed the Council. After a brief discussion, Councilor Watson moved the Council appoint Charles Hohn to fill the vacant 3-year term and appoint John Jose to fill the unexpired 1-year alternate seat until June, 2016. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 6:52.
- 15-168. Carolyn Radisch of Greenman-Pedersen Inc. (formerly ORW Landscape Architects and Planners) offered a power point presentation of the final draft of the Greening America's Capitals Report. She was joined at the table by Planning Director Michael Miller. A discussion followed, which included input from Assistant City Councilor Jessie Baker.
- 15-169. The Mayor opened the second public hearing on the proposed smoking ordinance at 7:43. Ginny Burley rose to speak in favor. Based on Ms. Burley's testimony, alternative language for the ordinance was discussed. The Mayor closed the public hearing and no action was taken, with the stated intent from the Chair that the vote on the ordinance be considered at the next regular meeting.

15-170. Finance Director Sandy Gallup came forward to discuss the revised Water and Sewer Rate Resolution as recommended by the Water and Sewer Rate Committee (the annual Fixed Charge for water users will increase to \$170 - a \$12 increase. The annual Fixed Charge for sewer users will increase to \$170 - a \$6 increase. Sewer usage rates will increase to \$8.89 per 1000 gallons - a \$0.17 per gallon increase).

After a brief discussion, Councilor Watson moved approval of the proposed rates, and was seconded by Councilor Edgerly Walsh. The motion carried unanimously at 7:58.

15-171. Mr. Miller returned to the table to discuss the request to award a contract for creating the City's Stormwater Master Plan. Amy McCrellis of Stone Environmental introduced herself. Councilor Golonka moved that the City Council authorize the City Manager to sign a contract with Stone Environmental to create a Stormwater Master Plan for Montpelier moved above. Councilor Watson seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 8:08.

The Mayor called for a recess at 8:08. The meeting reconvened at 8:14 without Councilor Edgerly Walsh.

15-166. Consent item i) was taken off the table for discussion. After a brief discussion, Councilor Turcotte moved its approval, and was seconded by Councilor Golonka. The motion carried unanimously at 8:17 (4-0).

Councilor Watson initiated a discussion of pesticide spraying along the railroad. After a discussion (which included an update from the Mayor on communications with the State), Councilor Watson moved the City Council ask the City Manager to issue a letter to the state thanking the railroad for their participation (in discussions on the issue) and asking them to continue to work with the city. Councilor Turcotte seconded. There was further discussion before the motion carried unanimously.

15-174. Councilor Olson offered her thanks to city councilors and staff on helping her get oriented.

Councilor Watson noted the smart meters in town and had questions. A discussion followed. Ms. Watson further asked about "reverse angle parking" before expressing her appreciation for the new artwork on the Council Chamber walls.

15-175. The Mayor also noted the artwork before offering a report on his tour of water/sewer plant.

15-177. Assistant Manager Baker made note of the upcoming meeting with the downtown business association indicated that a special council meeting would be called for 5:30, July 8 (regarding the Taylor Street project), announced the pending retirement of longtime city staffer Sharon Blatchford, and noted the upcoming Independence Day celebration.

Councilor Watson moved that the Council enter executive session under Title I, V.S.A., §313 to discuss a city real estate update (Mowatt). Councilor Olson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously at 9:10.

Councilor Watson motioned to return to open session and was seconded by Councilor Olson. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Golonka moved that the Council find under Title I, V.S.A., §313, that an open discussion of the Supreme Court case regarding former Planning Director Gwen Hallsmith would place the City at a substantial disadvantage. Councilor Watson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Councilor Golonka then moved the Council enter Executive session under Title I, V.S.A., §313 to discuss the Hallsmith case, and was seconded by Councilor Watson. The motion carried unanimously

At 9:40, Councilor Watson moved the Council return to open session, Councilor Olson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Without objection, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:40.

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