

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
March 19, 2014
Montpelier City Hall Council Chambers

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

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

- 14-066. The City Clerk swore in the Mayor, and Councilors Guerlain, Bate, and Turcotte.
- 14-067. Councilor Guerlain moved that Councilor Golonka be appointed as President of the council. Councilor Turcotte seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 6:33.
- Councilor Golonka moved that Councilor Guerlain be appointed Vice President of the council. The motion carried unanimously at 6:33.
- Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved that Councilor Watson be appointed parliamentarian, and was seconded by Councilor Guerlain. The motion carried unanimously at 6:34.
- 14-068. Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the re-adoption of City Council's Ethics Policy, (with the stray characters on the display cleaned up). Councilor Guerlain seconded the motion which carried unanimously at 6:35.
- 14-069. Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the re-adoption of City Council's Rules of Procedure, and was seconded by Councilor Watson. Councilor Bate noted the request that the deadline for submission for council agendas be changed to Wednesday. The change was adopted as a friendly amendment. At the city managers suggestion, "hand-delivered" was changed to "delivered" as a friendly amendment as well.
- Page Guertin approached the council noted that some language was not consistent with the new charter language. The motion was amended to remove the words "provided by the charter." The motion as amended passed unanimously at 6:40.
- 14-070. Mayor Hollar prefaced the discussion of council committee appointments by expressing his concerns about possible conflicts of interest. The City Manager reviewed the roles and functions of the committees as the Mayor went through the list.
- The Committee assignments settled on were:
- Building code appeals committee: Councilors Golonka and Guerlain.
 - Capital projects committee: Councilors Edgerly Walsh, Bate and Turcotte.
 - Central Vermont Solid Waste board alternate: Councilor Bate.
 - Citizen advisory board for the Community Justice Center: Councilor Watson.
 - Energy advisory committee: Councilor Watson.

Harry Sheridan scholarship committee: Councilor Watson.
 Housing task force: Councilor Edgerly Walsh.
 Housing trust fund committee: Councilor Golonka.
 Kellogg Hubbard library board: Councilor Guerlain.
 Montpelier Alive board (advisory member): Councilor Bate.
 Bicycle advisory committee: Councilor Edgerly Walsh Jessica.
 Parking committee: Councilor Watson.
 Recreation board: Councilor Golonka.
 Water rate study committee: Councilors Turcotte, Golonka, and Guerlain.
 TW Wood board: Mayor Hollar
 1 Taylor Street (Carr Lot): Councilor Bate to join the currently serving councilors.

14-071. The City manager discussed the "City Council Overview" document he provided.

14-073. Councilor Edgerly Walsh asked that item c be pulled from the consent agenda for consideration. Councilor Watson moved approval of the remaining consent agenda items, and was seconded by Councilor Edgerly Walsh. The motion carried unanimously at 7:11 PM.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh had questions about item c (the proposed contract with Brandy Sexton). The City Manager responded with background on the process which opened up a broader conversation on communication on the planning process between councilors (that included Assistant City Manager Jessie Baker).

Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the council approve item c from the consent agenda. Councilor Guerlain seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 7:22.

14-075. The Mayor opened a discussion on the process of developing the Council's Goals and Priorities for 2014-15.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh asked about rescheduling the April council meetings. A discussion followed. The council decided to meet the 9th and the 16th of April, with the goals discussion to be held on the 16th (5:00).

14-076. Councilor Golonka welcomed the new councilors. He then took a moment to elaborate on his recusal from some Carr Lot discussions as reported in the paper.

Councilor Watson reported on feedback about potholes in the city, particularly regarding Barre Street. She then reported on the community based learning/apprenticeship program at the high school and positive feedback she had received about students experiences with the city. She also reported on the solar project RFP process. Finally, she asked about rumors circulating regarding the DID committee. The Mayor responded to the last item with a preview of some of the recommendations he and Councilor Edgerly Walsh (and others) were working on regarding a restructuring of the program.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh congratulated the election winners, and thanked citizens that weighed in on the 1 Taylor Street (Carr Lot) committee. A discussion about how best to share citizen emails to the committee followed.

Councilor Bate reported that she had attended every committee meeting scheduled since her election. She also echoed concerns about rumors surrounding the DID committee.

Councilor Guerlain welcomed the new councilors and thanked his electoral opponents. He also noted a constituent email about sidewalk conditions.

Councilor Turcotte thanked his fellow councilors as well as city staff for supporting him on his arrival. He also thanked the public works department for recent work.

14-077. The Mayor thanked the voters for weighing in on Town Meeting Day.

14-078. The City Clerk reported on the progress of the approved city and Public Safety Authority charters.

Councilor Bate asked a procedural question about the 1 Taylor Street development process. Councilor Guerlain expressed concern about the decision-making process by the committee. The Mayor asked that councilors hold off on that discussion for the moment. Councilor Turcotte asked about the sentiments on the committee when the preferred proposal was chosen.

The Mayor asked the councilors their preference for allowing testimony from the Taylor Street/Carr Lot applicants, when the topic comes up for discussion.

14-079. City Manager Fraser announced that wood chip heat was flowing into the district heat system. He noted the add-on agenda item related to that project, before reminding the councilors about the 5:15 special council meeting scheduled for the 20th to approve a special city meeting to vote on the school budget.

14-074A. The City Manager explained the extra agenda item (the consideration of a request from State of Vermont for additional funding in the amount of \$115,700 for general project costs and \$64,212 for specific work within the City's control room), providing extra background for the new councilors.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the council enter executive session to discuss the issue and close the regular session. Councilor Watson seconded. Councilor Guerlain asked that the motion be amended to include the City Manager and Assistant City Manager in the executive session (accepted). The amended motion carried unanimously at 8:06.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the council leave executive session at 8:29. Councilor Watson seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 8:29.

At 8:30, Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the council adjourn, and was seconded by Councilor Guerlain. The motion carried unanimously.