

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Special Meeting
March 25, 2015
City Council Chambers

In attendance: Mayor John Hollar (Chair), Councilors Tom Golonka, Anne Watson, Justin Turcotte and Dona Bate. Councilor Thierry Guerlain participated via webcam. Councilor Jessica Edgerly Walsh was absent. City Manager William Fraser was in attendance. City Clerk John Odum served as Secretary of the meeting, and arrived at 6:30.

The meeting was called to order by the Mayor at 5:30 PM.

Councilor Bate moved that the Council enter into executive session under statute, to discuss a land acquisition. Councilor Watson seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous roll call vote at 5:32.

At 6:00, Councilor Bate moved the Council return to open session. Councilor Turcotte seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous roll call vote.

15-086. The Council embarked on a broad-ranging discussion of goals for the year. City Department Heads participated as appropriate.

15-088. Councilor Golonka moved approval of the Consent Agenda. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote at 6:32.

15-089. At 6:33, the Mayor opened the second public hearing to consider CarShare Vermont's request to dedicate two city parking spots to CarShare Vermont fuel-efficient vehicles for a two-year pilot. A discussion followed, which included CarShare Operations Manager James Stoops. The Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:40.

Councilor Bate moved the Council approve the 2 proposed ordinance amendments (attached to the agenda) and authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with CarShare Vermont to use the first space on Blanchard Court next to the handicapped space and the first space on School Street traveling southeast from Main Street for dedicated CarShare VT parking. Councilor Watson seconded.

Further discussion followed. Assistant City Manager Jessie Baker contributed additional information. Motion carried on a 4-2 roll call vote, with Councilors Bate, Watson, Turcotte joined by Mayor Hollar in voting aye, Councilors Golonka and Guerlain opposed.

The Mayor declared a recess at 6:45. The Council returned to session at 6:55.

15-090. The Council returned to the goal setting discussion, receiving feedback from Department Heads Janna Clar, Tom McArdle and Michael Miller, as well as Montpelier citizen Steven Whitaker.

15-092. Councilor Turcotte noted the potential for flooding in town, and encouraged citizens to look out for ice patches when walking.

Councilor Watson noted that the next day (Thursday) would bring a high flood danger.

15-095. City manager Fraser noted the coming April 2nd Act 250 hearing on bike path. He also noted that National Life had reached out to the city regarding the disposition of the Space Shuttle Challenger memorial at the entrance to National Life Drive. A brief discussion followed, which included Public Works Director McArdle. Finally, Mr. Fraser thanked Dina Bookmeyer-Baker, who was stepping down from her position in the Planning office, for her service.

Councilor Golonka moved the Council adjourn, and was seconded by Councilor Watson. Without objection, the Mayor declared the motion passed by unanimous consent at 8:33.

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