

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
May 13, 2015
City Council Chambers

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

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

- 15-120. The Clerk asked that liquor license requests for Capitol Grounds and the Black Door be added to the Consent Agenda portion of the proposed agenda. Without objection, the Chair declared the proposed agenda approved as amended at 6:32 PM.
- 15-121. Planning Director Mike Miller made announcements for upcoming events and public meeting regarding proposed zoning changes.
- 15-122. Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved for approval of the Consent Agenda, with items C (sidewalk plow purchase) and D tabled for discussion (the latter at Councilor Turcotte's request). Councilor Guerlain seconded. The motion was approved at 6:35 by unanimous vote (5-0).
- 15-123. Public Works Director Tom McArdle came forward to re-present the certification (for VTrans) that the City is in compliance with Town Road and Bridge Standards and Network Inventory. After discussion, Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved approval of the certification, and was seconded by Councilor Bate. The motion carried unanimously.
- 15-124. Ann Gilbert and Ginny Burley came forward for continued consideration of making Montpelier's parks and downtown smoke free. Discussion followed.

Councilor Tom Golonka arrived at 6:56.

Councilor Guerlain moved that the City take steps necessary to designate parks as smoke free zones as recommended. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. Further discussion followed. The motion carried 5-1 (Councilor Turcotte voting nay) at 7:12.

A discussion on how to proceed towards a downtown smoking ban followed. Eileen Pelletier rose to advise that, taking downtown rental housing into consideration, the issue becomes complicated. She advised careful discussion.

- 15-125. Community Development Specialist Kevin Casey and Eileen Pelletier came forward to discuss the proposed award to the Central Vermont Community Land Trust (CVCLT). After discussion, Councilor Watson moved the City award the Central Vermont Community Land Trust \$90,000 from the Montpelier Housing Trust Fund to facilitate down payment assistance and equity-building assistance to promote new

homeownership opportunities in the City. Councilor Bate seconded. After further discussion, the motion carried unanimously at 7:37.

- 15-126. Anthony Menona (of the Bicycle Advisory Committee and Montpelier in Motion Steering Committee) and Eve Jacobs-Carnahan (of the Pedestrian Committee and Montpelier in Motion Steering Committee) offered a presentation of the Montpelier-in-Motion project for a Master Plan for bicycle and pedestrian issues

John Snell (also on the Pedestrian Committee and the Montpelier in Motion steering committee) also added supportive comments.

Public Works Director Tom McArdle also discussed some specific facets of the proposal, and stayed to field council questions.

Jim Donovan (plan consultant) added comments.

- 15-127. Mr. Menona and Ms. Jacobs-Carnahan stayed at the front table to discuss a possible Transportation Committee, with representation from related committees (parking/bike advisory/pedestrian/energy). They were joined by John Budreski, Chair of the Bike Advisory Committee. Discussion followed. Mr. Snell offered comments.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the Council Create a Transportation Committee (such to be named whenever the Council sees fit) to include 2 to 3 representatives from Parking, Bicycle, Pedestrian and Energy (committees). The committees will, on an annual basis, nominate to the City Council who those 2-3 liaisons will be, and will approve docket of appointees to the Committee, and the Committee will be staffed." Motion was seconded by Councilor Turcotte.

Discussion followed. At Councilor Edgerly Walsh's request, the underlying motion was amended by the Chair without objection to include "and that a Councilor be added" to the proposed body. The motion as amended carried unanimously at 8:33.

The Mayor called for a recess at 8:33. The meeting reconvened at 8:40.

- 15-128. Planning Director Michael Miller forward to introduce discussion of the next steps to accomplish the City Council Goal to "Create a hospitable environment for economic development" (moving towards putting resources behind an Economic Development Strategic Plan).

Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the council proceed with the Plan as recommended. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 8:53. Councilor Edgerly Walsh volunteered to serve on the steering committee described in the memo underlying the motion.

- 15-129. Assistant City Manager Jessie Baker, Mr. McArdle and Police Chief Tony Facos came forward and discussed the 2014-2015 winter parking ban pilot.

- 15-130. Mr. Miller came forward to review the previously-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Discussion followed, and included Police Chief Facos and Fire Chief Bob Gowans.

- 15-131. Chief Facos offered an update on crime in the City, in light of recent robberies and burglaries. Discussion followed.
- 15-132. Item C from the Consent Agenda (tractor plow) was taken from the table and discussed. Mr. McArdle answered questions. Following a discussion, Councilor Bate moved to approve item C from the Consent Agenda, and was seconded by Councilor Guerlain. The motion carried unanimously at 9:56.
- Consent Agenda Item D (Q3 Performance Management Report for the period ending March 31, 2015) was taken from the table and discussed. No action was taken.
- 15-133. Councilor Golonka reported on the Public Safety Authority Director hiring process.
- Councilor Watson reported that she went on a “walk” last Sunday through District 2, and will not be on a similar walkthrough this Sunday, as the Times Argus had indicated.
- Councilor Bate reported that the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District received a Governor’s award for environmental excellence.
- Councilor Turcotte reported that the University of Vermont was conducting a smoking research study (with compensation available to participants) in the area. He went on to note that seedlings are available at the Farmer’s Market and Cate Farm. Finally, he thanked the Public Works Director for his work and advised residents to be patient during the upcoming paving.
- 15-134. Mayor Hollar noted that the Tree Board received a Tree City USA award.
- 15-135. The City Clerk noted the upcoming tax payment due date, and the Council-established deadline for signatures and letters of interest in the District 2 seat that will shortly be open.

Councilor Guerlain moved for adjournment. Without objection, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.