

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
May 27, 2015
City Council Chambers

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

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

15-137. Hearing no objection, the Chair declared the proposed agenda approved by unanimous consent.

15-138. The Council opened consideration of an appointment of a new Council Member to fill Thierry Guerlain's term in light of his imminent resignation. Jean Olson and Ethan Parke both spoke and entertained a question from Councilor Edgerly Walsh.

The following Montpelier citizens rose to speak in support of Ms. Olson's candidacy: Claire Benedict, Jane Kast, Susan Calza, Phil Dodd and Paul Costello.

The following Montpelier citizens rose to speak in support of Mr. Parke's candidacy: Page Guertin and Nancy Sherman.

Councilor Turcotte moved Executive Session in accordance with Title I, §313, Executive Sessions, (3) The appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee. Councilor Watson seconded. Motion was approved 5-0, with Councilor Guerlain abstaining, at 6:56PM. Councilor Guerlain did not participate in the closed session.

Councilor Turcotte moved the Council return to open session, and was seconded by Councilor Edgerly Walsh. The motion carried 5-0 at 7:07PM, with Councilor Guerlain abstaining.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved that Jean Olson be appointed to the District 2 Council seat being vacated by Councilor Guerlain. Councilor Turcotte seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 at 7:08 (Councilor Guerlain abstaining).

15-140. Councilor Watson moved approval of the consent agenda, and was seconded by Councilor Golonka.

Penny Roberts rose to share her concerns about high rental prices in town.

The motion on the table carried unanimously at 7:10.

15-141. Tawnya Kristen and David Armstrong of CCTA/GMTA updated the Council on routing changes, additional geography and important dates for upcoming public hearings. The

Mayor and Council offered feedback and questions.

Penny Roberts voiced views, including concerns, about some of the potential changes to the CCTA/GMTA schedule.

- 15-142. Planning Director Michael Miller was joined by Alex and Lou Bravakis of Novus Energy Development to review the group net metering project on Log Road, Montpelier and Broad Brook Road, Sharon. Discussion followed.

Councilor Turcotte moved to postpone further discussion until next meeting. Councilor Golonka seconded the motion. A brief discussion followed. Motion failed on a 2-4 vote (Councilors Golonka and Turcotte voting aye, Councilors Bate, Guerlain, Watson and Edgerly Walsh opposed).

Councilor Guerlain moved the Council authorize the City Manager to sign two Solar Services Agreements with Novus Energy Development LLC for group net metering on two sites: Log Road, Montpelier and Broad Brook Road, Sharon, pending final purchasing option language and a final legal review. Councilor Turcotte seconded

Carol Vassar rose with questions about the siting process. Rebecca Wigg also rose, offering voice support for the project

The motion carried unanimously at 8:16. The Mayor then called for a brief recess.

- 15-143. The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 8:26. City Manager Bill Fraser introduced the discussion of the Recreation Department transition plan. Councilor Watson recused herself from the discussion and any vote, citing a potential conflict of interest.

School Superintendent Brian Ricca, Cemetery Commissioner Linda Berger, and Recreation Department Director Arne McMullen came forward to discuss the plan with the Council in turn. Some discussion followed.

Councilor Golonka moved the Council direct the City Manager to approve the transition plan for the City's management of the Recreation Department as outlined. Councilor Bate seconded. A brief discussion followed. The motion carried on a 5-0 (Councilor Watson abstaining) at 8:36.

- 15-145. Councilor Edgerly Walsh reported on the Pedestrian Committee's activities. Councilor Bate noted the weather and road conditions in other towns.

Councilor Guerlain thanked his fellow Councilors, the Mayor, and City Staff. He added positive comments about the City, the candidates to replace him, and noted some favored accomplishments during his term.

Councilor Turcotte thanked Councilor Guerlain for his service. He also complimented the Montpelier in Motion report, before checking in with the City Manager about the previous year's July 3rd celebration vendor refund. Finally, he noted constituent concerns about ambiguity about the CarShare parking sites.

15-146. Mayor Hollar thanked Councilor Guerlain for his service.

Councilor Watson noted the opening of the pocket park.

15-147. The City Clerk's thanked Councilor Guerlain for his service. He went on to announce the upcoming Board of Abatement meeting at 5:00PM, June 15, at the Clerk's office. He also noted the coming Election Day Registration bill signing at the Clerk's office on Monday June 1 at 11, before noting the recent passing of Margaret Lucenti.

15-148. The City Manager noted the upcoming zoning work sessions. He offered an update on personnel changes and leaves at the Department of Public Works.

Carol Vassar rose to note her concerns about large trucks near her residence. There was a brief discussion on the issue.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the Council enter Executive Session to discuss Mowatt Negotiations, in accordance with Title I, §313, Executive Sessions. Without objection, the Mayor declared the motion carried by unanimous consent.

At 9:30PM, Councilor Guerlian moved the Council return to open session. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

At 9:31 Councilor Guerlain moved to adjourn, and was seconded by Councilor Bate. The motion carried unanimously.