

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
October 22, 2014
City Council Chambers

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

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

14-241. Councilor Guerlain moved approval of the agenda with the additional proposed item concerning a Department of Energy grant. Councilor Watson seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 6:31.

14-242. Thomas Weiss rose to discuss what he viewed as incorrect address numbering number on Taylor Street, disputing the City Manager's response to his prior complaint. Jed Guertin reported on the Berlin Select Board's action in regards to Berlin Pond.

14-243. Councilor Watson moved approval of the consent agenda, and was seconded by Councilor Turcotte. Motion carried unanimously at 6:37.

14-244. Martha Wales, Nancy Sherman, and John Van Deren addressed the council regarding their desire to be appointed to an open position on the Montpelier Community Fund Board.

Councilor Watson moved that the council find that discussing the appointment in open session would put the city at a substantial disadvantage. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 6:41. Councilor Watson then moved that the Council enter into Executive Session in accordance with Title I, §313 to discuss the appointment to the Community Fund Board. Councilor Bate seconded. Motion passed 6-0 at 6:42 PM.

Councilor Watson moved the Council return to open session. Councilor Turcotte seconded. Motion passed on a 5-0 vote (Councilor Edgerly Walsh was not present). Councilor Guerlain moved the council appoint John Van Deren. Councilor Turcotte seconded. The motion carried 6-0 (Councilor Edgerly Walsh returned) at 6:52.

14-245. Ron Wild, John Van Deren, Eliza Leeper, and Bernie Lambek came forward to discuss the appropriation request from the Montpelier Community Fund Board of Directors. Finance Director Sandy Gallup answered questions as part of the discussion. Councilor Turcotte recused himself from the discussion for a potential conflict of interest.

Councilor Guerlain moved the Council direct the city manager to earmark around \$118,000 (subject to final decision by the council over the budget numbers) as requested by the Montpelier Community Fund Board in the budget process for the next

year. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. A discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously at 7:12.

- 14-246. Finance Director Gallup reviewed materials relating to the FY15 budget and answered questions. A wide-ranging discussion followed. Councilor Bate moved the Council ask to receive a budget reflecting a 2% increase. Councilor Watson seconded. The vote was 3-3 (Bate, Watson, and Edgerly Walsh voting aye, Golonka, Turcotte and Guerlain voting nay). The mayor voted no, and the motion failed at 8:48. Councilor Guerlain moved that the Council ask to receive a budget reflecting a 1.5% increase. Councilor Watson seconded. Motion carried 4-2 (Watson, Guerlain, Golonka, Edgerly Walsh voting aye, Turcotte & Bate voting nay) at 8:51.
- 14-247. Finance Director Gallup remained for a Debt Policy update. No action was taken.
- 14-248. Ms. Gallup then introduced a discussion of the Fund Balance Policy. Councilor Guerlain moved the Council reaffirm the policy but remove the sentence beginning "council will adopt a multiyear line to....". Councilor Bate seconded and the motion passed unanimously at 9:20.
- 14-249. Councilor Tom Golonka led a discussion to consider a Public Safety Authority (PSA) Memorandum of Understanding. Councilor Guerlain moved approval of the MOU. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. Further discussion followed, including an invitation to the Police and Fire Chiefs to offer input (neither objected to the MOU). Motion carried unanimously at 9:30.
- 14-245(a). Councilor Watson introduced a discussion on a proposed Department of Energy grant application process to be designated a Climate Action Champion City, after which she made a motion that the Council approve the application (seconded by Councilor Edgerly Walsh). The discussion was joined by Assistant City Manager Jessie Baker before the Council approved the motion unanimously at 9:33.
- 14-251. Councilor Watson asked if agenda reports online could be searchable. She also indicated she was pleased with the branding efforts and asked about follow-up processes (Assistant City Manager Baker responded). Councilor Watson also reported on the solar RFP on behalf of the Energy Committee.
- Councilor Guerlain reported that Library hired a new Director (Tom McKone). He also commended Jesse Jacobs for the Art Walk and other initiatives.
- Councilor Turcotte remind viewers about the coming election before thanking staff for the flood preparedness flier.
- 14-252. The Mayor thanked the Library board for their work on the Director search. He also lauded Artsfest, and thanked Jesse Jacobs and Ashley Witzenberger for their efforts.

- 14-253. The City Clerk noted early voting hours on Saturday November 1st and reported on participating in the Department of Environmental Conservation's "Lean" process.
- 14-254. The City Manager gave a "Greening America's Capitals" grant project report. Assistant City Manager Baker added information. Mr. Fraser then reported on adjustments to the Parking Committee-backed winter parking pilot program, which initiated a brief discussion. Finally, Mr. Fraser clarified his perspective on the budget process and thanked resigning Public Works Director Todd Law for his service.

Councilor Guerlain moved the Council adjourn. Councilor Bate second. Motion carried unanimously at 9:52.