

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting  
December 9, 2015, 5:30PM (7:00PM regular business meeting)  
City Council Chambers, City Hall**

In attendance: Mayor John Hollar, Councilors Justin Turcotte, Tom Golonka, Jean Olson, Jessica Edgerly Walsh, and Anne Watson (who joined the meeting after it was underway). Councilor Dona Bate joined the meeting via telephone after it was underway. City Manager William Fraser was in attendance. City Clerk John Odum served as Secretary of the meeting.

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The Mayor called the pre-business meeting budget workshop to order at 5:35PM. Also present were City Department Heads Robert Gowans, Tom McArdle, Arne McMullen, Sandra Gallup, Michael Miller, Patrick Healy, and Yvonne Bird. Also participating was Police Captain Neil Martel and Assistant City Manager Jessie Baker. City Manager Fraser introduced the discussion. Councilor Watson arrived at 5:39PM.

At 7:11PM the Mayor called the regular portion of meeting to order.

15-316. Hearing no objection, the Mayor declared the proposed agenda approved by unanimous consent.

15-317. The City Manager noted the 10 year employment anniversary of Finance Director Sandy Gallup and presented her with a pin.

15-318. Councilor Olson raised an objection to the November 18 2015 minutes. After a discussion involving the City Clerk, Councilor Olson moved the November 18 2015 minutes be approved with the addition of the sentence "The city agreed to advertise to fill the vacancies on the Montpelier Foundation board" at the end of item 15-307. Councilor Turcotte seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

Councilor Olson moved approval of the remainder of the proposed consent agenda, without item b (Authorize the City Manager to sign Procurement Agreement Amendment #2 and Thermal Energy Purchase and Sale Agreement Amendment #2 for the District Heat - Montpelier with the State of Vermont) which was tabled at Councilor Turcotte's request. Councilor Turcotte seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (5-0).

15-319. The Council held a discussion of the merits of placing the legally available local options taxes (LAT) onto the March City Meeting ballot.

Tim Beavin rose in opposition to any LATs. Greg Guyette rose in favor of keeping the two possible LATs on separate ballot items. Jeff Schumann spoke in favor of earmarking any LAT funds, and Kai Samson rose in favor of an LAT proposal.

Assistant City Manager Jessie Baker contributed to the discussion. The City Council asked the City manager to provide the Council with proposed Local Options Tax ballot language at the next meeting.

15-320. Kellogg-Hubbard Library Director Tom McKone, joined by board members Rachel Muse and Steve Norten provided the Council with an update on library activity and a request for a flat budget request be placed on the City Meeting ballot. A detailed discussion followed.

Councilor Turcotte moved that the Kellogg Hubbard Library request for \$316,698 be included on the annual City Meeting ballot. Councilor Watson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously (5-0) at 8:11.

At 8:13, Councilor Bate joined the meeting via telephone.

15-322. The Council began a discussion of the potential adoption of Charter language related to the control of Berlin Pond.

Jeff Schumann rose with questions about the proposed language attached to the agenda. The Mayor elected to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

15-323. Finance Director Sandy Gallup came forward, joined by Terence Field, Dave Brownlee, Pete Mancauskas for the consideration of the Investment Committee's recommended Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Policy and Procedure addendum to the City's Investment Policy (attached to the agenda). A detailed discussion followed.

Councilor Watson moved approval of the proposed Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Policy and Procedure addendum to the City's Investment Policy, with item A, line 4 and Attachment A, removed. Councilor Turcotte seconded the motion, which carried on a unanimous (6-0) roll call vote.

15-324. Assistant City Manager Jessie Baker and Planning Director Michael Miller came forward to present a resolution to apply for a Disaster Recovery Grant, pursuant to the Council's Goal to "Maintain the Current Timeline and Budget for the 1 Taylor Street Redevelopment Project," for Council consideration. City Manager Fraser offered details. Councilor Turcotte moved the Council approve and sign the resolution to apply for a Disaster Recovery Grant, and was seconded by Councilor Watson. As the telephone connection with Councilor Bate was unexpectedly lost, the vote was held by regular voice vote and passed unanimously (5-0).

15-318. Consent Agenda item b (Authorize the City Manager to sign Procurement Agreement Amendment #2 and Thermal Energy Purchase and Sale Agreement Amendment #2 for the District Heat - Montpelier with the State of Vermont) was taken off the table for discussion. Councilor Turcotte asked the City Manager for clarification on the item. Assistant City Manager Baker participated in the discussion. Councilor Turcotte moved approval of Consent Agenda item b, and was seconded by Councilor Watson. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).

15-325. Councilor Edgerly Walsh reported that Councilor Olson had agreed to serve in her place on the Economic Development Steering Committee, and that Councilor Watson would replace her as liaison to the Bike Advisory Committee.

Councilor Olson announced her plan to run for election to the Council in March.

15-327. The City Clerk reminded viewers of the coming December 15 utility bill due date.

15-328. City Manager thanked the Council for the time spent on the budget.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved that the Council enter into executive session in accordance with Title I, §313, Executive Sessions, (a)(2) for the purpose of discussing a real estate matter. Councilor Olson seconded and the motion carried unanimously (5-0). Councilor Bate rejoined the meeting by phone.

Hearing no objections, the Mayor ruled the Council return to open session, and then adjourn, by unanimous consent at 9:20PM.