

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting  
December 16, 2015, 6:30PM  
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 meeting to order at 6:30PM.

15-329. Councilor Olson had questions regarding the proposed agenda, after which the Chair, hearing no objection, declared the agenda approved by unanimous consent.

15-331. Councilor Golonka asked that item d) from the consent agenda be tabled (Approve the Memorandum of Use Agreement which identifies the points and agreement entered and understood to by the City, the City Council, Green Mountain Community Baseball, Inc., and the Montpelier Recreation Department; authorize the City Manager to sign the Agreement on behalf of the City). Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved approval of the remaining consent agenda, and was seconded by Councilor Watson. A brief period of discussion and comments followed before the motion was passed by unanimous vote.

15-332. The Council received a presentation from Dan Currier, Jessica Chaves (board members), Colin O'Neil (Wrightsville Beach/Park Manager) regarding a proposed amendment to the Wrightsville Beach Recreation District's Articles. Discussion followed.

Council Edgerly Walsh moved to amend the .50 per capita assessment cap in Article V Section E of the Wrightsville Beach Recreation District bylaws to \$1.50, and was seconded by Councilor Olson. More discussion followed before the motion was approved unanimously at 6:48PM.

15-334. Without objection, the Mayor moved up the discussion of the adoption of Charter language related to the control of Berlin Pond.

Councilor Bate moved the Council approve the Charter change language as proposed (as attached to the agenda) and move forward to have the public hearing on January 13, and file the language with the City Clerk. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded, and the motion carried unanimously at 6:52PM. Charter Language reads as follows:

**§708 REGULATION OF WATER SUPPLY**

The City shall have the authority to regulate its public water supply and public water sources in order to protect the water supply and sources from corruption. The City's water supply sources include Berlin Pond in the town of Berlin.

Jed Guertin had suggestions about the public hearing process going forward.

15-333. The Council received the presentation of the proposed FY '17 Budget from City Manager Fraser. A discussion followed, which included input from Public Works Director Tom McArdle and Planning Director Michael Miller.

15-335. The Council moved to a discussion of possible Charter change language regarding the implementation of Local Options Taxes (LATs). Page Guertin rose to ask questions and offer input.

Councilor Turcotte moved the following proposed Charter Change language for filing with the City Clerk:

Section 1204

(a) Local option taxes are authorized under this section for the purpose of affording the City an alternative method of raising municipal revenues. Accordingly:

(b) The City Council may assess rooms, meals and alcohol taxes of one percent.

(c) Any tax imposed under the authority of this section shall be collected and administered by the Vermont department of taxes, in accordance with state law governing such state tax or taxes.

(d) Of the taxes reported under this section, 70 percent shall be paid to the City of Montpelier for calendar years thereafter. Such revenues may be expended by the City of Montpelier for municipal services only and not for educational expenditures. The remaining amount of the taxes reported shall be remitted monthly to the state treasurer for deposit in the PILOT special fund established in Sec. 89 of No. 60 of the Acts of 1997. Taxes due to the City of Montpelier under this section shall be paid by the State on a quarterly basis.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded the motion. Further discussion followed. The motion carried on a 4-2 vote at 8:31, with Councilors Bate and Golonka voting nay. Dan Groberg rose to ask questions about the motion.

15-336. The Council received a presentation from Conservation Commission Chair Roy Schiff regarding the results of a survey performed a year ago. A discussion and question and answer period followed.

15-337. Consent agenda item d) was taken off the table for discussion. Councilor Edgerly Walsh move the Council approve item d) with amended to include the plan for two free tickets to be sent to Montpelier households, arrived at in the recent meeting with representatives of the Mountaineers organization. Councilor Watson seconded the motion. Further discussion followed. Mr. Groberg rose to ask questions and provide input. The motion carried unanimously at 8:52.

15-338. Councilor Bate noted that remote participation in meetings from Councilors was problematic and should be looked at.

Councilor Turcotte reported on, and expressed appreciation for participation in, the recent Senior Center event.

Councilor Watson indicated she will be skyping into the January 13 meeting.

15-341. The City Manager noted the budget workshop on January 6 and had some questions for Councilors about the process.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the Council adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Watson. The motion carried unanimously.