

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
May 11, 2016
City Council Chambers

In attendance: Mayor John Hollar (Chair), Councilors Justin Turcotte, Dona Bate, Anne Watson, Tom Golonka, and Jean Olson. Jessica Edgerly Walsh arrived after the meeting was underway. 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 6:30PM.

- 16-136. At the request of Councilor Olson and the City Clerk, a review of the Taylor Street Project and two additional liquor licenses for the consent agenda (Philamena's and Capital Grounds), respectively, were added to the proposed agenda, which was then approved by unanimous consent.
- 16-137. Fire Chief Robert Gowans, Police Chief Tony Facos, and Planning and Development Director Michael Miller came forward for a citizen-initiated discussion about the status of the old Brown Derby restaurant building at the Econo Lodge on Northfield Street. Councilor Edgerly Walsh arrived to join the discussion at 6:38PM. The following citizens had questions, comments relating to their concerns about the property: Steven Cook, Jake Feldman, Cindy Davis, Natalie Browning, Norman James, Page Guertin, Lori Bowman, and Jana Molder. No formal action was taken.
- The Mayor called for a 5 minute recess following the discussion at 7:20. The meeting was reconvened at 7:25.
- 16-138. Councilor Bate moved approval of the consent agenda, with items c and d tabled for discussion at Councilor Turcotte's request. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded the motion. Councilor Turcotte offered comments on the Equal Pay Compact. The motion carried unanimously.
- 16-139. Mr. Miller led off the discussion on the Unified Development Bylaws (zoning). Kim Cheney (Chair, Planning Committee) came forward for the discussion as well. After discussion, no formal action was taken.
- 16-144. Consent agenda item c (Approve Local Emergency Operations Plan Emergency Operations Plan) was taken from the table for discussion. Mr. Gowans came up to answer questions. Councilor Turcotte moved the Council approve consent agenda item c, and Councilor Watson seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 8:11.
- 16-140. Kay Stevens (Chair), Barbara Conroy and Geoff Fitzgerald of the Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee came forward for an update and discussion of the committee's activities. No formal action was taken.
- 16-142. Anthony Mennona & Greg Weston addressed the Council to advocate for financial assistance from the city for the Cross Vermont Trail Bridge. A discussion of the request,

given the regional nature of the project, followed.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved that “Montpelier puts \$5000 up for the Cross Vermont Trail Bridge and we would commit another \$8000 contingent on the other involved towns unanimously meeting or matching support at a dollar per resident level.”

Councilor Watson seconded. Further discussion followed before the motion carried on a 5-1 vote (Councilor Golonka opposed).

- 16-143. Councilor Watson led off discussion on railroad pesticide usage in the city with a report. Elaine Martin (Director of Another Way), Barbara Burnett (member of Standing Together for Healthy Solutions), Anthony Mennona and Page Guertin expressed concerns to the Council. Discussion followed, and no formal action was taken.
- 16-144. Councilor Olson led a discussion on the status of the Taylor Street project. Assistant City Manager Jessie Baker came forward to answer questions. No action was taken.
- 16-141. An update on the Council goal that the City “Maintain Excellent Services” was received by the Council. Councilors offered brief comments. No action was taken.
- 16-144. Consent Agenda item d (Approve Community Services Facilitator) was taken from the table for discussion. Assistant City Manager Baker came forward to participate in the discussion. Councilor Bate moved the Council approve Consent Agenda item d, and was seconded by Councilor Edgerly Walsh. Motion carried 5-0 (Councilor Turcotte abstained) at 9:51PM.
- 16-141. At Councilor Olson’s request, the discussion of the report on the Council Goal that the City “Maintain Excellent Services” was re-opened. After a brief discussion, no action was taken.
- 16-145. Councilor Watson reported that the Montpelier High School Ultimate Frisbee team was doing well and encouraged citizens to come watch them play.
- Councilor Bate indicated she had lost her iPhone wallet between the theater and her home on N. Franklin Street, encouraging anyone who may have seen it to reach out to her.
- Councilor Turcotte reported on his participation with the program advisory group at NECI. He also noted the coming of the wild leek season.
- 16-146. The Mayor noted the recognition of Chris Cox at the wastewater treatment plant for national recognition. He also noted that the VT Housing and Conservation Board had approved funding for the French Block project, before finally praising the Lost Nation Theater production of Hairspray.
- 16-147. The City Clerk noted that quarterly tax payments were due the coming Monday.
- 16-148. City Manager Fraser noted the need for a special meeting on July 6 to set the tax rate. He then commented on the passing of Alan Blakeman.

16-149.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh noted moved the Council enter Executive Discussion under statute, to discuss the Capitol Plaza Easement, with a finding that premature public knowledge would place the City at a substantial disadvantage. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Hearing no objection, the Chair declared the Council return to open session and adjourn, by unanimous consent.