

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
May 25, 2016
City Council Chambers

In attendance: Mayor John Hollar (Chair), Councilors Justin Turcotte, Dona Bate, Anne Watson, Tom Golonka, Jean Olson and Jessica Edgerly Walsh. Councilor Anne Watson 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 Councilor Edgerly Walsh at 6:34PM (the Mayor was present, but momentarily occupied).

- 16-150. At the City Manager's request, an executive session regarding a personnel matter was added to the end of the proposed agenda. Councilor Turcotte moved approval of the agenda as amended, and was seconded by Councilor Bate. The motion carried unanimously (5-0).
- 16-151. Richard Sheir had questions about the City Manager's contract. The Mayor returned at 6:37PM to Chair the meeting. Some discussion followed.
- 16-152. Councilor Bate moved the Council approve the consent agenda without item c, which would be tabled for discussion at Councilor Turcotte's request. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded, and the motion carried unanimously (5-0) at 6:42.
- 16-154. Planning and Development Director Michael Miller (joined by Planning Commission members Jon Anderson, John Adams and Barbara Conry) initiated the discussion on proposed zoning changes. Lengthy discussion followed. Councilor Watson joined the meeting at 7:17PM.

The following commenters expressed concerns about the proposals: Lynn Wild, Mike Reed, Paul Carnahan, John Peterson, Stefanie Pinard, Mary Hooper, John Bloch, Phil Dodd, Jason Pugliese, Andrew Starzec and Ron Wild.

After further discussion, the Chair called for a recess at 8:23.

- 16-156. The meeting was reconvened at 8:32. City Manager Fraser introduced a discussion on the proposed Dog Ordinance. Police Chief Tony Facos came forward for the discussion. Comments and concerns were offered from Debra Sargent, Danis Regal, and Caroline Herz. After further discussion, no formal action was taken (Council did not approve first reading).
- 16-157. Public Works Director Tom McArdle and Police Chief Tony Facos came forward to introduce the proposed Parking Ordinance Amendment for a 1st Reading/Public Hearing. Mr. McArdle passed out a proposed amendment.

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 9:40. Heather Moz offered written comments.

After brief comments, Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the Council pass 1st reading and schedule 2nd reading/public hearing for the proposed parking ordinance amendment (as amended) for the next scheduled Council meeting. Councilor Watson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously (6-0) at 9:41. The Chair subsequently closed the public hearing.

16-153. Community Services Facilitators Delia Clark and Tim Trabor were joined by Assistant City Manager Jessie Baker for a discussion with the Council. No formal action was taken.

16-155. Given the time constraints, the Chair opted to defer the 1st Reading/Public Hearing for proposed amendments to the Taxi Ordinance to a future meeting. Craig McDermott (an Uber driver) offered comments. No formal action was taken.

16-158. Councilors discussed the summer meeting schedule with the City Manager. No formal action was taken.

16-159. Consent agenda c) (Approve Local Option Tax Resolution) was taken from the table for discussion. Councilor Bate moved approval of consent agenda item c. Councilor Watson seconded. Further discussion followed.

Councilor Turcotte moved to amend the motion to include a September 1 deadline for a report on a formal recommendation of how to allocate Local Options Tax revenue. The motion to amend failed for lack of a second.

The underlying motion passed 5-1 (Councilor Turcotte voting nay).

16-160. Councilor Bate reported on what she had learned about maintenance of bike paths and trails. Councilor Olson offered an update on the economic development plan and the coming report. Councilor Turcotte noted that the coming Monday was Memorial Day.

16-161. The Mayor noted the coming Memorial Day parade and reported on his recent attendance at a White House session on gun violence.

16-162. The City Clerk noted that the filing deadline for State Representative was the next day.

Councilor Bate noted the coming workshop on 21st century policing, and the Mayor made note of the Montpelier High School Ultimate team's recent success.

16-163. Assistant City Manager Baker noted that the economic development consultant will be on hand for the presentation of that report.

Hearing no objection, the Mayor declared the Council entering executive session by unanimous consent, for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter (with the City Manager).

Hearing no objection, the Chair declared the meeting returned to open session and subsequently adjourned by unanimous consent.