

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
August 10, 2016, 6:30 PM
City Council Chambers

In attendance: Mayor John Hollar (Chair), Councilors Justin Turcotte, Dona Bate, Tom Golonka, Jean Olson, Jessica Edgerly Walsh (skype) and Anne Watson. 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 6:32PM.

- 16-227. Without objection, the proposed agenda (amended with the previous minutes removed at the Clerk's request) was approved by unanimous consent.
- 16-229. Councilor Watson moved approval of the Consent Agenda, and Councilor Bate seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Public Works Director Tom McArdle offered comments on the approval of the contract for Hydro tech.
- 16-228. Councilor Turcotte offered comments on the "steady state" plan.
- 16-230. As part of a Goal Review (Goal: Maintain a Safe Community), the Council received updates (and discussed) several projects, including community justice, regional public safety authority, control over the water source, cybersecurity.
- 16-231. The Council heard from the following citizens seeking appointments to the Planning Commission; Kim Cheney (seeking reappointment), Leslie Welts (seeking reappointment), and Don Hartman and Kirby Keeton both seeking appointment. Planning Director Mike Miller thanked Eileen Simpson for her service. Councilor Watson moved the Council enter executive session to discuss appointments and Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 6:58. The Council returned to open session by unanimous consent at 7:03.
- Councilor Watson moved that Kim Cheney, Leslie Welts, John Adams and Kirby Keeton be appointed to the open positions on the Planning commission, with encouragement to Don Hartman to re-apply in the future, or apply for another committee position with city. Councilor Turcotte seconded. Some comments were offered. The motion carried unanimously at 7:04.
- 16-237. Brief comments on the Street Closure & Event Policy and Related Permit were offered by the Mayor. No formal action was taken.
- 16-232. Michael Sherman addressed the council on his candidacy for the Community Fund Board. After a brief question period, Councilor Turcotte moved that Michael Sherman be appointed to the Community Fund Board. Councilor Olson seconded; motion passed unanimously at 7:13.
- 16-233. There was a detailed discussion of the Economic Development Strategic Plan/Implementation Plan. Ashley Witzemberger of Montpelier Alive, and MA Board

member Gregg Gossens participated in the discussion of forming a Local Development Corporation (LDC).

Councilor Bate made the following motion: "The City shall move forward to develop the LDC with its own bylaws, and that there will be contractual efforts to require intense coordination between the LDC and Montpelier Alive." Councilor Golonka seconded. Discussion followed.

Councilor Olson offered to amend the underlying motion by appending the following language: "and to expand the board to be nine members with four members from Montpelier alive (including the Montpelier Alive board member), five from the City, with two members to be non-downtown business owners." Councilor Turcotte seconded. More discussion followed. Motion to amend passed on a 5-1 roll call vote, with Councilor Edgerly Walsh voting nay.

Councilor Bate moved the underlying motion be amended to include the following: "After the initial appointment by the council, the LDC will be governed by its bylaws and will appoint its own board members." Councilor Olson seconded. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the underlying motion be amended to include the following: "Board members will have 1 year terms." Councilor Olson seconded. After discussion, the roll call vote was 3-3, with Councilors Bate, Olson and Golonka voting no. The Mayor voted no, and the motion to amend failed 3-4.

Councilor Turcotte moved to amend the underlying motion by including the following: "Board members shall serve 2 year terms with no more than 3 terms in a row." Motion failed for lack of a second.

Councilor Golonka moved that the underlying motion be amended to include the following: "Initial board appointments will be for 1 year, 2 years and 3 years." Councilor Watson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The Chair called for a recess at 9:01. The Council reconvened at 9:10.

After some brief discussion, the underlying motion as amended was approved unanimously at 9:12. Some further discussion followed.

16-239. The Mayor opened the Second Reading & Public Hearing of proposed amendments to the Dog Ordinance at 9:17. Marilyn Mode, Danis Regal, Geoff Beyer participated in discussion.

Councilor Turcotte moved to strike the phrase "or disease" from the ordinance as proposed. Councilor Olson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously at 9:26.

Brian Pfeiffer participated in discussion. The Council expressed its desire that Sec. 8-201 include specific language specifying that the owner be carrying a leash.

Councilor Watson moved the Council approve the ordinance with the discussed changes, including the ones sent out by the City Manager (attached to the proposed agenda). Councilor Olson seconded. Motion carried unanimously at 9:32. Hearing closed.

- 16-234. Juli Beth Hinds and Mike Miller offered a presentation on the Master Plan Outreach. Discussion followed. No formal action was taken.
- 16-235. Councilor Bate opened a discussion of progress on the organization of Montpelier Transportation Advisory Committee (MTAC). More comprehensive discussion was postponed to a later date.
- 16-236. The Council discussed the possible approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Downstreet, Inc. for Development of Housing in the French Block. Councilor Ederly Walsh left the meeting at 9:59. Further discussion followed. No formal action was taken.
- 16-238. The Council discussed a proposed policy for Council appointments to Non-Profit Boards. John Odum participated in the discussion. No action was taken.
- 16-240. Councilor Turcotte expressed concerns relating to OSHA regarding recent work done by the City.
- Councilor Golonka noted the construction the on bridge and roundabout, sharing concerns with school coming back into session.
- 16-242. The City Clerk reported on the coming State Senate recount, and noted that tax payments were due next Monday.
- 16-243. The City Manager noted the upcoming personnel hearing scheduled for August 31. He also reported that the Central Vermont Solid Waste District wants to create an advisory committee that includes a representative from Montpelier (Councilor Bate agreed to participate). He noted that the City applied for funding from the State for water quality improvement which will require an interview ideally suited for a councilor's presence. Finally, he reported on meeting with the Capital Complex Commission about the potential ice rink.

Councilor Bate moved the Council enter executive session under statute to discuss a real estate (Heney Easement) matter related to the 1 Taylor Redevelopment Project. Councilor Watson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

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