

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
September 14, 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 and Anne Watson. 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.

- 16-247. Without objection, the proposed agenda was approved with the addition of a 1st class liquor license application from the Vermont College of Fine Arts (at the City Clerk's request) to the consent agenda, by unanimous consent.
- 16-249. Councilor Bate moved approval of the amended consent agenda, and was seconded by Councilor Turcotte. The motion carried unanimously at 6:34.
- 16-250. The Council considered appointments to the Development Review Board. Councilor Watson moved the Council appoint William Schebaum and Ryan Kane (alternate) to the DRB, and was seconded by Councilor Bate. After a brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously at 6:36.
- 16-251. The Council considered appointments to the Housing Trust Fund Committee. Councilor Olson moved the Council appoint Jack McCullough and Richard Amore to the Housing Trust Fund Committee. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 6:37. Some discussion followed. Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the Council confirm the prior appointments of Councilors Olson and Golonka to the Housing Trust Fund Committee. Councilor Watson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously at 6:40.
- 16-252. City Manager Fraser introduced a Goal Review discussion (Housing, Economic Development). A discussion followed.
- 16-253. Board members of the Montpelier Community Fund (Judith Stermer, Michael Sherman, and Christine Zachai) addressed the Council on proposed grant criteria changes (see agenda). Discussion followed. Councilor Bate moved that the Council pass the recommended modifications to the Community Fund grant award criteria with the amendment of looking at how the Fund uses funds to match or leverage others. Councilor Watson seconded. Motion carried unanimously at 7:14.
- 16-254. Page & Jed Guertin addressed the Council on a proposal for a new strategy to pursue in order to preserve Berlin Pond, in which the Council acts as the Board of Health. Discussion followed.
- Ryan Kane introduced himself to the Council.
- 16-255. City Manager Fraser introduced a preview of the comprehensive discussion planned for

the next meeting regarding Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO). Public Works Director Tom McArdle joined the discussion.

- 16-257. Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee Fund members Scott Muller, Geoff Fitzgerald and Kate Stephenson addressed the Council on their efforts and a proposal for a revolving loan fund. Page Guertin participated in the discussion.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the Council approve \$20000 from the reserve for the establishment of the net zero revolving loan fund. Councilor Watson seconded. After further discussion, the motion carried unanimously at 8:57.

- 16-256. The Mayor opened the first reading/public hearing for the proposed Junkyard Ordinance at 8:58. Vicki Lane came forward with questions. The hearing closed at 9:03. Discussion followed. Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the Council pass 1st reading and schedule the 2nd reading for the next Council meeting on the 21st. Councilor Bate seconded. After some brief further discussion, the motion carried unanimously at 9:06.

- 16-258. Mr. Fraser introduced the revised Street Closure Policy proposal. There was a brief discussion. Assistant City Manager Jessie Baker participated in the discussion. Councilor Bate moved approval of the policy, Councilor Olson seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 9:12.

- 16-259. Assistant City Manager Baker introduced the Local Development Corporation (LDC) follow-up, introducing the proposed LDC founding documents. Discussion followed. Councilor Bate proposed the Council approve the proposed LDC Articles of Incorporation. Councilor Turcotte seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 9:20.

- 16-260. It was agreed that Councilor Watson would be the voting representative to the VLCT Town Fair on October 5th.

- 16-262. Councilor Bate shared a Transportation Advisory Committee meeting report.

Councilor Olson reported on an email from a 12 year old girl on Marvin Street asking that Halloween be celebrated on the last Saturday of October. Discussion followed.

Councilor Turcotte thanked Jessie Baker for her departmental consolidation work.

Councilor Watson reported on the Friends of the Winooski river cleanup, the October 8 energy home tour, the reduction in greenhouse emissions by the city, and her interest in looking at the city flag design.

Councilor Edgerly Walsh offered a happy birthday to Anne Watson, and then asked questions about refugees, put forward a request for a One Taylor Street update, and called attention to possible solar power incentive money.

- 16-263. The Mayor's reported that he had met with the Central Vermont Refugee Network about Bhutanese refugees. He also indicated he would not be present at the next meeting.

16-264. The City Clerk reminded listeners that Water/Sewer bills were due the next day, and noted that General Election ballots will be available at the latest next Wednesday.

16-265. The Assistant City Manager reported on a meeting regarding a downtown gym or fitness studio. Mr. Fraser gave an update on the Finance Director search.

Councilor Bate moved that in the anticipation that the entire discussions of easements and lease relating to 60 State Street, as well as the discussion relating to the negotiation of a contract should be conducted in accordance with Title I, V.S.A. §313, Executive Sessions, (a)(2)., the Council should enter executive session. Councilor Watson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Golonka indicated for the record, that he would recuse himself from discussions of the easements and lease relating to 60 State Street.

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