

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
October 26, 2016, 6:30 PM
City Council Chambers

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

- 16-302. The proposed agenda was approved by acclain without objection, with the additions of reviewing and voting on appointments to the Animal Control Committee, as well as the Transportation Infrastructure Committee.
- 16-303. The City Clerk notified the Council of his intent to pursue efforts to limit the penalty for late homestead filers, as well as to waive Business Personal Property charges for businesses with small bills.
- Rick & Lisa Lee addressed the Council regarding the death of their cat (killed by an unleashed dog) and their intent to push for a leash law.
- 16-304. Councilor Watson moved approval of the Consent Agenda, and was seconded by Councilor Turcotte. The motion carried unanimously at 6:45.
- 16-305. The Mayor reconvened the Junkyard Ordinance 2nd Public Hearing/Reading at 6:46. The City Manager reviewed the discussions to date. Health Officer Bob Gowans came forward to participate in the discussion. Jeremy Haggett came forward with questions. After discussion, the Mayor recessed the hearing at 7:05, to be reconvened next Council meeting.
- 16-306. Nicholas Giannetti, Brenna Toman addressed the Council on their candidacies for appointment to the Conservation Commission. After brief comments from the Council, Councilor Watson moved the Council appoint Nicholas Giannetti and Brenna Toman to alternate positions on the Conservation Commission. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 7:10.
- 16-307. Senior Center Director Janna Clar, joined by Tim Noonan, Jessica Sanderson and Jamie Bedard, came forward for a discussion of a proposal to change how the Senior Center food program (FEAST) is managed and structured. Councilor Turcotte recused himself from the discussion due to a professional conflict of interest. Assistant City Manager Jessie Baker participated in the discussion.

Councilor Watson moved the Council explore the proposed restructuring as a FY18 option with zero tax impact. Councilor Bate seconded. Without objection, the motion was amended (at Councilor Edgerly Walsh's request to" explore the City taking over the FEAST program as a zero budget option for FY18 with added detail about possible program budgets prior to the Council's budget discussion." After further discussion, the

motion was withdrawn. No formal action was taken.

- 16-308. Councilor Turcotte returned to his seat for the discussion of the budget schedule. Finance Director Todd Provencher addressed the Council, along with City Manager Fraser, and the proposed schedule attached to the agenda was reviewed. Police Chief Tony Facos participated in the discussion.
- 16-309. Ginny Burley and Ann Gilbert of New Directions (joined by Assistant City Manager Jessie Baker) offered a presentation to the Council in support of a proposal to make downtown smoke free. Discussion followed. No formal action was taken.
- 16-310. As there were no members of the Community Fund Board in attendance, the discussion of that body's budget was postponed until a future meeting.

Councilor Bate initiated a brief discussion of adding two new members to the Transportation Infrastructure Policy Committee. After discussion, Councilor Bate moved the Council appoint Brian Cain & Chris Loyer to the Infrastructure Policy Committee. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded the motion, which carried on a 5-1 vote at 9:11PM (Councilor Turcotte voting nay).

- 16-306(a) Mr. Fraser introduced the discussion of the creation of, and appointments to, an Animal Control Committee. Councilor Olson moved the Council appoint Merritt Kennedy and Sheryl Begin, both AKC evaluators, and Marilyn Mode as the citizen representative, with the Police Chief (or designee) and the Health Officer (or designee) included. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 9:12.
- 16-311. Councilor Olson indicated she was very happy at the membership of the Local Development Committee. Councilor Turcotte thanked the City Clerk for the recent candidate forum, and also noted the availability of the disabled voters' guide.
- 16-313. The City Clerk indicated that early voting was robust.
- 16-314. The City Manager offered an update on Berlin Pond. Councilor Edgerly Walsh expressed her desire to discuss more on the issue in executive session, insofar as it was appropriate to do so.

Assistant City Manager Jessie Baker noted that, with passage of items on the consent agenda, construction on part of the One Taylor Street project would begin.

Councilor Watson moved the Council enter executive session, and Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 9:19.

Prior to entering executive session, Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the Council make a finding that, due to the nature of the discussions regarding potential legal issues, premature disclosure of the issues to be discussed in executive session would place the City at a disadvantage, as outlined in the executive session statute. Councilor Watson seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 9:20PM.

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