

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
February 8, 2017, 6:30 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall

In attendance: Mayor John Hollar (Chair), Councilors Jean Olson, Justin Turcotte, Tom Golonka, Anne Watson, Jessica Edgerly Walsh & Dona Bate. City Clerk John Odum acted as secretary of the meeting.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

- 17-047. The following changes to the agenda were discussed: move up the cliff street discussion, remove approval of the January 26th minutes from the consent agenda, and add a discussion of personnel. Without objection, the proposed agenda was approved with these amendments, by unanimous consent.
- 17-050. Councilor Bate moved approval of the consent agenda, and was seconded by Councilor Olson. Motion carried unanimously at 6:32.
- 17-051. Cassandra Hemenway addressed council on her candidacy for the Tree Board. John Snell addressed her application as well. Councilor Turcotte moved the Council appoint Cassandra Hemenway to the Tree Board, Councilor Watson seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 6:35.
- 17-056. Jon Copans and Ben Huffman offered a presentation on behalf of several Cliffside Homeowners regarding proposed zoning and historic district changes. Discussion followed.
- Councilor Golonka moved the Council direct the Planning Commission to remove this neighborhood from the design review map going forward, and to defer to Councilor Watson's recommendations on allowing the overall proposal to be reviewed before further appeals are heard. Councilor Bate seconded. Further discussion followed. Comments were offered from Planning Director Michael Miller and Planning Commission Chair Leslie Welz. The motion carried on a 5-1 vote (Councilor Turcotte voting nay) at 6:59PM.
- 17-052. The Council received a Berlin Pond update from City Attorney Stitzel. Page & Jed Guertin addressed the council with questions and statements. Public Works Director Tom McArdle participated in the discussion. Nat Frothingham expressed concerns.
- 17-058. Assistant City Manager Jessie Baker and Montpelier Alive Director Ashley Witzenberger came forward to initiate a discussion on parklet policy going forward. Concerns were offered by Richard Sheir and Cindra Conison, while comments from Rebecca Harris, Carlo Rovetto, Ward Joyce, Steve Frey, Greg Gossens, Lochlin Smith and Nate Housman spoke generally in favor.
- Councilor Turcotte moved to direct city staff to institutionalize the parklet program, create a parklet ordinance, update guidelines and procedures, and institute a new application process. Councilor Olson seconded. More discussion followed. The motion

carried unanimously at 8:30.

The Mayor called for a recess at 8:31. The Council reconvened at 8:40.

- 17-057. Ms. Witzemberger returned with Steve Cook for a power point based Downtown Improvement District (DID) marketing update. Discussion followed. No formal action taken.
- 17-053. The 2017 Construction Project Communication Plan was presented by Mr. McArdle, Ms. Baker, Ms. Witzemberger, and Corey Line of the Public Works Department. Discussion followed. Councilor Bate moved the Council accept the construction communication plan as presented, Councilor Watson seconded. After further discussion, the motion carried unanimously at 9:15.
- 17-054. The public hearing for the 2017 paving project-related waiver of the noise ordinance for nighttime construction was opened at 9:15. Mr. McArdle and Mr. Line participated. Discussion followed. Councilor Turcotte moved the Council accept the recommended changes to the noise ordinance during the identified construction process pending the completion of the public hearing process. Councilor Watson seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 9:35. The public hearing was closed.
- 17-055. Public hearing on the paving project-related parking ordinance changes was opened at 9:35.
- On the State-Bailey Avenue proposal: After discussion, Councilor Bate moved the Council approved 1st reading and was seconded by Councilor Turcotte.
- Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved to amend the motion to remove the proposed five parking spots closest to the Bailey Avenue intersection. Councilor Golonka seconded. Discussion followed. The motion to amend passed on a 4-3 vote (Councilors Edgerly Walsh, Golonka, and Watson, joined by the Mayor voting aye, Councilors Bate, Turcotte and Olson voting nay).
- The underlying motion passed on a 4-3 vote as amended at 10:00 (Councilors Edgerly Walsh, Golonka, and Watson, joined by the Mayor voting aye, Councilors Bate, Turcotte and Olson voting nay).
- On the Elm Street proposal: After discussion, Councilor Bate moved the Council accept the 1st reading as proposed. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 10:04.
- On the Terrace Street proposal: After discussion, Councilor Bate moved the Council accept the 1st reading as proposed. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 10:09.
- On the Elm-Vine Street proposal: After discussion, Councilor Bate moved the Council accept the 1st reading as proposed. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 10:11.

On the Spring Street proposal: After discussion, Councilor Bate moved the Council accept the 1st reading as proposed. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 10:14.

17-063. The decision was made to table the City Manager evaluation and contract discussion for a special meeting.

Councilor Olson initiated a discussion on the merits of hiring a replacement for outgoing Assistant City manager Jessie Baker. No formal action was taken.

17-059. Councilor Edgerly Walsh offered congratulations to Assistant City Manager Baker on her upcoming new position.

Councilor Bate offered a brief transportation infrastructure committee report, noting discussions of traffic calming devices, a parking working group to bring in ideas, and developing a bike friendly statement.

Councilor Turcotte acknowledged the Department of Public Works and the State of Vermont in addressing traffic signals at Main and Rte 2.

17-061. The City Clerk indicated the Annual City Meeting ballots were expected to arrive Friday.

17-062. The City Manager made note of upcoming meetings, including the “pre-town meeting” February 16.

At 10:30, hearing no objection, the Mayor adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent.