

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
January 18, 2017, 6:30 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall

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

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

17-016. Without objection, the proposed agenda was approved by acclaim.

17-018. Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved approval of the consent agenda, and was seconded by Councilor Bate. The motion carried unanimously.

17-019. After a discussion of potential conflict of interest, Councilor Turcotte opted to recuse himself from the discussion of the Community Fund Board report. Coming forward to participate in the discussion were board members Bernie Lambek, Ron Wild (Chair), Michael Sherman, Judith Stermer and Christine Zachai.

Councilor Bate moved the council allocate \$120,000 to the Community Fund Board and approve their recommendations. Councilor Watson seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 at 7:10PM.

17-020. At 7:11PM, the Mayor opened the first public hearing on the proposed FY18 municipal budget. City manager Bill Fraser offered a power point presentation. Comments and questions were received from Page Guertin and Mary Hooper on housing funding. Police Chief Tony Facos addressed the Council on crime levels and budget impacts, and Parks Director Geoff Beyer discussed potential Emerald Ash Borer costs. Discussion followed, focusing on staff levels.

Councilor Watson moved the council add \$4000 to the budget for emerald ash borer costs. Councilor Bate seconded. Discussion followed.

Hearing no objection, the motion was amended to note that the funds will be held "in a reserve fund" (at Councilor Turcotte's request). Finance Director Todd Provencher participated in the discussion. The motion, as amended, carried unanimously at 7:46.

Some discussion followed, before the public hearing was closed at 7:51.

17-021. The Chair opened the bond public hearing at 7:51. Public Works Director Tom McArdle participated in the discussion which followed. The public hearing was closed at 8:03.

17-022. The Chair opened the first public hearing on the warning for the March 7, 2017 Annual City Meeting at 8:03. There was brief discussion, including comments and questions from Jane Kast concerning the petitioned article relating to the City Manager's contract. Councilor Bate moved initial approval, Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. Motion carried unanimously at 8:14. Public hearing was closed.

- 17-023. Assistant City Manager Jessie Baker and Developer Jeff Tucker came forward for a One Taylor Street Review/Update. Brief discussion followed and no formal action was taken
- 17-024. Councilor Watson moved the Council set the date and time for the Annual City Meeting at Tuesday, March 7, 2017, from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 PM in the City Hall Auditorium. Councilor Edgerly Walsh seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 8:28PM.
- 17-025. Councilor Turcotte noted a problematic LED light behind the Senior Center (Dan Groberg of the Senior Center noted it s a privately owned light and inquiries with the owner have already been made).
- Councilor Golonka noted that the Public Safety Authority had an at-large board member opening on the upcoming ballot.
- Councilor Watson noted an upcoming offering from Efficiency Vermont. She also passed on concerns about the light parade that Union Elementary School is putting on. Police Chief Tony Facos addressed the concerns.
- Councilor Edgerly Walsh thanked Councilor Turcotte for taking time to raise the prvious recusal issue. She also had questions regarding the updated goals document and the housing strategies plan. Brief discussion followed.
- 17-027. The City Clerk noted that dog license renewals would be moved online as possible, as would city business license renewals and vital record requests.
- Councilor Bate praised the winner of the net zero design competition and expressed her hope that the event could generate interest in the issues.
- There was a brief discussion of the new credit card smart (parking) meters.
- 17-028. The City Manager touched briefly on his evaluation process.
- 17-024(a). Councilor Edgerly Walsh moved the Council enter into executive session as per statute for the purpose of discussing the acquisition of Mowatt Trust parcel as part of One Taylor Street Project, and that the City Manager and Jeff Tucker be included. Councilor Bate seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Without objection, the Chair declared the Council returned to open session and adjourned.