

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

In attendance: Councilors Jean Olson, Justin Turcotte, Tom Golonka, Anne Watson, Dona Bate, Ashley Hill and Rosie Krueger. Mayor John Hollar was absent. City Clerk John Odum acted as Secretary of the meeting, and Chair for the first two items, before being replaced as Chair by Councilor Watson acting as Council President.

The meeting was called to order by the Clerk, acting as Chair.

- 17-084. The Clerk swore in those councilors elected at the prior day's Annual City Meeting (Councilors Watson, Hill and Krueger). Upon their swearing in, a quorum was then present to conduct business.
- 17-085. Hearing no objection, the Chair declared the proposed agenda (with the amendment that item 17-088 be the next item of business) approved by unanimous consent.
- 17-088. The Chair opened the floor for nominations for the position of President. Councilor Bate nominated Councilor Watson. After nominations were then closed, Councilor Bate moved that Anne Watson be approved as President of the Council, and was seconded by Councilor Turcotte. The motion carried unanimously. Councilor Watson then assumed the role of Chair of the meeting.
- The Chair opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice President. Councilor Turcotte nominated Councilor Olson. After nominations were then closed, Councilor Watson moved that Jean Olson be approved as Vice President of the Council, and was seconded by Councilor Hill. The motion carried 5-0.
- The Chair opened the floor for nominations for the position of Parliamentarian. Councilor Watson nominated Councilor Bate. After nominations were then closed, Councilor Hill moved that Dona Bate be approved as Parliamentarian of the Council, and was seconded by Councilor Krueger. The motion carried 5-0.
- 17-087. Councilor Turcotte had questions about consent agenda item f (Acknowledge Receipt of Financial Summary by Fund for Period Ending January 31, 2017). The Clerk, as well as Finance Director Todd Provencher, participated in the discussion. Councilor Bate moved approval of the consent agenda, and was seconded by Councilor Hill. The motion carried 5-0.
- 17-089. City Manager Fraser introduced the discussion of the City Council's Ethics Policy. Councilor Hill moved re-approval of the ethics policy and was seconded by Councilor Krueger. There was brief further discussion. The motion carried 5-0.
- 17-090. The City Manager introduced the discussion of the Council's Rules of Procedure. Councilor Bate moved re-approval of the Council Rules of Procedure, Councilor Turcotte seconded. There was brief further discussion. The motion carried 5-0.

17-091. The City Manager led off the discussion of crafting a formal goal-setting process. Councilor Bate moved the Council direct the City Manager to move forward with the retreat as basically outlined, and that the Council desires to move forward on the goals, duties, and responsibilities discussion as soon as possible, so the Council can proceed into the goal setting process from there. The motion died for lack of a second. Further discussion followed.

Councilor Turcotte moved to accept the City Manager's process for goal setting parts one and two. Councilor Hill seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

17-092. The Council engaged in a discussion of an orientation/retreat. No formal action taken.

17-094. Councilor Bate indicated she was pleased with the prospect of a Council retreat. She also thanked the voters and candidates, congratulated the winners, and expressed that she had fun working on Town Meeting Day.

Councilor Olson welcomed the new councilors and thanked all the candidates.

Councilor Turcotte thanked voters for supporting the city funding items. He also noted the Williston rest area media screen could be of potential use. Finally he asked for an update on the Econo Lodge situation (City Manager Fraser provided a response).

Councilor Hill indicated she felt honored by the opportunity to serve and to work with the other councilors. She added that she was pleased by the voter turnout.

Councilor Watson thanked voters for support, and expressed gratitude that the budgets passed. She also thanked those candidates who did not win for their participation in the process. Finally, she indicated she had felt encouraged by recent conversations with non-residents about their opinions of Montpelier

Councilor Krueger indicated she was excited to be on the Council, added that she had "big shoes to fill" and noted that she would be listening carefully in coming weeks.

17-096. The City Clerk reported that the previous day's election was the first without any additional paid poll workers (beyond volunteers and city staff). He went on to thank all the volunteers, including members of the Board of Civil Authority, who participated.

17-097. The City Manager reported that a dog leash committee report was pending, and that it would be ideal to have the participation of a Councilor. He also indicated that the Montpelier Development Corporation close to hiring an executive director.

Mr. Fraser went on to welcome the new councilors, thank all those who ran, and report that the ballot results marked the highest margin of victory for a city budget ever. Finally, he noted International Women's Day, calling attention to the fact that the just-elected Council had the highest number of women in city history.

Hearing no objection, the Chair ruled the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.