

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
March 22, 2017, 6:30 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall

In attendance: Mayor John Hollar (Chair), Councilors Jean Olson, Justin Turcotte, Tom Golonka, Anne Watson, Dona Bate, Ashley Hill (arriving at 6:40) and Rosie Krueger. City Manager Bill Fraser was in attendance. City Clerk John Odum acted as Secretary of the meeting.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:30 and made a brief statement on the zoning agenda item.

17-098. The proposed agenda was approved (with the addition of a goals discussion) by unanimous consent.

17-099 Jed Guertin addressed the Council on the ongoing concerns over Berlin Pond.

17-100. Councilor Bate moved approval of the consent agenda, Councilor Olson seconded. After a brief discussion, Councilor Bate moved to amend the underlying motion to table item c (Street Closure Request from Matt Henchen and Emma Schoenberg) for further discussion, Councilor Turcotte seconded. The motion was then withdrawn.

Hearing no objection, the Chair amended the underlying motion to table item c for discussion by unanimous consent. The underlying motion to approve the consent agenda passed unanimously as amended.

The Council took consent agenda item c from the table for discussion (aforementioned street closure request). Emma Shoenberg participated in the discussion. Councilor Watson moved the Council approve the street closure application as presented and was seconded by Councilor Hill. The motion carried unanimously at 6:54.

17-101. The Council received comments from Planning Commission applicants Barbara Conrey (incumbent) and Stephanie Smith. Councilor Watson moved the Council enter executive session to discuss the appointment, Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 6:58.

At 7:01, Councilor Watson moved the Council return to open session, Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Hill moved the Council re-appoint Barbara Conrey to the Planning Commission. Councilor Krueger seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 7:02.

17-102. Vermont Mountaineers representatives Brian Gallagher (Director), Richard Agnee & Tim Bevin (Board) were joined by Recreation Director Arne McMullen to discuss the Mountaineers' proposal to sell alcohol at games. After discussion, Councilor Watson moved the Council approve the request to move forward with the project with the stated conditions that sales be restricted to a fenced in area, a 7th inning limit to sales, clear signage restrictions, available taxis, and with the understanding that the Council may revisit the decision in a year. Councilor Turcotte seconded, and the motion carried

unanimously at 7:14.

17-103. Paul Gamble and Amanda Golden came forward for a discussion of the National Endowment for the Arts “Our Town” funded ArtSynergy Public Art Master Plan. No formal action was taken.

17-104. Planning Director Mike Miller led off a discussion of Zoning proposal and the expected review process over the coming months. Leslie Welts (Chair of the Planning Commission) spoke. Comments were offered from Ben Huffman, Page Guertin, Carol Doerflein, Barbara Conrey, Phil Parrish and Sam Dworkin. No formal action was taken.

The Chair called a recess at 8:34. The meeting was reconvened at 8:45.

17-105. Mr. Miller returned to the front table for a detailed discussion of Building Code options for unsightly buildings. No formal action was taken.

17-107. City Manager Fraser provided the Council with a One Taylor Street update. There was a discussion; Kevin Casey (Planning Department) participated. No formal action taken.

There was a brief discussion of the Council’s goal-setting process (at Councilor Turcotte’s request).

17-109. Councilor Hill noted local press coverage on Immigrations & Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Montpelier’s sanctuary city status, referencing constituent feedback (a brief discussion followed). Councilor Hill also congratulated Sam Dworkin after his election to the Public Safety Authority board, following the previous day’s recount.

Councilor Watson reported that the next council meeting will include a resolution to support the work of Team Bridges and Net Zero Vermont.

Councilor Bate expressed support for following up with Net Zero Vermont’s sustainable designs, and in context with a parking strategy. She also indicated that she would like to see the investment policy conversation continue, sparking a brief discussion. Finally, she had questions about the dog ordinance.

Councilor Turcotte commended staff on the document layout. Also, he applauded police response to the unexpected protest this week, as well as taking a moment to acknowledge Susan Houle and Keith Porter. He went on to note an upcoming Lost Nation performance and praised the work of local sugarmakers.

17-111. The City Clerk apologized for not sharing his prior knowledge about the protest referred to by Councilor Turcotte. He also reported on the previously referenced PSA recount.

17-112. The City Manager offered a brief report on the dog committee before reporting in glowing terms on the Vermont League of Cities and Town’s (VLCT) recent workshop. Finally, he encouraged responses to his queries regarding potential retreat dates.

Hearing no objection, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:05 PM.