

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting**  
**April 26, 2017, 5:30 PM**  
**City Council Chambers, City Hall**

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

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Call to Order by the Mayor

17-128. Without objection, the proposed agenda was approved (with the addition of the attached item from the Public Works department and moving up the discussion of One Taylor Street/Bike Path) by unanimous consent.

17-130. Councilor Watson moved approval of the consent agenda, Councilor Bate seconded. A brief discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously

17-131. Councilor Bate moved that the current representatives to the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District (John Bloch – delegate, Rob Chapman – alternate) be reappointed to their respective positions. Councilor Olson seconded. After brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

17-138. The City Manager offered an update on One Taylor Street and Bike Path projects. Discussion followed, no formal action taken.

17-132. The Council discussed the appointment of a Montpelier representative to fill a vacant seat on the Wrightsville Beach Recreation District Board of Directors. Councilor Turcotte recused himself, as he was a candidate. Jon Copans and Councilor Turcotte each in turn addressed the Council on their interest in the appointment.

Councilor Watson moved the Council (with the exception of Councilor Turcotte, and the inclusion of the City Manager) enter executive session to discuss the appointment. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried 4-0 at 5:57.

Councilor Watson moved the Council return to open session, Councilor Hill seconded. The motion carried 4-0. After a moment of discussion, Councilor Olson moved Jon Copans be appointed to the Wrightsville Beach Recreation District Board of Directors. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried 4-0 at 6:00. Councilor Turcotte returned to his seat.

17-134. Sandy Vitzthum was joined at the table by City staffers Arne McMullen, Geoff Beyer and Dan Groberg for a presentation on Community Center location options. Discussion followed.

Councilor Watson moved that the Council ask the Legislature to allow for a delay in the sale of the Redstone Building (while the City considered options). Councilor Hill seconded the motion. Further discussion followed (Finance Director Todd Provencher

participated). The motion carried unanimously (5-0).

- 17-135. Planning Director Mike Miller came to the front to resume discussions of sections 1 and 2 of the proposed zoning ordinance. Barbara Conrey, Leslie Weltz, and Kim Cheney of the Planning Commission participated.

Comments generally supportive of the proposal, or particular elements of the proposal were offered by: Anthony Iarrapino, Dan Jones, Susan Abdo, and Jack McCullough  
Informational questions only: Joe Castellano

Comments generally critical of the proposal, or particular elements of the proposal were offered by: Gail Kerrigan, Alan Goldman, Steve Sease, Carol Vassar, Jay Ancel, Sandy Vitzthum, Gerry Tarrant, Ben Huffman.

Council discussion followed. No formal action taken.

The Mayor called for a recess at 8:30. The meeting reconvened at 8:38.

- 17-133. The Mayor opened the Public Nuisance Ordinance 1st Reading/public hearing at 8:38. Fire Chief Bob Gowans and Planning Director Miller participated in the discussion. No public comments were offered. The public hearing was closed at 9:10, and without objection the Council passed first reading and set the second reading/public hearing for the next council meeting (May 10) by unanimous consent.

- 17-137. Public Works Director Tom McArdle gave an update on the summer project schedule. Discussion followed. Mayor Hollar stepped out, and Councilor Watson took the gavel in her capacity as Council President at 9:35.

- 17-140. Councilor Bate discussed the coming presentation of the Rotary Club Citizen of the Year award to Bev Hill. At this time, the Mayor returned and resumed chairing the meeting (9:42). Councilor Bate moved the Mayor be authorized to sign a proclamation commending Bev Hill on behalf of the Council. Councilor Hill seconded, and the motion carried unanimously at 9:43.

Councilor Watson offered an update on the flag contest, and made recommendations on the website regarding the proposed zoning changes.

Councilor Hill noted a website typo, and promoted the upcoming May 12 "Coffee with a Cop" and associated panel discussion at the Senior Center.

- 17-141. The Mayor reported on the Mayors Coalition press conference the prior week regarding potential passage of a housing bond. He also noted plans for an event to push for a structure to fund Lake Champlain cleanup.

- 17-142. The City Clerk noted that 40 dog licenses had been processed online and that he had received no negative feedback about the increased license fees. He briefly reported on liquor licensing status, and briefed the Council on the likely need to call a Special City Meeting for June 20 regarding the proposed school district merger.

- 17-143. The City Manager reported on the recent meeting regarding the status of Berlin Pond.
- 17-144. Councilor Watson moved the Council find that premature public knowledge of the potential real estate acquisition posted on the agenda (Mowatt and/or Zorzi/Aja Properties) could put city at a substantial disadvantage. Councilor Bate seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Watson then moved the Council enter executive session to discuss said real estate acquisition, as well as the hiring process for the Assistant City Manager, and to include Tom McArdle (and the City Manager) in the closed session. Councilor Bate seconded, and the motion carried unanimously at 9:56.

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