

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
May 24, 2017, 6:00 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall

In attendance: Mayor John Hollar (Chair), Councilors Justin Turcotte, Anne Watson, Ashley Hill, Rosie Krueger and Jean Olson. Councilor Dona Bate was not present. City Manager Bill Fraser was in attendance. City Clerk John Odum acted as Secretary of the meeting.

- 17-166. Hearing no objection, the Mayor declared the proposed agenda approved by unanimous consent with the following amendments: committee assignments and College of Fine Arts BYOR discussion moved to the end of the meeting, as well as the agenda items relating to Caledonia Spirits and the relating easements moved to the end. Approval of the lone candidate for appointment to the Conservation Commission moved to the consent agenda.
- 17-168. Councilor Olson moved approval of the consent agenda. Councilor Hill seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 6:02.
- 17-169. Union Elementary School Principal Chris Hennessey, joined by Sarah McKernan offered a power point presentation on ongoing efforts to fund a UES playground improvement plan. Discussion followed. No formal action was taken.
- 17-172. The Council resumed the Public Nuisance Ordinance 2nd Reading from the previous meeting. Fire Chief Bob Gowans came forward to participate in the discussion.
- Councilor Hill moved that 7-704 subsection 1 regarding hearing enforcement be amended to include the word "tenant." Councilor Watson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
- Councilor Hill moved to amend subsection 4 to read "or if the owner fails to draft a plan accepted by the council or fails to comply with subsection 3." Councilor Turcotte seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
- Councilor Turcotte moved to strike item g under definitions, (referring to garbage). Councilor Krueger seconded. Motion failed on a 3-3 vote (Councilors Krueger, Watson, Turcotte voting aye, Councilors Olson, Hill and Mayor Hollar voting nay).
- Councilor Turcotte moved to set the unspecified inspection fees at \$100. Motion died for lack of a second.
- Councilor Hill moved that inspection fees be set at \$50. Councilor Turcotte seconded. Discussion followed.
- By unanimous consent, the motion was amended to set fees at \$50 for residential properties, \$100 for commercial properties. The motion as amended was then approved without objection by unanimous consent.

Councilor Krueger moved to strike “no less frequently than monthly” from inspections language. Councilor Watson seconded. Discussion followed.

The motion was amended by unanimous consent to add “until the remediation plan has been completed in the judgment of city council.” The underlying motion as amended was then approved without objection, by acclaim.

The Mayor re-opened the second public hearing at 7:01. Comments were offered by Tom Clougher and Cindy Davis. The public hearing was then closed.

Councilor Turcotte moved the Council approve the ordinance as amended. Councilor Hill seconded. Motion carried 4-1 (Councilor Krueger voting nay).

17-173. Planning Director Mike Miller offered a power point presentation to initiate discussion of Part 3 of the proposed Zoning Ordinance.

Comments were offered from: Doug Zorzi (in support of zoning proposal as originally presented), Joe Castellano (expressed concerns, not in support of ordinance), Ben Huffman (expressed concerns, not generally supportive). Planning Chair Leslie Welts contributed. Eve Jacobs-Carnahan and Phil Dodd came forward with questions. Discussion followed. No formal action was taken

The Chair called a recess at 8:37. The meeting reconvened at 8:47

17-183. Ryan Christiansen of Caledonia Spirits and Attorney Will Duane came forward to discuss that company’s proposed development in the city. Joe Evans from the Montpelier Development Corporation participated.

Councilor Watson moved the Council authorize the City Manager to sign the proposed development agreement and any other related agreements and parties under the terms specified in the proposal. Councilor Hill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

17-181.,17-182. Public Works Director Tom McArdle came forward for a brief combined discussion of the proposed Bike Path easement and Zorzi Deed Transfer MOUs. Councilor Watson moved the Council authorize the City Manager to sign both MOUs, Councilor Hill seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

17-175. There was a brief discussion of the Council goal making process. No action was taken.

17-174. The City Clerk briefed the Council on the Vermont College of Fine Arts BYOB questions regarding city policy. No action was taken.

17-177. Councilor Watson offered a flag contest update. Councilor Hill indicated she had taken notes on the Council retreat and welcomed Sue Allen to City Hall. Councilor Turcotte acknowledged the Public Works street work and acknowledged Joe Evans’s work on the Development Corporation.

17-178. The Mayor echoed the positive comments on the paving work.

17-179. The City Clerk reported on the Times Argus's desire to receive a permit to allow for a high school student to sell newspapers on the corner of State and Main during mornings, and in front of the Farmer's Market.

17-180. The City Manager reported on the Berlin Pond meeting. He also noted the council retreats and shared comments on the nuisance ordinance procedural questions.

Hearing no objections, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:50 by unanimous consent.

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