

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting**  
**August 23, 2017, 6:00 PM**  
**City Council Chambers, City Hall**

In attendance: Mayor John Hollar (Chair), Councilors Anne Watson, Ashley Hill (arrived at 6:09), Justin Turcotte, Dona Bate, Jean Olson, and Rosie Krueger. City Clerk John Odum acted as secretary of the meeting.

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At 6pm, the Mayor called the meeting to order.

- 17-248. The Mayor noted the addition to the proposed agenda of a litigation settlement, as well as the appeal of the French Block zoning decision. Also, the approval of a purchase of an electric vehicle charging station to be installed at the North Branch, and the discussion of the City Manager review process were pulled from the consent agenda for discussion. Without objection the proposed agenda was approved with those amendments by unanimous consent.
- 17-250. Councilor Watson moved approval of the consent agenda as amended and was seconded by Councilor Bate. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).
- 17-251. City Manager Fraser gave the report on the submitted Econo Lodge mitigation plan. Discussion followed. Councilor Turcotte moved the Council approve the submitted mitigation plan with the following additional conditions: COPS, Inc. will provide the city with a full list of all required permits within one week, will provide the city notice of application dates for all permits needed and will provide the city copies of all issued permits within 2 days of issuance. As per submitted plan, buildings will be demolished, debris removed and site cleaned within 30 days of receipt of all permits. Full compliance with the Council's order will be deemed to have occurred when the Building Inspector certifies that the structures have been demolished and all debris has been removed. Failure to apply for all required permits in a timely manner will void acceptance of the mitigation plan. Councilor Hill seconded. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).
- 17-252. Paul Gambill discussed Montpelier ArtSynergy and offered a Public Arts Master Plan update. Discussion followed. No formal action taken.
- 17-253. Fire Chief Bob Gowans came forward for a public hearing on changes to the Dog Ordinance (1st reading, formally opened at 6:27PM). After discussion, Councilor Hill moved the Council adopt the proposed amendment to strike from the proposed changes the victim restitution language in Sections 201, 208 and 210. Councilor Bate seconded. Discussion followed before the motion carried unanimously. The public hearing was closed at 6:34PM.

Councilor Turcotte moved to amend Section 5 paragraph D to follow the phrase "was in reaction to pain, or injury" with "as a result of an emergent event." Councilor Hill seconded. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously at 6:37.

Councilor Turcotte moved to remove the last "only" from the last line of paragraph 2 in

section 213. Motion died for lack of a second.

Danis Regal addressed the Council. Marilyn Mode also commented. Councilor Bate moved the Council pass 1<sup>st</sup> reading as amended and set the second hearing for the next city council meeting. Councilor Watson seconded. Motion carries unanimously.

Sarah Swenson (Parks Commission) addressed the council. After discussion, Councilor Krueger moved the Council request a report from the parks commission within 6 months regarding dogs in Hubbard Park. Councilor Turcotte seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 7:03.

Recess at 7:04. Reconvened at 7:09.

- 17-255. Planning Director Mike Miller and Barbara Conrey came to the front table for the continuation of the discussion of the proposed zoning ordinance. Steve Sease, Alan Goldman and Joe Castellano offered questions and comments.
- 17-254. The 1st public hearing on Caledonia Spirits Tax Stabilization opened at 9:04. Discussion followed. Joe Castellano asked a question. Councilor Turcotte moved to conclude public hearing 1<sup>st</sup> reading and to set the second hearing for next meeting. Councilor Olson seconded. After further discussion, motion carries 5-1 (Councilor Hill voting nay).
- 17-257. In other business. Councilor Olson moved to approve the following amendments to the City Manager performance review process: delete reference "May to August, October to December, Manager will meet with individual council members at least once." Under September, add "will include written comments and be fully documented" after "mid-year check in with full council and manager." Councilor Turcotte seconded. After a brief discussion, the motion was withdrawn. Discussion continued.

Councilor Olson moved to delete from the City Manager performance review process the following: "May to August, October to December, Manager will meet with individual council members at least once" and ask the Manager to come back with revisions to Council Manual that includes them. Councilor Turcotte seconded. More discussion followed. Motion carried 5-1 (Councilor Bate voting nay).

Councilor Watson moved to add to the City Council self-review process a bullet point for councilors to consider if they have met with the City Manager. Councilor Turcotte seconded. Motion carried 5-1 (Councilor Olson voting nay).

Councilor Olson moved to add to the City Manager Review process mid-year check in with full Council and Manager "and will include written comments and be fully documented." Councilor Turcotte seconded. Discussion followed. Motion carries 5-1 (Councilor Bate voting nay).

Councilor Turcotte moved the City Manager evaluation process, page 3, be amended under documents paragraph 2, such that the description of the evaluation process in the inclusion of the 360 review, to change the word on included comments from "compiled" to "all." Input was offered from Police Chief Facos. Motion died for lack of a second.

Councilor Turcotte moved to eliminate the 2nd paragraph regarding feedback in the documentation section in the description of the evaluation process. Councilor Olson seconded. Discussion followed. The motion was withdrawn.

Approval of the purchase of an electric vehicle charging station to be installed at the North Branch center was taken off the table for review. Discussion followed. Councilor Turcotte moved to approve the purchase not to exceed \$3800. Councilor Bate seconded. Motion carried 5-1 (Councilor Olson voting no).

City Manager Fraser introduced the French Block zoning appeal discussion. Councilor Hill moved the city provide up to \$5000 to participate in the appeal regarding the French Block. Councilor Watson seconded. Discussion followed. Motion carried 5-1 (Councilor Turcotte voting nay).

The City Manager introduced the discussion of the mediation on drainage appeal, and the proposed tentative settlement. Councilor Watson moved to authorize the City Manager to settle under the terms laid out in the settlement agreement. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

17-258. Councilor Bate thanked the City Manager and Councilors Turcotte and Watson for their work on the evaluation processes. Councilor Turcotte shared comments from the public on construction, he also noted he was looking forward to the discussion in October around “aging in place” and fees. Councilor Krueger noted the passage of the gender neutral bathroom policy. Councilor Watson shared an update on the Guertin pocket park and the Mayors’ Innovation Project. Councilor Hill reported on volunteering at the Senior Center and commended city employees.

17-261. The City Manager’s report on the development of a 4-way stop, and the addressing of problems with mold and the roof at City Hall.

17-262. Councilor Watson moved the Council enter Executive session with Chief Facos and the City Clerk for a Police Department Security Briefing. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Without objection, the Mayor declared the meeting returned to open session and subsequently adjourned by unanimous consent.