

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
February 14, 6:30 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall

In attendance: Mayor John Hollar, City Manager Bill Fraser, Councilors Anne Watson, Rosie Krueger, Dona Bate, Justin Turcotte, and Jean Olson. Councilor Ashley Hill was absent. City Clerk John Odum acted as secretary.

Call to Order by the Mayor

18-047. The proposed agenda was approved by acclimation, without objection.

18-049. After brief comments, the proposed consent agenda was moved sans the January 24 minutes by Councilor Turcotte. Councilor Watson seconded. The consent agenda on the table contained the following items for approval:

- b) Regional Master Plan Approval
- c) Conservation Commission Alternates/Term Length Resolution
- d) Certificate of highway mileage
- e) Become the Liquor Control Commission for the purpose of approving applications for liquor licenses
- f) Payroll & Bills

Without further discussion, the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

18-050. The Council opened discussion on Conservation Commission Appointments. Councilor Krueger recused herself for possible conflict of interest. Candidates Brenna Toman, Glennie Sewell, Katie Michels, Nick Gianetti, Jamie Bates, and Michael Lazorchak addressed the Council.

Councilor Watson moved the Council enter executive session to discuss the appointments. Councilor Turcotte seconded, and the motion carried unanimously at 6:41PM. At 6:47PM, Councilor Turcotte moved the Council return to open session and Councilor Watson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Watson moved that the following candidates be appointed to 4 year positions on the Conservation Commission: Brenna Toman, Nick Gianetti, Michael Lazorchak, and Katie Michels. Councilor Turcotte seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 6:50.

18-051. The Council discussed Planning Commission Appointments. The following candidates addressed the Council: Ariane Kissam, Stephanie Smith, and Paul Carnahan.

Councilor Watson moved the Council enter executive session to discuss the appointments. Councilor Bate seconded, and the motion carried unanimously at 6:54. At 7:03 Councilor Turcotte moved the Council return to open session. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Watson moved that Ariane Kissam and Stephanie Smith be appointed to the Planning Commission. Councilor Bate seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Fraser briefly discussed the proposed charter change relating to the Planning Commission.

- 18-052. At 7:06 the public hearing/2nd reading of the proposed Dog Ordinance was opened by the Mayor. Police Officer Neil Martel, Assistant City Manager Sue Allen, Health Officer Bob Gowans, and Community Justice Center Director Yvonne Byrd came forward for discussion. Danis Regal offered comments during the discussion

Councilor Kruger moved that the Council pass 2nd reading to approve the ordinance and adopt the amendment to article 2 as articulated. Councilor Bate seconded. Discussion followed.

Councilor Turcotte moved moved to amend the license fees in the ordinance from the current five dollars above the state base to eight dollars. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion to amend passed unanimously.

After further discussion, the underlying motion to pass the 2nd reading and approve the ordinance passed unanimously as amended at 7:44.

The Mayor called a recess at 7:45. The meeting reconvened at 7:49.

- 18-053. The Council opened discussion of the proposed Black Lives Matter resolution with School Superintendent Brian Ricca, High School Principal Mike McRaith, and MHS student Mandy Abu Aziz. Kathy Johnson participated in the discussion. Councilor Bate moved to adopt the resolution: Whereas, on February 1, 2018, a Black Lives Matter flag was raised at Montpelier High School to fly for the month of February. The Montpelier School Board approved the request from Montpelier High School students of the Racial Justice Alliance to raise the flag. The school board stated they are “committed to making our schools inclusive, to combating institutional racism and to working toward equity for every student.” At the flag raising, students spoke out about prejudice and racism in our schools and community; and whereas, students have spoken out about prejudice and racism experienced in our school and community; and whereas, Montpelier prides itself in being an inclusive, welcoming community; and be it resolved that the Montpelier City Council supports Montpelier Public Schools in their raising of the Black Lives Matter flag. Be it further resolved that the Montpelier City Council rejects all forms of racism, bigotry and hate, and seeks to work together to combat these issues in our community; and be it further resolved that the Montpelier City Council is committed to inclusion and equality as a foundation of our community and encourages residents to support this commitment. Councilor Turcotte seconded. After further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

- 18-054. The Mayor opened the second reading/public hearing on the proposed Sprinkler Ordinance. Councilor Olson’s postponed motion from the previous reading was taken up by the Chair. Without objection, the motion was amended to delete only those portions of the ordinance relating to one and two family homes, rather than striking the entire

ordinance. Discussion followed, which included Fire Chief Bob Gowans and Building Inspector Chris Lumbra. Comments were offered by Sandra Vitzthum, Kate Stephenson, and Zachary Hunter.

Following discussion, the motion carried 4-2 (Councilors Krueger voting nay, Councilors Bate, Turcotte, Olson and Mayor Hollar voting aye). Councilor Olson moved to pass second reading and approve the sprinkler ordinance as amended. Councilor Turcotte seconded. After a brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

- 18-055. Paul Gamble and Nathan Suter came forward to discuss the Taylor Street art project and announce the committee's recommendation for the award. Councilor Bate moved the Council enter executive session to discuss the award, considering the relationship of the artist to their work equated to a personnel decision. Councilor Turcotte seconded. After discussion, the motion failed 1-4 (Councilor Bate voting aye). After further discussion, Councilor Krueger moved to accept the committee's recommendation and move forward with the process of commissioning this artwork. Councilor Turcotte seconded. Motion carried 4-0 (Councilor Bate abstaining).
- 18-056. The Council engaged in a brief discussion of their schedule.
- 18-057. Councilor Bate reported on the VLCT workshop on January 24th. Councilor Turcotte thanked the city for its.
- 18-059. The City Clerk noted that quarterly tax payments were due the next day.
- 18-060. The City Manager reported on the Mowatt and French Block projects. He also reported on attending an international gathering at Bagitos with the Mayor, commented on the BLM flag (with a personal anecdote) at the school and the coming Ghanaian dinner, and lauded the community.

Without objection, the Mayor adjourned the meeting by acclamation at 9:30PM.