

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
June 27, 2018 7:00 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall

In attendance: Mayor Anne Watson (Chair), Councilors Dona Bate, Conor Casey, Glen Hutcheson, Rosie Krueger, Jack McCullough and Ashley Hill, and City Manager Bill Fraser. City Clerk John Odum acted as secretary.

- 18 -189. The Council conducted a 6:00 site tour of the Montpelier Fire Department. No Council business was discussed. The formal business portion of the meeting was called to order by the Mayor at 7:06PM.
- 18-190. The proposed agenda, with the moving up of item 18-198, was approved by unanimous consent.
- 18-192. Councilor Kruger moved approval of the consent agenda and was seconded by Councilor Casey. After a brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously at 7:09.
- 18-193. After a brief discussion, Councilor McCullough moved the council appoint Charley Hohn to the Conservation Commission open seat. Councilor Hill seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 7:09.
- 18-198. The Living Well Group (Heaton Woods) Community Development Loan Reorganization. Was discussed with Kevin Casey introducing a discussion. Councilor Bate moved the council approve Long term deferment of the loan on the property with 0 deferment for 20 years. Councilor McCullough seconded. After further discussion, the motion carried unanimously at 7:19.
- 18-194. Matt Wayland, Ginny Burley, Liz Genge of Downstreet, as well as Ron Merkin, Ann Gilbert presented on the smoke-free downtown proposal. Comments in favor of the proposal were offered by: Lawrence Siler, Susan Abdo, Mary Rose Dougherty, Sam Markowich and Jessa Barnard. Comments opposed from: Ian Quinlan, Linda Quinlan, and Yvonne Baab. Comments taking neither position were offered by: John Odum and Debra Sargent. Discussion followed. No formal action taken.
- 18-195. The council opened a discussion Of Parks Commission recommendations concerning dogs in Hubbard Park. No formal action taken. Comments expressing concerns were offered by Sam Markowich, Ron Merkin, and Dan Dickerson from the Parks Commission. Comments opposed to further restrictions were offered by John Akielaszek, Marilyn Mode, and Danis Regal.
- 18-196. The Mayor opened the 2nd Public Hearing on the tax stabilization application from TimberHomes Vermont at 8:50. Shannon McIntyre came forward to present. Discussion followed. Councilor Kruger moves to offer TimberHomes VT tax stabilization at level 2 – one half for 4 years. Councilor Bate seconded. Further discussion followed with participation from Sam Markowich. The public hearing was closed at 9:17, and the motion carried 4-2 with Councilors McCullough and Hill voting nay.

The Mayor called a recess at 9:17. The meeting reconvened at 9:25.

- 18-197. Kevin Casey came forward to discuss the First Time Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance And Equity Building Program. Discussion followed. Councilor Bate moved to approve the Housing Trust Fund recommendation to approve request of \$60,000 for first time home buyers downpayment assistance and equity building program beginning July 1 2018 to begin July 2nd. Councilor Hill seconded. More discussion followed, and the motion carried 5-1 with Councilor Krueger voting nay
- 18-199. Councilor Hill opened a discussion of a Social & Economic Equality Committee. Councilor Hill moved the council create a Social Justice Advisory Committee with 7 members, no more than 2 of which may be council members. Councilor Casey seconded. After more discussion, the motion carried unanimously at 9:47.
- 18-200. City Clerk Odum introduced possible ordinance revisions regarding business license. The Mayor opened the first public hearing at 9:48. After discussion, the public hearing closed at 9:52. Without objection, the council passed 1st reading and scheduled 2nd reading for July 25, by acclaim, at 9:53.
- 18-201. City Manager Fraser opened a strategic planning discussion. Councilor Bate moved the council adopt the strategic outcome and priority activities as edited tonight. Councilor Krueger seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 18-203. Council Bate reported on the Complete Streets Committee path section naming contest. Councilor Casey expressed distaste for the recent union-related ruling from the US Supreme Court and offered appreciation to union members in city. Councilor Hutcheson noted his Bagitos constituent meetings. Councilor Hill noted the coming parade on July 3rd. Councilor McCullough, hearing comments about Green Mountain Transit route changes, would like to get involved. He also encouraged people to come out to council meetings. Councilor Kruger thanked Jamie Granfield for work on the committee application. She went on to promote programs that help school kids who rely on school meals during summer.
- 18-204. The Mayor's offered congratulations to the Stable Montpelier Coalition and the Vermont Rivers Conservancy on their grant. She noted she will not attend July meeting before expressing her desire that people be kind to each other in light of the troubling national news.
- 18-205. The City Clerk noted that early voting for the August 14th primary had begun. He also noted the coming meeting on non-citizen voting status and indicated he would recuse himself from certifying the final vote on any related ballot item should he move into an advocacy role.
- 18-206. The City Manager's noted that the following the TIF application went before VEPC before reporting on the parking group/coalition.

Councilor McCullough moved, pursuant to VSA 313 (A) (2), to go into executive session for an update on

negotiations regarding the possible parking garage. Councilor Hutcheson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously at 10:28.

Without objection, the council returned to open session and subsequently adjourned by unanimous consent.