

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
August 22, 2018 6:30 PM
City Council Chambers, City Hall

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30.

- 18 -229. At Steven Whitaker's request, the Mayor agreed to table consent agenda item h (Non-Binding Declaration of Official Intent for Parking Garage) for discussion.
- MHS student Hope Patraro came forward to promote the Race Against Racism.
- 18 -230. Councilor Casey moved approval of the consent agenda with item h tabled and was seconded by Councilor Bate. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously.
- Item h was taken from the table for discussion. Following discussion, Councilor Bate moved the Council approve the Non-Binding Declaration of Official Intent for Parking Garage. Councilor McCullough seconded. The motion carried 5-1 (Councilor Hill voting nay).
- 18 -231. The council took up the Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee appointments. Speaking were candidates Michael Sherman and Sidney Collier. Discussion. Councilor Bate moved the council accept the five candidates to be the initial members of the Social and Economic Advisory Committee and appoint them for two years. Councilor McCullough seconded. After a brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously. More discussion followed. Councilor Casey moved to designate Councilor Hill as council representative on the committee. Councilor Krueger seconded and the motion carried 5-0-1 (Councilor Hill abstaining).
- 18 -232. Housing Authority appointment candidates Eric Schultheis and Mary Alice Bisbee addressed the council. Councilor Hill moved the council enter executive session for consideration of appointments to the Housing Authority. Councilor Casey seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 6:50. At 7:02, Councilor McCullough moved the council return to open session and was seconded by Councilor Hill. The motion carried unanimously at 7:02.
- Councilor Hutcheson moved the council appoint Eric Schultheis to the Housing Authority. Councilor Krueger seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 18 -233. City Manager Bill Fraser opened a discussion of the proposed parking garage with a presentation. Stephanie Hainley from White and Burke participated over the phone. Discussion followed. The following members of the public addressed the council: Supportive of the project were Dan Groberg of Montpelier Alive and Laura Gephardt of the Local Development Council.

Speaking to voice concern or opposition were: Stephen Whitaker, Paul Carnahan, John Snell, Eve Jacobs-Carnahan, and Deb Sachs. More council discussions followed.

Councilor Bate moved to approve agreement terms with Capitol Plaza and authorize the City Manager to complete and execute the final contract, seconded by Councilor Hutcheson. During discussion Councilor Bate moved the previous question but the motion died for lack of a second. After further discussion, the motion carried 4-2 (Councilors Krueger and Hill voting nay).

Councilor Bate moved to direct the City Manager to complete the next steps required for this project as outlined in the attached memo, with Councilor McCullough seconding, Discussion followed. Motion carried 5-1 (Councilor Hill voting nay).

After discussion, Councilor McCullough voted to set October 3 as the date for a public hearing on a possible November 6 bond vote on this project. Councilor Hutcheson seconded. After brief discussion, the motion carried 5-1 (Councilor Hill voting nay).

The Mayor called a recess at 8:43. The meeting reconvened at 8:50.

Councilor McCullough moved to amend the VEPC plan to incorporate the larger parking garage design. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried 5-1 (Councilor Hill voting nay).

- 18 -234. After a brief discussion, the mayor opened the public hearing/1st reading on the proposed Union Elementary School Parking Ordinance (Temporary), 1st Reading. Police Chief Facos and Public Works Director McArdle participated in the discussion. After further discussion, Councilor McCullough amend the proposed ordinance to reflect a change recommended by the Chief and DPW Director, and then to approve it for second reading. Councilor Hutcheson seconded and the motion carried on a 5-0-1 vote (Councilor Casey abstaining). The public hearing was closed at 9:12.
- 18 -236. The mayor introduced the discussion of the creation of Confluence Park. Ricarda Erickson and Steve Libby of the Vermont River Conservancy participated in the discussion, as did Dan Dickerson (Parks Commission), Parks Director Geoff Beyer, and John Snell.
- Councilor McCullough moved to designate the portion on the map of page 18 of the capital district master plan marked as #4 as Confluence Park and further direct city staff to add it to the city website as pending. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 18 -237. City Manager Fraser opened a discussion of Ash Borer recommendations. Wanda Burrill offered comments. Parks Direct Geoff Beyer, John Snell and John Akielaszek participated in the subsequent discussion. No formal action was taken.
- 18 -238. A brief discussion of the appointment of a council VLCT (Vermont League of Cities and Towns) was discussed. Councilor McCullough moved that Councilor Hill be appointed and Councilor Krueger seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- 18 -240. Councilor Krueger reported on being approached by Dan Jones about being part of a landowner group. A brief discussion followed. Councilor McCullough noted Councilor Hill's recent op-ed. Councilor Hill thanked voters for participating in the recent election. Councilor Bate reported on the Water Basin organization she has been working with along with changes at the Department of Environmental Conservation. Councilor Casey thanked The City Manager and Assistant City Manager for their work on a recent media story regarding goats. Councilor Hutcheson pitched his regular constituent meeting and shared an anecdote with councilors.
- 18 -241. The Mayor reported that the previous day she had spent time with the "Trash Tramps." She also relayed comments regarding Marshfield dam and the city's involvement. She went on to broach the idea of a water rate deal for the new hotel before discussing a possible charter change that would allow for flexibility on some environmental issues.
- 18 -242. The City Clerk reported that future August primary elections would be held in the upstairs auditorium.
- 18 -243. The City Manager offered an update on Berlin Pond.

Without objection, the mayor declared the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:40.