

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
April 10, 2019 6:30pm
City Council Chambers, City Hall

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

Call to order by the Mayor at 6:30

- 19-114. The agenda was approved by acclamation.
- 19-116. Councilor McCullough moved to approve the consent agenda with a technical correction to the 3/13/2019 minutes. Councilor Hierl seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 19-117. City Manager Bill Fraser opened a discussion of the ordinance review. No formal action taken.
- 19-118. Corey Line of the Public Works Department was joined by Lucy Gibson and Sophie Sullivan of Dubois and King for a presentation on the Main & Barre Streets scoping study. Discussion followed with participation from Public Works Director Tom McArdle. Comments were offered from John Snell, Eve Jacobs-Carnahan, Mary Messier, Steven Whitaker, and Constantinos Stivaros. No formal action taken.

The Mayor called a recess at 8:17. The meeting reconvened at 8:25.

- 19-119. The city manager introduced a discussion of the tax stabilization policy. Laura Gephardt participated. Steven Whitaker offered comments. No formal action taken.
- 19-120. Assistant City Manager Sue Allen gave a presentation on the possible refit of the recreation building. After discussion, Councilor Casey moved to approve the proposal to develop construction estimates and design concepts for the purpose of renovating the recreation center. Councilor Bate seconded. After further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.
- 19-121. Steven Whitaker addressed the council in regards to his concerns that overflow shelters run by Good Samaritan are closing this weekend for the season and that residents being shut out and will be forced to camp in possible violation of statute, putting them in legal jeopardy. Discussion followed. No formal action taken.
- 19-122. Councilor Hutcheson thanked Mr. Whitaker for his comments before noting the newly installed paintings and reminding listeners of his weekly meetings at Bagitos.

Councilor Casey reported on attending the community advisory board meeting with the community justice center, offering praise to Police Chief Facos and Jamie Granfield. He

also noted that a sample contracting ordinance was available before sharing a brief report on the bird scooters.

Councilor Bate reported on the Parks Commission efforts to work with the Mountain Bike Association which has received a federal grant for trail work.

Councilor Hierl reported that the Social and Economic Justice Advisory Committee was doing strategic planning.

Councilor Hill noted that she was excited to see improvements, but hoped to see better light at crosswalks.

- 19-123. The Mayor reported on a meeting of the group working on municipal composting and discussed the possibility of putting out an rfp for a study of possible garbage and compost curbside collection.
- 19-125. The city manager reported that the strategic planning meetings were taking place next week. He also noted an upcoming meeting with the parking garage appellate group.
- 19-126. Councilor McCullough moved to find that premature general public knowledge of the status of negotiations regarding the Parking Garage appeal will clearly place the city at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing strategies on litigation to which the city is a party. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- Councilor McCullough moved that the council enter executive discussion to discuss the negotiations regarding the parking garage under the provisions of Title I, VSA §313, Executive Sessions (a)(1)(E) of the Vermont statutes. Motion was seconded by Councilor Casey and carried unanimously.
- 19-127. Without objection, the Mayor declared the council returned to open session and subsequently adjourned by unanimous consent.