

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting**  
**May 8, 2019 6:30pm**  
**City Council Chambers**

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

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Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 6:30

19-146. The proposed agenda was modified to not include Item 6 (energy use report) and to remove items c and d from the consent agenda. The agenda as modified was approved by unanimous consent.

19-147. Steven Whitaker expressed displeasure with the City Manager in regards to the proposed garage. Laura Gephardt & Sarah Jarvis gave an update on the Montpelier Development Corporation

19-148. Councilor Hill moved approval of the consent agenda with item g pulled for discussion. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Council discussed consent agenda item g. (Sanctuary City Reaffirmation Resolution). Pam Walker (Central Vermont Refugee Action Network) and Police Chief Tony Facos participated. Councilor Hill moved to adopt the resolution to designate Montpelier as a sanctuary city with the proposed amendments. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

19-149. The Council took up the Complete Streets Committee appointment. The only applicant was not present. Councilor Hill moved the Council go into executive session pursuant to 1 VSA § 313(a)(3) to discuss the appointment or evaluation of a public officer. Councilor McCullough seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 6:47. At 6:50, Council Hill moved the Council return to open session and was seconded by Councilor Bate. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilor McCullough moved that Phoenix Mitchell be appointed to the Complete Streets Committee. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

19-151. The Mayor opened the public hearing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the proposed Ordinance amendments to Chapter 1, General Provisions. Discussion. Public hearing was opened at 7:01. Hearing no comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:01 Councilor McCullough moved the Council amend Chapter 1 of the ordinances as indicated in the printed agenda and as amended orally tonight. Councilor Hutcheson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

19-152. The Mayor opened the public hearing for the first reading of proposed Ordinance amendments to Chapter 2, Administration, at 7:02. After discussion, the public hearing was closed at 7:11. Councilor Casey moved the Council close the 1<sup>st</sup> reading and set the

2<sup>nd</sup> reading for the next Council meeting. Councilor Hill seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 7:13.

19-153. The Council discussed the proposed strategic plan. Comments were offered from Peter Kelman. Councilor McCullough moved to adopt the strategic plan, Councilor Hierl seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 7:18.

19-154. After discussion, Councilor Hill moved to set the summer meeting schedule as June 12 and 26, July 10, August 14 and 28. Councilor McCullough seconded. After brief further discussion the motion carried unanimously at 7:25.

19-156. Councilor Bate reported on the Montpelier Transportation Infrastructure Committee meeting. She also reminded the Council the incoming project is a shared use path, rather than a bike path.

Councilor Casey reported on the Social and Economic Justice Advisory Committee meeting, praising the body. He also noted that he has attended the recent VCFA reception.

Councilor Hutcheson announced he was stepping off the Montpelier Transportation Infrastructure Committee due to scheduling conflicts. He also offered a T.W. Wood Gallery report before reporting on the Another Way weekly community meeting and reminded listeners of his weekly constituent meeting.

Councilor Hill noted the coming expungement clinic put on by her office and Legal Aid. She also discussed her concerns about drug activity in Montpelier, reminding listeners the Montpelier Police can assist people in need.

Councilor McCullough noted the coming expungement clinic.

Councilor Hierl thanked staff for her tours of facilities before reporting on the Social and Economic Justice Committee's strategic plan work.

19-157. The Mayor gave a brief report on the energy efficiency charter change progress.

Councilor McCullough moved the Council make a finding that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body at a substantial disadvantage in regards to pending or probable civil litigation concerning the parking garage. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried 5-0 (Councilor Hill not present to vote) at 7:41.

Councilor McCullough moved the Council enter executive session to discuss parking garage litigation pursuant to McCullough Move we enter exec session to discuss parking garage litigation pursuant to Title I, VSA §313, Executive Sessions (a)(1)(E). Councilor Hutcheson seconded and the motion carried 5-0 (Councilor Hill not present to vote).

The Mayor declared the meeting returned to open session and subsequently adjourned by acclaim.