

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
May 22, 2019 6:30pm
City Council Chambers

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

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 6:30.

- 19-161. The proposed agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
- 19-162. Stephen Whitaker rose to offer comments on: transportation and broadband bills in the legislature, potholes in the leased city lots, North Branch cleanup, river cleanup behind Shaw's, the Farmers Market seniority system, the cleanliness of the streets, the condition of the crosswalks, ORCA coverage compensation. Jim Dumont also rose to ask about the status of the consent agenda.
- 19-163. After discussion, Councilor Bate moved to approve the consent agenda with items e (e. Approve Validation Resolution), and item h (h. Street closure request: Bernie 2020 Rally, 5/25) pulled for individual discussion and consideration. Councilor McCullough seconded. Fire Chief Bob Gowans and Assistant City Manager Sue Allen participated in discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

After discussion, Councilor Bate moved to inform the Sanders campaign manager what the event was costing the city and that we would appreciate a contribution to cover the costs, and for the council to move forward to consider a policy for all the diversified events that take place here. Councilor Hierl seconded. Further discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously. Comments were offered by Stephen Whitaker.

Councilor McCullough moved to approve item h (Street closure request: Bernie 2020 Rally, 5/25). Councilor Casey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The Council discussed Item e (Approve Validation Resolution). Comments were offered by Sandy Vitzthum, Joe Castellano, Stephen Whitaker, and James Dumont.

Councilor Bate moved to find that premature general public knowledge of the discussion of comments from our lawyer about the validation resolution will clearly place the city at a substantial disadvantage. Councilor McCullough seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 (Councilor Hierl was not present for the vote).

Councilor Bate moved that the Council enter executive session to discuss the lawyer's comments about the validation resolution under the provisions of Title I, Section 313(a)(1) of the Vermont statutes. Councilor McCullough seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 (Councilor Hierl was not present for the vote) at 7:31.

Councilor McCullough moved the Council come out of executive session. Councilor Hill seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 7:51.

Councilor McCullough moved to postpone item e. (Approve Validation Resolution) for discussion at the next meeting. Councilor Casey seconded. After brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

- 19-164. The Council received an Americans with Disabilities Act evaluation report from Public Works Director Tom McArdle, Dianne Richardson, David West (of the Institute for Human Centered Design), and Marty Roberts.

After discussion, Councilor McCullough moved to approve the draft plan and set the final consideration for the July 10th meeting. Councilor Hill seconded. After further discussion, the motion carried unanimously at 8:31.

The Mayor called a recess at 8:31. The Council reconvened at 8:39.

- 19-165. The Mayor opened a discussion on the status of 5 Home Farm Way. City Manager Fraser introduced the discussion. Jamie Duggan answered questions about his proposed plan.

Councilor Bate moved that the Council find the submitted plan does not meet the prescribed conditions for approval, and direct the City Manager to proceed as per Section 704 (4) of the City's ordinances by immediately securing the building and, further to proceed with permanent mitigation of the nuisance. The Manager shall present a permanent mitigation plan on July 10, 2019. This plan will describe actions, costs and necessary steps. Councilor McCullough seconded. Discussion continued. Comments were offered from Stephen Whitaker and Eric Gilbertson. The motion carried unanimously at 9:17.

- 19-166. Kate Stephenson and Finance Director Todd Provencher delivered an energy use presentation and update for the city. Discussion followed. No formal action was taken.

- 19-167. Planning Director Mike Miller gave a report on the proposed zoning fixes. Discussion followed. No formal action was taken.

- 19-168. The Mayor opened the public hearing for *Ordinance amendments, 2nd reading: Chapter 2. Administration*, at 10:11. Councilor McCullough moved to postpone consideration and postpone the 2nd public hearing to June 12. Councilor Hill seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The Mayor closed the public hearing at 10:12.

- 19-169. The Mayor opened the public hearing for *Ordinance amendments, 1st reading: Chapter 3. Administration*, at 10:12. Councilor Hill moved to also defer this hearing to the June 12 meeting. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The Mayor closed the public hearing at 10:12.

- 19-171. Councilor Bate reported that there was an effort to look into the old Pioneer Street Bridge for the Cross Vermont Trail.

Councilor Hutcheson noted that he'd had a conversation with Merry Shernock of the "wear orange" campaign regarding a possible June 8th resolution, and that they would

be present at the coming Farmer's Market. He also indicated he was still meeting with people from "Another Way" and encouraged council members' participation. He further noted that there was a bridge in the Stump Dump that could be used for the Cross Vermont Trail. He encouraged residents to hold Neighbor Day parties (noting the coming such party on Prospect Street), before reminding listeners of his weekly constituent meetings.

Councilor Hill advised everyone to avoid drinking and driving over the holiday weekend.

Councilor Hierl noted constituent discontent that the Stump Dump is only open on weekdays.

19-172. The Mayor noted that the energy efficiency charter amendment passed the legislature. She also reported on conversations with the City Manager about a possible city sponsored evening dedicated to transportation, including advocacy groups and other stakeholders for presentations. Finally, she noted that the pocket park has moved to the Senior Center and that she wanted to open a discussion on the possibility of allocating \$10k for construction of a public parklet on Main Street.

19-173. The City Clerk gave an update on the proposed non-citizen voting charter change.

Without objection, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 10:24 by acclamation.