

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
June 12, 2019 6:30pm
City Council Chambers

In attendance: Mayor Anne Watson (Chair), Councilors Dona Bate, Conor Casey, Lauren Hierl, Glen Hutcheson, and Jack McCullough. Councilor Ashley Hill was not present. City Clerk John Odum acted as secretary.

- 19-176. The proposed agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
- 19-177. General business and appearances: Stephen Whitaker spoke in regards to a parking ticket he received for parking too close to a hydrant and concerns about new parking lot behind Mowatt property. He also asked that CV Fiber, EC Fiber and CVPSA concerns be on an agenda.
- Sigrid Olsen introduced herself as a member of the Social and Economic Justice Advisory Committee
- Holly Wilkins of United Motorcyclists of Vermont spoke regarding consent agenda item c.
- 19-178. Consideration of the Consent Agenda: The Clerk asked for and received the addition of a liquor license (Abbey Group) Items c (Street closure request: United Motorcyclists of VT Toy Run, 8/10) and item o (Juneteenth Proclamation) were tabled for discussion. Brief discussion followed. The Clerk noted a corrected typo in the minutes. Councilor Casey moved approval of the consent agenda as amended. Councilor McCullough seconded. After further discussion, the motion carried unanimously (5-0) at 6:44
- The Council took up consent item o (Juneteenth Proclamation) for discussion. Councilor McCullough read the proclamation aloud, and then moved adoption of the proclamation. Councilor Bate seconded. After brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously at 6:48.
- The Council took up consent item c. (Street closure request: United Motorcyclists of VT Toy Run, 8/10). Coming forward for discussion were Holly Wilkins, Don Hammond, Michael Parent (Mt Sinai Shriners). Police Chief Tony Facos participated in discussion. Also offering comments were Vicki Lane, Peter Kelman, Stephen Whitaker, Ken Russell, Thomas Moore, and Lauren Sales. Councilor Hutcheson moved to postpone action to the next meeting on June 26. Councilor Hierl seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 7:10.
- 19-179. The Mayor opened the 1st public hearing on proposed changes to the Berlin Street speed limit at 7:10. Public Works Director Tom McArdle introduced discussion. Comments were offered by Gene Leon, Vicki Lane, James Brady, Peter Luyckx. Mary Carole Dobbins, Noah Sexton, Bob Tilley, Kevin Casey, Laura Smith Riva, Melissa Kaserick, Stephen Whitaker, and Lauren Sales.

Councilor Hierl left the meeting. The public hearing was closed at 7:58. Councilor McCullough moved to approve 1st reading and set the date of 2nd hearing to June 26th. Councilor Hutcheson seconded and the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

The Mayor called a recess at 8:00. The meeting was reconvened at 8:09.

- 19-180. Page Guertin, James Brady, and Michael Lazorchak came forward for a discussion of Conservation Commission activities. No formal action.
- 19-181. The Mayor introduced the discussion of the TIF Validation Resolution. Councilor Bate moved to approve the validation resolution and Councilor Casey seconded. Discussion included Paul Giuliani and comments from Sandy Vitzthum and Stephen Whitaker. The motion carried unanimously (4-0) at 8:39.
- 19-182. Corey Line and Kevin Casey came forward for a discussion of the Alternative Transportation Fund budget. Comments were offered by Peter Luyckx. Councilor McCullough moved the Council adopt the budget as proposed. Councilor Casey seconded. The motion carried 4-1 (Councilor Bate voting nay, Mayor Watson and Councilors McCullough, Casey, and Hutcheson voting aye).
- 19-183. The Council received a winter operations debrief from Tom McArdle and Brian Tuttle. No formal action taken.
- 19-184. The Mayor opened the 2nd public hearing on proposed ordinance amendments to Chapter 2, Administration at 9:22. There were no public comments. The Mayor closed the public hearing at 9:22. Councilor McCullough moved to approve the Chapter 2 changes. Councilor Hutcheson seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 9:23.
- 19-185. The Mayor opened the 1st reading of the proposed ordinance amendments to Chapter 3. Public Works, at 9:23. Discussion followed. No public comments were offered. The Mayor closed the public hearing at 9:33. Councilor McCullough moved to pass 1st reading and schedule 2nd reading for the meeting on June 26. Councilor Hutcheson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 19-186. City Manager Fraser opened discussion of the strategic outcomes work plan. After discussion, Councilor McCullough moved to approve the strategic action plan. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 9:39.
- 19-188. Councilor Bate expressed concerns about the efficacy of the flashing pedestrian lights. Brief discussion followed.

Councilor Casey gave a scooter/ebike update before noting that the single-use plastic bag ban passed and was waiting for the Governor's signature. He also requested a follow-up conversation on the budgeted child care.

Councilor Hutcheson noted his weekly constituent meetings at Bagito's.

Councilor McCullough reported that a constituent asked about the possibility of introducing an ordinance controlling balloon releases in the city. He also congratulated the High School boys and girls ultimate teams (along with Coach Anne Watson) on their state championships.

- 19-189. The Mayor noted two conferences the previous week regarding downtown and historic preservation and arts. She complimented the new painting on the Heney lot before noting her desire for Council discussions on transportation and energy efficiency. Finally, she expressed her intent to have further dialogue with Barre Street residents on the scoping study.
- 19-190. The City Clerk reported the passing of Larry Bolduc. He also reported that Crystal Chase had returned to work and thanked Sheila Healy, Cindy Larson, Lee Youngman, and Jennifer Loughran for their help in covering clerk duties in her absence. The Clerk then reported that Councilor Hutcheson was helping to preserve the recently discovered Civil War letters in the city's vault, that recording fees were about to go up, and that water bills were coming due. Finally, he noted his completion of a professional development program as well as his coming participation in a conference.
- 19-191. The City Manager also congratulated the High School ultimate teams, noting that both were undefeated. He noted that that the downtown Master Plan process is starting and decisions will have to be made on the Barre/Main intersection. Finally, he reported on a possible grant fund source regarding renewables.

Without objection, the Mayor adjourned the meeting by acclaim at 9:55.