

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting**  
**July 10, 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.

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

- 19-205. The proposed agenda was approved by acclamation.
- 19-206. Nathaniel Fredericks read an email regarding the Berlin Street speed limit. Mary Carol Dobbins also spoke on the subject.
- Stephen Whitaker spoke on the following topics: How much time should be legally allotted for public comment on agenda items, drains emitting “sewer gas,” new paving in front of TD bank, sand and dust in the Farmers Market, Independence Day celebration garbage, the new Montpelier Alive pamphlets.
- 19-207. Councilor McCullough moved to approve the consent agenda (with a typo fixed on the tax rate). Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 6:40.
- 19-208. After a brief discussion, Councilor McCullough moved to appoint Phyllis Rubenstein to the Conservation Commission. Councilor Hutcheson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 19-209. The Mayor opened the Public Hearing on the French Block at 6:41PM. Kevin Casey came forward with Alison Friedkin of Downstreet Housing and Development. Both participated in discussion with the Council. Comments were offered by Stephen Whitaker. The Mayor closed the public hearing at 6:49PM. No formal action taken.
- 19-210. The Mayor introduced the discussion on a possible ordinance on loitering. Candace Moot came forward speaking on behalf of herself and David Kelley. Police Chief Anthony Facos followed with comments. Comments were offered by: Stephen Whitaker, Dylan Renflash, Valerie Coolidge, Bob Buchanan, Tanya McGrath, Casey Jones, Vicki Lane, Lauren Andrews, Dan Kelley, Jodi Kelley, Rob Farrell, Sonja Graun, Mary Hooper, Mary Messier, Shaina Kasper, Laura Smith Reva, Office Diane Matthews, and Aly Johnson-Kurtz
- Jamie Granfield offered a report on the topic from the Social and Economic Justice Committee.
- Councilor Hill moved to direct city staff or compile a list of all stakeholders on the issue and put together a proposal to bring back to the council to implement and to continue current efforts. Councilor Bate seconded. After discussion, the motion carried unanimously at 8:34.

- 19-211. Public Works Director Tom McArdle came forward to discuss the ADA Transition Plan. The Mayor opened a public hearing on the proposal at 8:39. After Council discussion, Councilor McCullough moved to adopt the ADA compliance transition plan. Councilor Hill seconded and the motion passed unanimously at 8:41. Public hearing was closed by the Mayor at 8:41.
- 19-212. City Manager Fraser introduced the discussion on the status of 5 Home Farm Way. Jamie Duggan of Two Rivers Partnership discussed his plan with the Council. Comments were offered by Eric Gilbertson, Stephen Whitaker, and Erik Esselstyn. Councilor McCullough moved the city, in reliance on the Council's determination that this property is a public nuisance, that the city forebear on any action to demolish or otherwise affect the physical structure temporarily conditioned on the efforts of Two Rivers' partnership as they've outlined in their communications with us, temporarily conditioned on the efforts of the Two Rivers Partnership, under the condition they report to us and to report back to us every three months for a period of two years. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 9:07.
- 19-213. The Mayor opened the 2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing on the proposed Ordinance Amendments to chapter 5 of the code of ordinances at 9:08. Hearing no public comment, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 9:09. Councilor McCullough moved to adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 5. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried at 9:09.
- 19-214. The Mayor opened the first public hearing on the proposed Ordinance Amendments to Chapter 7 of the code of ordinances at 9:10. After discussion, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 9:16. Councilor McCullough moved to pass first reading and schedule the 2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing for August 14. Councilor Hutcheson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously at 9:16.
- 19-216. Councilor Bate expressed her desire to continue the discussion on the Berlin Street speed limit before announcing that the Mayor was engaged to be married,
- 19-206. Aly Johnson-Kurtz spoke in regards to a stronger fair and impartial policing policy. Stephen Whitaker offered comments.
- 19-216. Councilor Casey noted the 195th anniversary of General Lafayette's visit.
- Councilor Hutcheson expressed concerns about Council clarity on public hearing laws and the Council's process for considering agenda items. He also noted the issue of the Berlin Street speed limit. Finally, he announced his continuing weekly constituent meetings.
- Councilor Hill noted the recent cell coverage issues. Brief discussion followed.
- Councilor McCullough followed up on discussions of the process for rescinding a prior Council decision. He also offered praise for Police Chief Facos for his response to Berlin Street concerns and reported a problem with a bike rack brought to his attention by a constituent. The City Manager responded to the concern.

Councilor Hierl expressed gratitude to the police and fire departments, and Montpelier Alive for the Independence Day celebration. She also noted the coming meeting with businesses regarding the new energy ordinance.

The Mayor thanked the July 3<sup>rd</sup> celebration team and spoke more on the coming meeting regarding new energy ordinance. She also indicated she was taking part in the ride to Middlesex and back event.

19-218

The City Manager's report reminded Councilors that there would need to be 2 public hearings on the School/Main and Main/Barre Street intersections. He also commented that city staff take public concerns seriously and deserve respect.

Without objection, the Mayor adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent.