

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
August 28, 2019 6:30pm
City Council Chambers

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

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

- 19-239 Without objection, the proposed agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
- 19-240 Under general business and appearances, Stephen Whitaker arose to voice concerns about the following: spending priorities, sewer gas, drainage, tripping hazards on streets, a “sinkhole” on St. Paul Street, street sweeping, sidewalk cleaning, combined sewer overflow, the rate of CVPSA/CV Fiber coordination, the Police Chief, public records requests, the Christmas wreath, a river spill by SD Ireland, redirecting trucks into parking spaces, the availability of electric charging spaces, charging for parking on Bennington Battle Day and July 4th, State and Main traffic lights on Saturdays, catching the server room heat to heat the downstairs bathrooms, a rail study, a log of POIA requests, a log of correspondence.
- Departing Assistant City Manager Sue Allen applauded the staff and council and expressed appreciation.
- Seth Collins addressed the recent shooting deaths in the city.
- 19-241. After a brief discussion, the Consent Agenda minus the minutes was passed by unanimous consent without objection.
- 19-242. The Mayor opened the public hearing for the VCDP Implementation Grant Application for Another Way and Washington County Mental Health at 6:44 PM. Kevin Casey and Eileen Peltier introduced the discussion. Comments were offered from Peter Kelman, Ericka Reil, and Stephen Whitaker. The mayor then closed the public hearing at 6:55 PM.
- Councilor McCullough moved to authorize the department to submit the application for the VCDB scattered site grant. Councilor Bate seconded. After brief further discussion, the motion carried unanimously (5-0).
- 19-243. The Washington County Mental Health and Another Way grant application authority public hearing was opened by the Mayor at 6:56 PM. Kevin Casey and Amy Wright presented. Discussion followed, with comments from Eileen Peltier, Rick DeAngelis, Zack Hughes, and Stephen Whitaker. The Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:04 PM. Councilor Bate moved the Council pass the resolution for the VCDB grant application authority. Councilor McCullough seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

19-244. The Homelessness Task Force discussion was opened. Comments were offered by Stephen Whitaker and Bob Buchanan. Councilor Bate moved the Council adopt the proposal as the task force's initial charge to be revisited in 3 months when the Council receives its report. Councilor Hutcheson seconded. After further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

The following candidates for appointment to the task force addressed the Council: Zack Hughes, Ericka Reil, Dawn Little, Rhonna Gable, Bob Buchanan and Jonathan Goddard. Yvonne Byrd spoke on behalf of Travis Hill. Further comments were offered by Stephen Whitaker and Peter Kelman.

Councilor McCullough moved, pursuant to VSA sec 313(a), that the Council enter into executive session to discuss the appointment of a public officer or officers. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 7:35.

Councilor McCullough moved to return to open session. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 8:01.

Councilor Hutcheson moved the following be appointed to the Homelessness task Force: Will Eberle, Travis Hill, Zach Hughes, Ericka Reil, Ken Russell, Stephen Whitaker, and Dawn Little. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Bate moved that Councilor Hutcheson be appointed as the Council representative on the Task Force. Councilor Casey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously after a brief discussion.

19-245. A discussion of intersections at Barre and Main, School and Main, and Memorial and Main was opened by Corey Line and Sophie Sauve. Comments were offered by Joe Castellano. Stephen Whitaker and Seth Collins. Tom McArdle participated in discussion.

Councilor Hutcheson moved the Council approve final draft report with the suggested alternative to look at a roundabout at the School and Main street intersection. Councilor McCullough seconded.

Councilor Casey moved to amend the motion to remove the Main Street bicycle amenities. Councilor Hierl seconded. On a vote of 2-3 (Councilors Casey and Hierl aye, all other nay), the motion failed.

The underlying motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor called a recess at 9:31. The Council reconvened at 9:37.

19-247. At 9:38, the Mayor opened the public hearing on proposed revisions to Ordinance Chapter 8, Animals & Fowl. Kevin Finke and Rosie Krueger commented. After discussion, the public hearing was closed at 9:53. Councilor McCullough moved to set the 2nd public hearing at a date to be recommended by staff. Councilor Hutcheson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- 19-246. At 9:54, the Mayor opened the third public hearing on proposed revisions to ordinance Chapter 7. Health & Sanitation. After discussion, the public hearing was closed at 10:01. Councilor McCullough moved to have another public hearing on the proposal at the next meeting. Councilor Hutcheson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 19-248. The Council discussed the coming VLCT Town Fair. No formal action taken.
- 19-250. Councilor Casey thanked Sue Allen for her service to the city. Councilor Hutcheson did as well before also suggesting that people take time to enjoy (and help clean up) the Winooski River. He also reminded listeners of his weekly constituent meetings at Bagitos.
- Councilor Bate had questions about the Transportation Meeting for the Mayor. Finally, Councilors McCullough and Hierl also voiced appreciation for Ms. Allen, with Councilor Hierl also expressing concern about contamination from leachate into the Winooski.
- 19-251. The Mayor thanked Ms. Allen and outgoing DPW Director Tom McArdle for their service before welcoming Donna Barlow Casey into her interim position in both capacities. She also noted several upcoming events including the September 7 river cleanup, Montpelier's "drive electric" celebration, and a public hearing on the energy efficiency ordinance.
- 19-252. The City Clerk thanked Ms. Allen for her service and noted his appointment to the advisory board of the Cyber policy Initiative.
- 19-253. The City Manager thanked Ms. Allen for her service and gave an update on the candidate interview process.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:19 PM.