

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
November 13, 2019 6:30pm
City Council Chambers

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

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:31.

- 19-325. Agenda approved by unanimous consent without objection.
- 19-326. Councilor Bate read recommendations from a walkable cities book by Jeff Speck.
Steven Whitaker spoke about accountability in regards to public records requests and public notices, and spoke about street conditions.
- 19-327. With a brief clarification from the Clerk, Councilor McCullough moved passage of the consent agenda and was seconded by Councilor Hill. The motion carried unanimously.
- 19-328. In regards to student committee appointments, Councilor McCullough moved the Council enter executive session pursuant to 1 VSA sec 313a(3) to discuss the appointment of a public officer.. Councilor Hill seconded. The motion carried unanimously at 6:41.
Councilor Hill moved the Council return to open session, Councilor McCullough seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
Councilor McCullough moved the following appointments: Tree Board Erin Kelly, Homelessness Task Force Alex Smart and Sophia Clark. Complete Streets Committee Merrick Mohan, and Energy Advisory Committee Evan Rohan. Councilor Hill seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Brief further discussion followed.
- 19-329. John Snell gave an update on the Emerald Ash Borer. Some discussion followed. No formal action taken.
- 19-332. Councilor Bate introduced a discussion on the dog and noise ordinances. Comments were offered from Sheryl Rapee-Adams, Chris Adams, and Steven Whitaker (particularly regarding dogs in restaurants). No formal action taken.
- 19-330. A discussion of the police officer involved shooting was opened. Steven Whitaker gave comments. No formal action taken.
- 19-333. Responsible Employer ordinance: the 2nd public reading opened at 7:32. Comments were offered by Danielle Bombardier. The public hearing was closed by the Mayor at 7:33. Councilor Casey moved to pass the responsible employer ordinance as amended in the first hearing. Councilor Hill seconded. After further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor called a recess at 7:36. The meeting reconvened at 7:40.

- 19-331. Assistant City Manager Cameron Niedermayer, Recreation Director Arne McMullen, and John Dale presented a recreation building project update followed by discussion. Comments were offered by Kevin Webb. No formal action taken.
- 19-335. Councilor Bate reported on changes in the Kitzmiller coat drive and talked about the success of the most recent one.
- Councilor Casey announced a coming constituency meeting at Rabble Rouser.
- Councilor Hutcheson reported on the public art commission before reminding listeners of his regular constituent meetings at Bagitos.
- Councilor Hill thanked the Councilors and her constituents for their patience with her recent health issues and Councilor McCullough welcomed her back.
- Councilor Hierl reported that the Social and Economic Justice Advisory committee will have a presentation at the next meeting. She also reported a constituent's concerns about the city's use of Facebook as well as another constituent praising the city's mountain bike trails.
- 19-336. The mayor reported that she was approached by a constituent about creating a dog park and would like to see a committee take it on. She also reported on the opening of the shared use path and offered a home energy labeling committee report.
- 19-338. The City Manager reported on the hiring process for open positions. He also reported on the recent judgment about appellants in the garage court case and gave an update on the winter parking ban. Discussion followed.

Without objection, the Mayor adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 9:02.