

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
December 11, 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 6:30.

19-353. Without objection, the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

19-354. Elizabeth Parker rose to commend the recent public works efforts on the multi-use path as well as logistics of access to the Winter Farmer's Market. Brief discussion followed.

Steve Whitaker addressed the following topics: street and sidewalk condition, police shootings and alleged malfeasance, treatment of the homeless, public records law, transit center conditions, the proposed parking garage, concerns about the homelessness task force,

19-355. The consent agenda was considered. After a brief discussion on the MSAC wood floor refinishing, Councilor Hutcheson moved approval of the consent agenda and was seconded by Councilor Casey. The motion carried unanimously.

19-356. The Council considered appointments to the Transportation Infrastructure Committee. Speaking on behalf of her candidacy was Elizabeth Parker. Councilor McCullough moved to reappoint Elizabeth Parker, Stephen Falbel, Constaninos Stivaros, and appoint Hanif Nazerali to the one year alternate position. Councilor Hierl seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

19-357. Appointments to the Complete Streets Committee were discussed. Candidates speaking were David Ory, Mary Ann Angell, and Nancy Schulz.

Councilor McCullough moved pursuant to 1 VSA § 313a(3) to go into executive session to discuss the appointment of a public officer. Councilor Hill seconded. Motion carried unanimously at 6:49.

At 6:50, Councilor McCullough moved to return to open session and was seconded by Councilor Hierl. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Casey moved to appoint Nancy Schulz, Mary Ann Angell, Phoenix Mitchell, and David Ory to the 2-year positions on the Complete Streets

Committee and Hanif Nazerali to the 1-year alternate. Councilor Hill seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- 19-358. Bob Hannum and Rob Hitzig gave the Council a Public Art Commission update. Heather Corey participated in the discussion. No formal action taken.

City Manager Fraser and Mayor Watson apologized to Casey Jones in regards to a recent incident. Brief discussion on that and other issues followed.

Discussion returned to the Public Art Commission. Kevin Casey participated.

- 19-359. Planning Director Miller opened an Interim River Hazard map amendment discussion. No formal action taken. Tom Brown participated in discussion.

Councilor Bate moved to schedule the 1st public hearing at the next meeting, December 18, to approve the proposed interim river hazard amendment. Councilor Bate seconded. Discussion followed and the motion passed -1 with Councilor Hill voting nay.

- 19-360. The Mayor opened the 1st public hearing on a proposed winter parking ban ordinance amendment (Sibley & Prospect) at 7:41. Discussion included Valerie Lewis, Heather Corey, Stephen Cohen, Stephanie Quaranta, and Bob Gowans. The Mayor closed the public hearing at 8:14. Councilor McCullough moved to schedule the 2nd public hearing for the proposed ordinance for the next week's meeting. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried 5-1 (Councilor Hill voting nay). There was brief further discussion.

The Mayor called a recess at 8:19. The meeting reconvened at 8:26.

- 19-361. The Council engaged in a budget discussion. Police Chief Facos participated. No formal action taken.

- 19-363. Councilor Bate offered suggestions on shared use path signage. She noted the downtown streetscape master plan upcoming meeting, congratulated those who worked on the Statehouse ice rink and offered comments on the state panel working on racial inequities.

Councilor Hutcheson echoes Elizabeth Parker's comments on the shared use path and noted his weekly constituent meeting at Bagitos before announcing he would not seek reelection.

Councilor McCullough spoke on the state of Guertin Park which spurred a brief discussion.

Councilor Hierl gave a Social and Economic Justice Committee update.

- 19-364. The Mayor's reported on the recent VECAN conference and working with public works on using electric trimmers. She also reported on a recent public discussion of food security and climate change before thanking Councilor Hutcheson for his service. Finally, the Mayor returned to the discussion of Guertin Park and homelessness issues.
- 19-365. The City Clerk reported that water/sewer bills were coming due Monday. He also noted that, despite his hopes, the Clerk's operations would likely not be featured in an expected documentary.
- 19-366. The City Manager's reported on the two hires made by the city during the week.

Without objection, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:32 by unanimous consent.