

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting**  
**January 8, 2020 6:30pm**  
**City Council Chambers**

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

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

- 20-001. The proposed agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
- 20-002. Laura Rose Abbott expressed concerns regarding the open councilor seat appointment. City Manager Fraser announced the "Above and Beyond Award" to Doug Jasmin of the Fire Department. Mr. Jasmin and Fire Chief Gowans spoke. Mr. Fraser also acknowledged the Assistant City Manager.
- 20-003. Councilor McCullough moved approval of the consent agenda. Councilor Hutcheson seconded and the motion carried unanimously (5-0).
- 20-004. After brief discussion, Councilor Casey moved J. Dayton Crites be appointed to the Complete Streets Committee. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 20-005. A Community Fund update was given by Michael Sherman, Ron Wild, Christine Zachai, and Judy Stermer. Following discussion, Councilor Bate moved to approve funding for the Montpelier Community Fund for \$130,150 as requested to those listed. Councilor Hutcheson seconded after more discussion and the vote passed unanimously.
- 20-008. The Winter Parking Ban Ordinance Amendment, 2nd Public Hearing opened at 7:00. Fire Chief Gowans and Public Works Director Barlow Casey came forward. Adding comments were Heather Corey, Thomas Moore, and Stephen Cohen. Police Chief Facos participated

A recess was called at 7:10. The meeting reconvened at 7:18.

Councilor Hierl moved to amend ordinance Sec. 10-714. from "Prospect Street except on the southerly side beginning at a point 200 feet easterly of the intersection with Cherry Avenue and proceeding easterly a distance of 325 feet. Said area is from #35 Prospect Street to #51 Prospect Street" to "Prospect Street except **between Northfield Street and School Avenue and** on the southerly side beginning at a point 200 feet easterly of the intersection with Cherry Avenue and proceeding easterly a distance of 325 feet. Said area is from #35 Prospect Street to #51 Prospect Street." Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The public hearing was closed at 7:20.

- 20-006. The Council received a Confluence Park/Vermont River Conservancy report from Richarda Ericson. No formal action taken.
- 20-011. A discussion on the process for the City Council appointment was opened. Offering comments were Laura Rose Abbott, Morgan Brown, and Gene Leon. Councilor McCullough moved we (the Council) appoint the council member to fill the time between now and Town Meeting Day, we require all applicants to send a letter of interest and the city's board application form to the city offices by Friday January 17. We will take up the applications and consider the application on the meeting to be held January 23. We will invite the applicants to address the council and will go into executive session to make a decision. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Further discussion followed
- 20-007. The Interim River Hazard Map amendment Public Hearing opened at 8:04. Public Works Director Mike Miller opened discussion. Comments were offered by Laura Rose Abbott. Councilor McCullough moved to approve the proposed interim zoning with the addition of the following amendment to section (3) c.: "The new structure is of low-value (i.e. less than \$10,000), is used for storage of low-value contents, and is not used for storage of chemicals, explosives, flammable liquids, or other hazardous or toxic materials;). Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried 4-1 (Councilor Hierl voting nay).
- 20-009. The Mayor opened a Dog Ordinance discussion. Assistant City Manager Niedermayer participated. Councilor Bate moved to have a public hearing to adopt the change in this ordinance as proposed for the next Council meeting. Councilor Hutcheson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- The Mayor called a recess at 8:35. The meeting reconvened at 8:43.
- 20-010. The budget discussion opened. Participating were Parks Director Ellsworth, Morgan Brown, Police Chief Facos, Dawn Little, and Laura Rose Abbott. Councilor Hutcheson moved to approve the preliminary budget and Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- 20-013. Councilor Hutcheson noted his weekly constituent meetings and offered reports on the Wood Gallery and Another Way. Councilor McCullough praised Police Chief Facos in light of the news of his pending retirement. Councilor Hierl encouraged citizens to consider filling a vacancy in the Solid Waste Management District.
- 20-014. The Mayor's also thanked Chief Facos and gave a report on the recent Recreation Center public meeting.
- 20-016. The City Manager acknowledged Chief Facos's service and noted that Geoff Beyer and Tom McArdle were now officially retired. He welcomed Jhasmine Lamb and Kelly Murphy onto staff and thanked Jamie Carroll and Todd Provencher with their assistance.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 by unanimous consent.