

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
April 22, 2020 6:30pm
Videoconference

In attendance: Councilors Jay Ericson, Jack McCullough, Dan Richardson, Conor Casey, Dona Bate, Lauren Hierl, as well as Mayor Anne Watson. City Clerk John Odum acted as secretary.

- 2020-131. The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:30.
- 2020-132. Without objection, the agenda was approved by acclamation.
- 2020-134. Councilor McCullough moved approval of the Consent Agenda and was seconded by Councilor Ericson. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2020-135. The Mayor disconnected from the session at 6:36. Councilor Bate took over the chair until the Mayor returned at 6:45. Development Review Board Appointment. Kevin Lazor addressed the Council on his candidacy for the Development Review Board appointment. Councilor Richardson moved the council enter executive session under 1 V.S.A. §§ 310-314 to consider an appointment. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 6:57. At 7:10, Councilor McCullough moved the council return to open session, was seconded by Councilor Ericson, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Councilor McCullough moved the council appoint Kevin Lazor and RJ Adler to the full time seats on the Development Review Board, and Gene Leon as the alternate. Councilor Hierl seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2020-136. The council discussed the Homelessness Task Force Appointment and was addressed by Carolyn Ridpath. Councilor Richardson moved she be appointed to the Homelessness Task Force and Councilor Hierl seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2020-137. The public hearing was opened by the Mayor for the purpose of amending Ordinance Chapter 13 at 6:50 PM. After discussion, Councilor McCullough moved to approve the ordinance as amended for first reading and to schedule the second reading for May 27th. Councilor Ericson seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:25 PM.
- 2020-138. After discussion of Coronavirus/COVID-19 related issues, Councilor McCullough moved to continue to suspend non-essential committee and task force meetings through June 30th provided that a chair of a committee can consult with the city manager to meet in the case of time, limited opportunity, or need. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously after further discussion.
- Councilor McCullough moved to delay the RFP process and bond vote for the Recreation Center to no sooner than Town Meeting Day 2021. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Casey moved the council zero out their salary or the rest of the fiscal year. Councilor Hierl seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

2020-140. Councilor Bate thanked staff for their work, as did Councilors Casey, Ericson, Hierl and McCullough. Councilor Ericson noted the staffer brought on by Montpelier Alive.

Councilor Richardson reported on constituent comments regarding tenant/landlord issues in light of COVID (discussion followed), and behalf issues regarding payroll protection. After discussion, Councilor Richardson directed the city manager to send a letter to the federal delegation urging them to push for more flexibility and to provide more money to local governments. Councilor Ericson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Hierl reported on concerns about small businesses, unemployment payments, combined sewer overflows, and a coming writing contest.

2020-141. The Mayor acknowledged staff and citizens, and commented on budget work. She also noted questions about the railroad and Sabin's pasture. Brief discussion followed.

2020-143. The City Manager's acknowledged staff and council and noted challenges shared by municipalities

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.