

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting**  
**July 8 2020, 6:30pm**  
**Videoconference**

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

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- 2020-218. The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- 2020-219. Without objection, the proposed agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
- 2020-220. The City Manager welcomed the two former mayors in attendance (Senator Ann Cummings and Representative Mary Hooper).
- 2020-221. Councilor Bate moved approval of the consent agenda and was seconded by Councilor Richardson. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2020-222. Senators Ann Cummings, Andrew Perchlik, and Anthony Pollina and Representative Mary Hooper joined the Council for a discussion on legislative issues. No formal action taken.
- 2020-223. The Mayor opened the public hearing to discuss discussed Vermont Rail Systems - Barre St. Road Closure with Tom McArdle and Kurt Motyka. Charly Dickerson participated. The public hearing was closed at 8:07. Councilor McCullough moved approve the proposal to close Barre St to through traffic as proposed in the Department of Public Works memorandum for the time set forth starting on July 20<sup>th</sup> and going for seven consecutive days or longer if necessary, and was seconded by Councilor Bate. The motion carried 5-1 (Councilor Richardson voting nay).
- 2020-224. The Council discussed the proposed State Street closure application for a liberty and justice for all mural. John Klar, Erika Redic, Alice Flanders, Maggie Lenz-McQuilken, Connor Kennedy, Meg Walz, Tracey Canino, and Scott Robertson, Adam Robertson, participated. Councilor Richardson made a motion to approve the street closure that has been applied for by the Klar for Governor campaign. Councilor Bate seconded. Motion failed on a 0-6 count (unanimously against).

The mayor called a recess at 9:27 and reconvened at 9:35.

- 2020-225. The Council discussed a proposed Flag Policy. Councilor Bate moved to accept the city flag policy as presented with flags be used to replace the city flag on that particular flagpole. Councilor McCullough seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2020-227. Council engaged in a Coronavirus/COVID-19 issue discussion with Assistant City Manager Niedermayer. No formal action was taken.

- 2020-228. The Council had a discussion of the status of the Mowatt/TKS property. No formal action taken.
- 2020-226. The Council discussed the tax stabilization policy. Move that we amend section 8.5 to say the energy efficiency of a new development meets the state residential energy stretch code or achieves lead certification at any level. Councilor Richardson seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Councilor Richardson made a motion to adopt the revised city tax stabilization policy as amended. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2020-230. Council reports. Councilor Bate expressed concerns about parking meter policies and congratulated the mayor on her wedding. Councilor Casey expressed appreciation for the discussion with the state legislative delegation, as well as for council support on the mural discussion. Councilor Ericson congratulated the mayor and noted the work of city staff. Councilor Richardson congratulated the Mayor and raised the issue of public bathrooms. Councilor McCullough congratulated the Mayor, and Councilor Hierl congratulated the Mayor before reporting on the activities of the Social and Economic Justice Committee and thanking the Clerk's office.
- 2020-231. The Mayor made lighthearted comments about her upcoming wedding. She then noted Police Chief Peete's community outreach.
- 2020-232. The City Clerk reported on the coming election preparation.
- 2020-233. The City Manager spoke about the parking meters, discussed a coming special meeting, and reported on the Home Park Way house and the Social and Economic Justice Committee. He also noted Chief Peete's upcoming event.

The Mayor called the meeting adjourned at 10:25 without objection.