

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
August 12, 2020 6:30 PM
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.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30.

- 2020-238. Without objection, the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
- 2020-239. Shaina Kasper offered congratulations to Mayor Watson on her recent marriage.
- 2020-240. After the June 12 minutes and the women’s suffrage event were pulled (and the July 12 minutes added), approval of the consent agenda as amended was moved by Councilor McCullough and seconded by Councilor Bate and passed unanimously.
- 2020-241-243. After brief discussion, Councilor Richardson moved the Council go into executive session to discuss the appointment of city officers. Councilor Ericson seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 6:32. Dan move executive session. Jay second. At 7:32 Councilor Richardson moved the council return to open session and was seconded by Councilor McCullough. The motion carried 5-1 (Councilor Bate had been dropped from the videoconference session by accident).
- Councilor McCullough moved the following appointments: for Community Fund Amy Cunningham, Energy Advisory Board Peter Watts, and Development Review Board Abby White. Councilor Hierl seconded and the motion carried on a unanimous 5-1 vote (Councilor Bate was still disconnected from the session).
- 2020-248. The Council discussed the Equity Action Plan Implementation with Shaina Kasper and Michael Sherman. Councilor McCullough moved to accept the creative discourse proposal on behalf of the committee and give us permission to enter a contract agreement that is consistent with those contract terms. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion passed unanimously (6-1). Brief discussion followed.
- 2020-244. Andrew LaRosa addressed the Council on the proposed Park Ave Street Closure. Andrew Donna Barlow Casey participated. Councilor McCullough moved the Council approve the plan. Councilor Casey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2020-245. The Stormwater Master Plan was discussed with Donna Barlow Casey, Zach Blodgett, and Kurt Motyka. No formal action.
- 2020-246. Councilor Richardson presented a Street Painting Policy. After discussion, Councilor Bate moved to approve the street painting policy as presented. Councilor Ericson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- 2020-247. After discussion, Councilor Bate moved to reactivate onstreet parking meters and begin actively issuing and enforcing tickets starting August 17th. Councilor Richardson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- 2020-249. The Design Review discussion included Mike Miller and Kirby Keeton. No formal action.
- 2020-250. The Council received a COVID-19 update. No formal action taken.
- 2020-252. Councilor Bate thanked the Assistant City Manager for her work and expressed thanks to voters, offering her own account of her volunteer experience.
- Councilor Casey congratulated the Mayor on her wedding, thanked the City Clerk for the election, and thanked returning furloughed employees and other staff. He also indicated he wanted to go back to in-person meetings.
- Councilor Ericson echoed the in-person meeting comments and congratulated the City Clerk and volunteers on the election.
- Councilor Richardson echoed the previous thanks and congratulations. He also felt that the City needs to consider the state’s continuing stay-at-home work mandate, and that public restrooms and the CVPSA should be discussed.
- Councilor Hierl thanked volunteers and the City Clerk on the election and offered congratulations to the Mayor.
- 2020-253. The Mayor thanked volunteers and the City Clerk and briefly discussed in-person meetings.
- 2020-254. The City Clerk gave an election report and noted the passing of Marj Power.
- 2020-255. The City Manager noted the passing of Jessica Sanderson and Sheila Pembroke. He then noted the street policy application coming next meeting before reporting on the discussion among staff about events, changes in “tone” of public demonstrations, mention public safety concerns and metrics regarding downtown business health. Finally, he reported on the Executive Assistant hiring search.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 by unanimous consent.