

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
October 28, 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.

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM.

- 2020-320. The proposed agenda was approved by unanimous consent, with the understanding that the order of items may be changed.
- 2020-321. Jacqueline Kant addressed the Council on environmental issues. Steve Whitaker spoke on Guertin Park.
- 2020-322. The Council took up Police Committee appointments. Speaking on their candidacies were Michael Sherman, Kenny Saxe, Eric Jacobson, Alyssa Schuren, Dan Towle, and Jen Duggan. Stephen Whitaker offered comments.

Councilor McCullough moved to go into executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313 to consider the appointment of a public official. Councilor Hierl seconded. Further discussion followed.

Councilor Bate moved police review committee be a 5-9-member body and that includes the two City Council members. Councilor McCullough seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The motion to enter executive session carried unanimously at 7:18.

Councilor McCullough moved to return to open session at 7:37. Councilor Richardson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Councilor Richardson moved to appoint the following people to the police review committee: Michael Sherman, Alyssa Schuren, Dan Towle, Jen Duggan, and two Council representatives Lauren Hierl and Jack McCullough. Councilor Ericson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Hierl moved to appoint Jeremy Beaudry and Samuel Lynch to the Social and Justice Advisory Committee. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously after brief discussion.

Councilor Richardson moved to add to the scope of the police review committee that the charge the committee shall include to meet and reach out to potential stakeholders and review as to whether additional members should be added to the committee and make such recommendations to us within the first 60 days as to whether these members should be added to the committee. Councilor McCullough seconded and, after discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

- 2020-323. Councilor Richardson moved approval of the consent agenda. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2020-324. The Council discussed its legislative priorities. Councilor Richardson moved to approve the legislative agenda as submitted. Councilor Ericson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2020-325. The Assistant City Manager offered a Covid-19 Update. Senior Center Director Jana Clar participated. No formal action taken.
- 2020-326. The Council discussed the Guertin Park structure. Steve Whitaker and Morgan Brown. Participated. Councilor McCullough moved the Council put this on the agenda for the meeting 4 weeks out, that we seek to obtain community input from a variety of people including those who live at or use Guertin Park with specific direction to the Homelessness task force to gather information and determine the disposition of the structure. Councilor Casey seconded. More discussion followed before the motion carried on a 4-2 vote (Councilors Ericson and Richardson voting nay). Ken Russell spoke on the matter.
- 2020-332. Council received a Security Briefing for the Election. Police Chief Peete, City Manager Fraser, and Officer Nordensen presented. The City Clerk participated in discussion. No formal action.
- 2020-328. Councilor Bate encourage citizens to vote and be safe on Halloween. Councilor Casey seconded those comments and suggested marijuana dispensaries for a future agenda. Councilor Ericson echoed the previous sentiments (voting and Halloween) and touched on the SRO ongoing process. Councilor Richardson noted that he and Councilor Ericson were working with on a nuisance sound issue.
- Councilor McCullough noted the County opening for an Assistant Judge. Councilor Hierl thanked teachers for their work during the pandemic and reminded listeners of the seriousness of the pandemic, and also indicated a desire for a PFAST discussion.
- 2020-329. The Mayor encouraged people to vote and be vigilant on COVID procedures. She also wanted to return to convo about stormwater utilities soon.
- 2020-330. The City Clerk gave an election report.
- 2020-331. The City Manager reported that City Hall be open the next Tuesday, with a staff option of working remotely.

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:37.