

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
January 6, 2021, 6:30pm
Videoconference

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

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

2021-001. The agenda was approved without objection.

2021-002. The Mayor made the following statement about the riots at the US Capitol:

“I am horrified and distracted right now as I'm sure many of you are as well. Terrorists illegally breaking into the Capitol Building was nauseatingly despicable. It's horrifying to witness a literal attack on democracy. In this Republic, we elected officials only get to govern because of the will of the people, and for a few to seek to undermine the will of the people is inherently anti-democratic. As all of this has been fomented by President Trump, I want to echo Phil Scott's call that President Trump should resign or be removed from office.

“This afternoon's events make going into tonight's council meeting tonight feel more sacred than it normally does, because I feel acutely that we are going into this meeting having been elected by the people of Montpelier. Just like Congress will, the business of government will go on and we are a part of that.”

Discussion followed that included Stephen Whitaker. Mr. Whitaker also spoke on the lease/purchase plan for dispatch equipment.

2021-003-4. Councilor McCullough moved to appoint to the Conservation Fund Advisory Committee Wayne Fawbush and Richard Littauer, and appoint to the Public Art Commission Monica DiGiovanni. Councilor Richardson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2021-005. The consent agenda was moved by Councilor Richardson and seconded by Councilor McCullough. The motion carried unanimously after discussion.

2021-002. Rick DeAngelis spoke on the homeless shelter. Elizabeth Parker gave a MyRide update.

2021-006. Budget discussion. Tim Heney and Bill Kaplan addressed the council on the Montpelier Development Corporation. Councilor Casey moved to include the \$20,000 for CAN. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried 5-1 (by roll call) with Councilor McCullough voting nay. Councilor Richardson moved to approve the fiscal year '22 budget as presented and amended tonight. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- 2021-008. Councilor Bate gave a report on CVPSA and noted Net Zero work. Councilor Casey appreciated positive comments from the public and asked for civility on Front Porch Forum regarding the negative comments. Councilor Ericson echoed Councilor Casey and encouraged the Council to look for opportunities to promote civic discussion. Councilor Richardson also called for civility in community forums. Councilor McCullough reported on available unemployment data, a coming VCIL event, and offered commentary on the recent riots at the Capitol. Councilor Hierl reported on the Social and Economic Justice Advisory Committee and Net Zero.
- 2021-009. The Mayor spoke to community anxiety, also noting MyRide, and the City Manager review.
- 2021-011. The City Manager noted public comments and thanked the Council for their work

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM by unanimous consent.