

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting (NOT FINALIZED or APPROVED YET)
January 21, 2021 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 Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

- 2021-027. After brief discussion, the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
- 2021-028. Stephen Whitaker spoke on homelessness support. Rick DeAngelis participated.
- 2021-029. With brief discussion, Councilor Casey moved approval of the consent agenda and Councilor McCullough seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-030-32. Justin Dreschler and Abbey Jermyn spoke on their candidacies for the Police Review Committee. Michael Sherman commented
- Executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313. Councilor Richardson seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 6:52. Councilor McCullough moved to return to open session at 7:17. Motion was seconded by Councilor Casey and passed unanimously. Councilor Richardson moved to appoint Kate McCann and Christian Meyer to the Transportation Infrastructure Committee. Justin Dreschler and Abbey Jermyn to the Police Review Committee, and Eric Schultheis to the Housing Authority. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-033. The Above and Beyond Award for December 2020 was announced (Jaqueline Huettenmoser & Mike Potter).
- 2021-034. Council received a Community Fund Board Presentation. Christine Zachai spoke on behalf of the board. Michael Sherman participated in discussion. Councilor Bate moved to accept the recommendation of awards as presented by the Community Fund. Councilor Richardson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- 2021-035. FY20 Audit Findings were presented by Finance Director Kelly Murphy, Miranda MacDonald Bushey & Ron Smith. Stephen Whitaker participated in discussion. Heather Graves contributions were acknowledged. Councilor Richardson moved to accept the audit as presented. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-036. The second public hearing on the budget was opened at 8:09. Comments were offered by Sarah Parker-Givens, Abbey Jermyn, Constantinos Stivaros, Stephen Whitaker, Rebecca Dalgin. Also participating were Police Chief Brian Peete, and Fire Chief Bob Gowans. The hearing was closed at 9:22. Councilor McCullough moved the Council adopt the budget and put it before the voters, including the allocation for the Montpelier Community Fund. Councilor Casey seconded. After further discussion the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was called into recess at 9:29 and was reconvened at 9:40.

2021-037. Councilor Richardson moved to approve the warning for the 2021 Annual City Meeting as presented. Councilor McCullough seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2021-038. The Council received a second quarter update for the Council's 2020-2021 Strategic Plan. No formal action.

2021-040. Council Reports. Councilor Bate discussed housing options and thanked Cameron for the meeting materials. Councilor Casey gave a report on MyRide and thanked the Police Department for their recent work. Councilor Ericson gave an update on the SRO discussions. Councilor Richardson shared his optimism for the future, praising poet Amanda Gorman. Councilor McCullough praised the Police Department for their work. He also offered praise to the City Manager for his approach to public challenges. Councilor Hierl discussed preparation for opportunities for federal funds that could be in the pipeline.

2021-041 The Mayor spoke positively about the Presidential inauguration.

2021-042. The City Clerk gave an election update.

2021-043. The City Manager thanked Police Chief Peete and other law enforcement entities for their inauguration work. He also thanked the Assistant City Manager for her work, as well as counterprotestors for being adaptable.

Without objection, the Mayor adjourned the meeting by unanimous consent at 10:14.