

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
February 10, 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.

- 2021-044. Agenda was approved by unanimous consent, except for removing January 6 minutes for discussion.
- 2021-045. Councilor Bate reported on the SRO decision at the School Board.
- 2021-046. Council Bate moved to add the Mayor's January 6th opening statement into the minutes. Councilor McCullough seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Councilor Richardson moved to approve the minutes as amended. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-047. Complete Streets Committee, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Appointments were discussed together. At 6:40, Councilor McCullough moved that in accordance with 1 V.S.A § 313 (a)(3) the Council go into executive session for the purpose of considering an appointment. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Councilor McCullough moved the Council come out of executive session at 6:47, was seconded by Councilor Bate, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Councilor Richardson moved the Council appoint the following individuals to the Complete Streets Committee: Scott Richardson, Stephen Page, Holly Fowler, and John Snell. And Hanif Nazerali and Linda Bootle as alternates, and also appoint Hanif Nazerali and Christian Meyer as alternates to the Transportation Infrastructure Committee. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2021-049. Councilor McCullough moved approval of the consent agenda as amended and was seconded by Councilor Bate. The consent agenda included the following liquor license renewals:
- Shaw's Beer and Wine #7521
 - 2nd class liquor
 - Skinny Pancake
 - 1st and 3rd class liquor
 - American Legion Montpelier Post #3
 - 1st and 3rd class liquor
 - Positive Pie
 - 1st and 3rd class liquor, outside consumption
 - Perry's Gas and Service
 - 2nd class liquor
 - Simon's Store and Deli

- 2nd class liquor
- Walgreens #17596
 - 2nd class liquor
- Bashara & Company – J Morgans
 - 1st, 3rd class liquor, outside consumption
- Fastop
 - 2nd class liquor
- Champlain Farms
 - 2nd class liquor
- Yankee Wine and Spirits
 - 2nd class liquor
- Three Penny Taproom
 - 1st and 3rd class liquor, outside consumption

The motion carried unanimously after brief discussion.

- 2021-050. The Transit Center public art project was discussed with Sabrina Fadial and Rob Hitzig. No formal action.
- 2021-051. Zoning Amendments were discussed with Planning Director Mike Miller. Councilor McCullough moved to add the driveway change (as presented) to the package. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-052. Utility budgets were discussed with Finance Director Kelly Murphy, and Donna Barlow Casey and Kurt Motyka of the Public Works Department. Councilor Casey moved to approve the utility budgets as presented. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously following additional discussion.
- 2021-053. The Council discussed amendment to Committee and Board Policies. Councilor McCullough moved the Council “adopt the language as we’ve amended it tonight.” Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-055. Councilor Casey relayed questions from businesses about parklets, as well as the non-citizen voting proposal status. Councilor Ericson acknowledged the work of all the partners in maintaining the ski trails. Councilor Richardson offered a lobbying committee report, and noted the possible federal funds that could become available. Councilor Hierl gave a Social and Economic Justice Committee report.
- The Mayor reported on the mayor’s group policy discussion. She also made note of the fact that Burlington is considering a responsible contractor ordinance. She also gave a heads up regarding home energy innovation ordinance on coming agenda.
- 2021-056. The City Clerk reported on the legislature, tax payments, the election, and the recent lawsuit targeting municipal clerks.
- 2021-057. The City Manager noted the coming holiday and the coming parklet discussion.

2021-058. Land Acquisition Discussion. Jack move pursuant to 1 V.S.A § 313 go into executive session for two reasons; one to discuss the negotiating or securing real estate purchase or lease options (with Alec Ellsworth, Benjamin Grass and Stephanie Hunt), and two, to consider the evaluation of a public employee. Councilor Richardson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

After a brief recess, the Council returned directly into closed session at 8:55. Councilor McCullough moved to return to open session and was seconded by Councilor Richardson. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Richardson moved the Council authorize the city staff to negotiate for an option agreement concerning the Heney parcel in conformance with the discussion that we had in executive session and that the City Manager begin to draft a letter of support to be reviewed and approved by the Council to assist in the grant process that the Parks Director is currently undergoing with the US Forest Service. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

After a discussion, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 10:14 PM by unanimous consent.