

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
March 24, 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 6:30 PM. The Mayor made a statement expressing sadness about the recent shootings and offered support to the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, as well as expressing concerns about ongoing gun violence and supporting S.30 limiting access to firearms.

- 2021-101. Councilor Bate requested the addition of a letter of support for Sustainable Montpelier Coalition grant. Councilor Hierl also asked for the addition of a letter deploring violence against AAPI community. After brief discussion, the proposed agenda was approved with the requested additions.
- 2021-102. Zack Hughes spoke in support and gratitude of the Police Department. Bill Kaplan reported on the Montpelier Development Corporation. Morgan Brown asked that councilors not use acronyms for clarity. Peter Kelman was also unhappy with acronyms, and offered praise for the Development Review Board and the Planning Department. City Manager Fraser asked for an informal sense of the council as to support the All-Species Day event (Janice Walrafen participated in discussion). Stephen Whitaker spoke on unrestricted private utility work, the lack of public bathrooms, the need to address dust on the streets and sidewalks, the need for a public process on using the stimulus money, and asked for a list/inventory of deferred public works maintenance.
- 2021-103. Councilor McCullough moved approval of the consent agenda and Councilor Richardson seconded. The motion carried unanimously, and the approved consent agenda included the following liquor license renewal applications:
- Joe's Kitchen at Screamin Ridge (57 Maple Lane): 1st class, catering
 - House of Tang (114 River St): 1st and 3rd class, outside consumption
 - Cumberland Farms #8024 (37 Berlin St): 2nd class
 - Oakes and Evelyn (52 State St): Outside consumption
 - Bear Naked Growler (186 River St): 1st and 2nd class, outside consumption
 - Sarducci's (3 Main St): 1st and 3rd class
 - Rabble-Rouser (60-64 Main St): 1st class
 - Caledonia Spirits (116 Gin Lane): 1st and 3rd class, outside consumption
 - Veterans of Foreign Wars Brown Johnson Post #792 (1 Pioneer St): 1st and 3rd class, outside consumption.
- 2021-104. Congressman Peter Welch addressed the Council in regards to funding opportunities in the new stimulus bill. Discussion followed. No action taken.

- 2021-105. The public hearing for the Home Energy Labeling Ordinance 1st Reading was opened by the Mayor at 7:31. A presentation from Donna Barlow Casey. Included were Kate Stephenson. Emme Luck. Carolyn Sarno Goldthwaite, and Veronique Bugnion. Public comments were received from Stephen Whitaker, Peter Kelman, Dan Jones, Martha Nowlan, Corby Griffin, Lori Holt, Ben Huffman, Geoff Fitzgerald, Peter Tucker, Nathan Suter, Tim Heney, and Martha Lange.
- Councilor McCullough moved to schedule the 2nd hearing for this proposed ordinance as it's currently written for two meetings from tonight's meeting. Councilor Casey seconded. After clarifications, the motion carried unanimously. The public hearing was closed at 10:13.
- 2021-109. Councilor Bate moved the Council support the application of the Sustainable Montpelier Coalition to National Life Group Foundation to get money to support CAN's efforts. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-107. Councilor Bate moved to accept the proposed new strategic planning timeline and process for 2022-23. Councilor Richardson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-109. The Council discussed the letter in support of the AAPI community drafted by Councilor Hierl. Councilor Casey moved to pass the resolution condemning the attacks and discrimination against Asian and Pacific Islander communities. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-111. Councilor Casey suggested citizens go out and have a pint at a parklet. Councilor Ericson wished the boys varsity basketball team good luck and praised the Riby-Willaims' families contributions to the community. Councilor Richardson noted his coming constituent meeting via Zoom, also noting feedback he has received on potholes. He also expressed his view that the city should invite immigrants to move to the city, and the city should think strategically on affordable housing. Councilor McCullough echoed the views on immigrants, gave a Police Review Committee report, and announced a coming constituent meeting via Zoom. Councilor Hierl spoke about community project funding opportunities coming available and shared a Social and Economic Justice Advisory Committee report.
- 2021-112. The Mayor noted the Mountaineers will have a season if host families can be found.
- 2021-114. The City Manager's reported that staff was working on possible federal grant spending needs.

Without objection, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 10:40 by unanimous consent.