

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
May 12, 2021 6:30pm
Videoconference

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

- 2021-146. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent with items 9 and 10 switched in order.
- 2021-147. General Business and Appearances. Peter Kelman spoke on MyRide. Stephen Whitaker on public records requests to the city,
- 2021-148. Councilor McCullough moved approval of the consent agenda. Councilor Richardson seconded. Councilor Bate requested a technical correction be made to the April 28 minutes (Item 138, correcting to “Councilor Bate” from simply “Councilor”). The motion was modified by consent from the first and second and the motion passed unanimously.

Liquor license applications approved in the consent agenda:

- Hippie Chickpea, 1st class
- FGB/Capitol Theater, 1st class
- Uncommon Market, Outside consumption, 1st class, 2nd class
- Inn at Montpelier, 3rd class

- 2021-149-150. Appointments to Development Review Board. Candidate for reappointment Kate McCarthy spoke. Councilor Casey moved to reappoint Joe Kiernan and Kate McCarthy to the Development Review Board and the students Greta Sarbo and Eva Stumpff as student members to the Energy Advisory Committee. Councilor Richardson seconded. After discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

- 2021-151. The Home Energy Information 3rd Reading public hearing was opened at 6:49 PM. Participation in discussion were Kate McCarthy, Veronique Bugnion, Donna Barlow Casey, Susan Labarthe, Johanna Miller, Peter Kelman, Peter Tucker, and Ben Huffman.

The meeting went into recess at 8:35. The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 8:45.

Councilor Richardson moved to amend the ordinance section 21-5 subsection B2 striking “1000” and inserting “500,” amend section 21-7 striking “January” and inserting “July 1st,” and also strike the July 1st 2021 effective date and insert “upon passage.” Councilor Ericson seconded. Comments were offered from Stephen Whitaker and Peter Kelman. The motion then passed unanimously.

Councilor Casey moved to pass the ordinance as amended. Councilor McCullough seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 9:08.

- 2021-153. Page Guertin and Alec Ellsworth discussed the Conservation Fund Award grant from the Forest Service. Councilor Bate moved to approve the award of the grant and Councilor Ericson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-152. Council held a Water Resource Recovery Facility Phase 2 Project discussion. Kurt Motyka presented. Larry Doyle participated. Geoff FitzGerald participated in discussion. No formal action taken.
- 2021-154. Councilor McCullough move to take the Police Supervisors Contract off the table for discussion. Councilor Bate seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Councilor McCullough moved to approve the contract. Councilor Hierl seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-155. Councilor Bate moved the Council accept the new (summer meeting) schedule as the calendar and decide next meeting which one to drop. Councilor Richardson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-158. The Mayor's reported a request for a letter of support for an attempt by Capstone to obtain federal funding, and a request to return to regular, in-person meetings from a constituent.
- 2021-159. Councilor Bate reported that the Public Safety Authority was hoping to receive federal funding for equipment. Councilor Casey reported on a request to redo the BLM street painting and the Homelessness Task Force. Councilor Ericson thanked the Parks Department for their work on funding and offered positive words for city staff. Councilor Richardson reported on his Fire Station tour and then challenged councilors to help with volunteering at the pool.
- 2021-161. The City Manager reported on a new public records request system.
- 2021-156. Councilor McCullough moved the Council find pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313 that premature general public knowledge (of union contract negotiations) would clearly place the city at a substantial disadvantage regarding labor contract negotiations. Councilor Richardson seconded and the motion carried at unanimously.
- Councilor McCullough moved the Council go into executive session. Councilor Richardson seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 10:57 PM.
- Councilor Bate moved to come out of executive session at 11:19 PM. Councilor McCullough seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 PM by unanimous consent.