

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
May 26, 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.

- 2021-161. Without objection, the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
- 2021-162. Stephen Whitaker asked for adjustments to discuss the conduit line locations on the consent agenda, made comments about the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority, and addressed concerns about homelessness including public restrooms and access to public meetings, his public records requests, and his frustrations with the City Manager.
- 2021-163. Councilor McCullough moved the consent agenda minus the minutes and conduit line locations. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- Councilor McCullough moved to approve Item d on the consent agenda. Councilor Richardson seconded. Stephen Whitaker and Kurt Motyka offered comments. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-164-5. After discussion, Councilor Casey moved to appoint Karl Johnson Amy Gamble to 3-year terms on the Energy Advisory Committee, and Alara Kohn as student representative to the Social Justice Advisory Committee. Councilor Hierl seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-166. Kate Stephenson gave a MEAC energy use update.
- 2021-167. The Council heard a Point-to-Point road closure permit application with Leah Jones participating in discussion. Councilor Richardson moved to approve the application with conditions as agreed up for the Point-to-Point application for street closure. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-168. The Council held a COVID-19 mask mandate discussion. Phyllis Rubenstein and Stephen Whitaker participated. Councilor Casey moved the Council rescind the mask mandate on June 15 or when the Governor declares an end to the COVID 19 order - whatever occurs first. Councilor Richardson seconded and the motion carried on a roll call vote of 4-2 (Councilors McCullough and Bate voting nay).
- 2021-169. Finance Director Kelly Murphy addressed the Council regarding the American Rescue Plan Act funding and planning for recommended use. No action taken.

The Mayor called a recess at 8:38 and the meeting reconvened at 8:45.

- 2021-171. Councilor Bate offered comments on earmark funding possibilities. Councilor Casey addressed the Council on the homelessness issue. Councilor Ericson spoke on Montpelier Alive's new business program and business prospects. Councilor Richardson asked that public restrooms be on the next agenda. Councilor McCullough spoke about the current vaccination opportunities, and Councilor Hierl offered a Social and Economic Justice Committee report.
- 2021-172. The Mayor spoke on the Racial Justice Alliance event.
- 2021-174. The City Manager noted the coming Memorial Day holiday and the summer meeting schedule. At 9:08, the internet meeting disconnected. The meeting resumed at 9:15 without Councilor McCullough.

Without objection, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 9:19 by unanimous consent.