

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting**  
**June 9, 2021, 7:15pm**  
**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.

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The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM.

- 2021-176. Without objection, the agenda was approved by unanimous consent, with item 2021-184 to the end.
- 2021-177. Laura Brooke spoke on the Capital Area Neighborhoods organization. Stephen Whitaker spoke on the homeless situation and the emptying of trash.
- 2021-178. Councilor Richardson, with a second by Councilor Casey, moved the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-179. Polly Nichol offered a Housing Task Force report with assistance from Kevin Casey. No formal action taken. Michael Miller participated. Stephen Whitaker commented.
- 2021-180. Kelly Murphy gave a presentation on utility rates. Councilor McCullough moved to approve the proposed rates, amendments and resolution. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The Mayor called a recess at 8:50. The meeting reconvened at 9:00.

- 2021-181. Kelly Murphy gave the Council a Water/Sewer Master Plan update. Kurt Motyka participated. Stephen Whitaker offered comments. No formal action taken.
- 2021-182. Public Restroom Discussion. Councilor Bate moved to create a public restroom committee. Councilor Richardson seconded. Comments were offered by Stephen Whitaker during discussion. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-183. The Council discussed their summer meeting schedule. Councilor Hierl moved to cancel the July 7 meeting, Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-186. Councilor Casey expressed disappointed in the Governor's veto of the charter change proposal, and also thanked the County District Attorney's speaking out on homeless housing concerns. Councilor Ericson congratulated the girls' tennis team and boys' lacrosse team for victories, and good luck to the girls ultimate team, and complemented all members of the school community for navigating the COVID challenges over the last year. Councilor McCullough also complimented to the teachers and school administrators for their work in the past year. He also reported on the termination of the committee that has been considering the status of the Main Street Middle School building and discussed the next steps. Councilor Hierl reported on the Police Review Committee.

2021-187. The Mayor noted a letter to the Governor from Ken Russell regarding his concerns about the lifting of the state of emergency due to potential impacts on housing vouchers. Councilor Casey move that the Council sign the letter. Dona second. Unan.

2021-188. The City Clerk gave a brief report.

2021-189. The City Manager discussed the dynamics and possibilities of coming federal funds.

Councilor McCullough moved that pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313 a(1) the council make a finding that premature general public knowledge [of the Hotel/Garage Appeal Process] would clearly place the public body at a substantial disadvantage in handling civil litigation to which the city is a party. Councilor Richardson seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Councilor McCullough then moved the Council enter executive session to receive a Hotel/Garage Appeal Process Update. Councilor Richardson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Without objection, the Mayor returned to open session and subsequently adjourned by unanimous consent.