

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
October 13, 2021, 6:30pm
City Council Chambers and videoconference

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

Call To Order by The Mayor at 6:31 PM.

- 2021-282. Agenda approved by unanimous consent, with a slight change in the order reflected below.
- 2021-283. General Business and Appearances: Stephen Whitaker spoke on consent agenda item a (the Capital Fire contract) from the previous meeting. He also spoke of concerns on response to a recent injury/incident involving a 911 call. Brief discussion followed. Alyssa Schuren spoke on District Heat. Deborah Messing spoke on crowding and pandemic safety during city events.
- 2021-284. Consent Agenda: Councilor McCullough moved passage of the consent agenda as amended with the street closure request removed. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-291. Council Response to Halloween 2021: Comments offered from Marissa Earle-Centers. Discussion followed. Councilor Bate moved that the city council supports Halloween with children going out for Halloween trick or treating, small groups, regular covid masks, plenty of illumination in costumes, and outside. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously following discussion.
- 2021-285. Appointments to Planning Commission: The following candidates for appointment addressed the Council: Aaron Kisicki, Ariane Kissam, Kirby Keeton. Councilor McCullough moved, pursuant to Title I, VSA §313(a)(3), to go into executive session to discuss the appointment of a public official. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried at 7:01. Councilor Casey moved to return to open session and was seconded by Councilor Bate. The motion carried unanimously.
- Vicki Lane asked the Councilors to speak louder.
- Councilor McCullough moved (and was seconded by Councilor Ericson) the following appointments: Kirby Keeton, Geoffrey Battista, Gabriel Lajeunesse, and Marcella Dent to remainder of a term to expire October 1st, 2022, and Ariane Kissam, Aaron Kisicki, and John Adams for two years. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-287. Police Review Committee Report and Recommendations: Alyssa Schuren and Justin Drechsler reported to the Council. Police Chief Peete spoke. Public comments were offered from Abbey Jermyn, Morgan Brown, and Zach Hughes.

The mayor called a recess at 8:31 and reconvened the meeting at 8:41.

There were further comments from Dawn Little, Maggie Karen, Michael Shively, Seth Collins, Stephen Whitaker, and Anni Sawyer.

Councilor Bate moved to move accept report the and direct staff to pull out the items that need to be considered, particularly this year for budget consideration. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- 2021-288. Homelessness Task Force discussion. Presenting were Ken Russell and Rick Deangelis. And included Dawn Little and Zach Hughes. Comments were offered from Stephen Whitaker, Morgan Brown, and Fire Chief Bob Gowans. Councilor Bate moved to award the request as asked, that we apply the \$45,000 allotted in this year's budget and the remainder from the ARPA money. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously after discussion.
- 2021-293. Councilor Bate gave a CVPSA report with a discussion on the coming meeting process and scheduling. Councilor Hierl noted the open comment period on PFAS in leachate, and it was informally decided that a letter from the city was called for.
- 2021-294. The mayor noted she will be sending out a budget survey to councilors.
- 2021-296. The City Manager encouraged councilors to read documents provided by the Finance Director, noted coming agenda items, expressed appreciate for policy clarity from the Council, and expressed appreciation for the support he was receiving during a personal crisis.

Without objection the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:50.