

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting  
December 8, 2021, 6:30pm  
City Council Chambers and videoconference**

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

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

- 2021-337. The proposed agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
- 2021-338. General Business and Appearances. Stephen Whitaker expressed concerns regarding Public Works staffing priorities. Peter Kelman asked for a showing of a news clip from WCAX about homelessness to be played, and Morgan Brown participated in discussion. Linda Berger had a question about item 11, and Vicki Lane and Lisa Rochelle spoke on homelessness.
- 2021-339. The Consent Agenda was moved by Councilor McCullough sans item f. Councilor Hierl seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- a. Darling Trail Parking Agreement
  - b. Minutes
  - c. Payroll and Bills
  - d. Annual Report production and printing bid
  - e. New Year's Eve 5K Race
  - g. Hubbard Park Expansion Project
  - h. Parks Mini Excavator Bid Award

The Council discussed consent agenda item f: Housing Trust Fund Recommendation. Stephen Whitaker participated, expressing concerns on transparency of 3<sup>rd</sup> party partnerships. Councilor McCullough moved approval of item f, Councilor Hierl seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

- 2021-340-342. Committee Appointments for Central Vermont Public Safety Authority (CVPSA), Complete Streets Committee, and Development Review Board. Justin Drechsler and John Kim spoke. Councilor McCullough moved, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(1)(3) to go into executive session to discuss the appointment of one or more officers. Councilor Bate seconded, and the motion carried unanimously at 6:57. At 7:10, Councilor McCullough moved to come out of executive session and was seconded by Councilor Bate. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilor McCullough moved to appoint Justin Dreschler to the CVPSA. Councilor Hierl seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Councilor Ericson moved to appoint John Kim, Nancy Shulz, and Brett Appel to the Complete Streets Committee. Councilor Morton seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- 2021-343. City of Montpelier Mask Mandate: Comments offered by Morgan Brown, Ann Gilbert, Tracey Canino, Diane Sophrin, Lee Dow, Steve Whitaker, Eva Zaret, Lincoln Earle-Centers, and Phyllis Rubenstein. Councilor Casey moved approval of the proposed mandate with the discussed changes included. Councilor Morton seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-344. COVID/OSHA Policy: Councilor McCullough moved adoption of the proposal. Councilor Morton seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-345. Central Vermont Prevention Coalition: Eva Zaret, Mark Dettman, and Olivia Leclair presented to the council. No formal action taken.

The Mayor called a recess at 8:10 break. The meeting reconvened at 8:20.

- 2021-346. Water Resource Recovery Facility Solids Drying Presentation: Kurt Motyka, Colin O'Brien, and Chris Cox presented. Comments were received from Geoff Fitzgerald, Linda Berger, and Stephen Whitaker. No formal action taken.
- 2021-347. City Manager Fraser gave a budget presentation. Comments were received from Stephen Whitaker. No formal action taken.
- 2021-349. The City Clerk delivered an elections/ballot procedure update. Comments were offered from Vicki Lane and Stephen Whitaker. No formal action taken.
- 2021-348. Legislative Agenda. Councilor Bate moved to adopt the 2022 legislative agenda. Councilor McCullough seconded. Comments were offered by Stephen Whitaker and Morgan Brown. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-352. Council Reports: Councilor McCullough reported on his electric excavator conversation and his thoughts on reapportionment.
- 2021-350. Possible acquisition of land near Berlin Pond: Councilor McCullough moved the council find that premature knowledge of the potential real estate transaction on the table would place the city at a substantial disadvantage. Councilor Morton seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Councilor McCullough then moved the council enter executive session to discuss a real estate transaction (and include Christine Zachai) pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3). Councilor Morton seconded and the motion carried unanimously at 10:57.

At 11:18 Councilor McCullough moved to come out of executive session and was seconded by Councilor Bate. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilor Ericson moved to authorize the City Manager to pursue and enter into a purchase and sale agreement for a lot adjacent to Berlin Pond based on the conversation and parameters discussed in executive session. Councilor Morton seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned by the Mayor without objection by unanimous consent at 11:19.