

**Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting  
December 22, 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.

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The mayor called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

- 2021-366. Without objection, the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
- 2021-367. Stephen Whitaker addressed the council on issues on the website, concerns about a city plow hitting a car, public records request responses, public records request regarding body cam proposals, frustration with the lack of a Central Vermont Public Safety Authority (CVPSA) agenda item and the conversations relating to it. The City Manager replied.
- Vicki Lane noted Mr. Whitaker's concerns about a snowplow incident.
- 2021-368. Councilor McCullough moved (and Councilor Casey seconded) the consent agenda (as listed below). The motion carried unanimously.
- a. Liquor Licenses (Capitol Food Court, Hugo's Bar & Grill)
  - b. Bills and Payroll
  - c. Minutes for December 8th
  - d. Budget to Actual
  - e. Street Closure Application for January 22, 2022
  - f. Healthy Dollars Formal Record of Action – Plan Amendment
- 2021-369. Senators Anthony Pollina, Ann Cummings, and Andrew Perchlik participated in a discussion about legislative priorities. No formal action was taken.
- 2021-371. COVID-19 Mask Mandate Discussion. Comments were offered by Stephen Whitaker and Carrie Hilley (on concerns about homelessness issues, particularly health and safety). Vicki Lane noted audio issues. Councilor McCullough moved to modify the proposed council mask mandate wording to include that a person who is alone in a public building or alone in a room in a public building is not required to wear a mask. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Representative Mary Hooper arrived and spoke briefly. Councilor McCullough moved we approve the policy as put forward by the mask mandate as amended. Councilor Hierl seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2021-372. Homelessness Task Force Projects Update. Ken Russell spoke for the Task Force. Comments were offered by Stephen Whitaker, Mary Messier, Deborah Glottmann, Vicki Lane, Peter Kelman, Didi Brush, Carolyn Ridpath, Representative Mary Hooper, and Carrie Hilley.

The mayor called a recess at 8:41 PM. The meeting reconvened at 8:51 PM.

2021-373. 2022 Annual City Meeting Ballot Procedure Comments were offered by Stephen Whitaker.

Councilor Bate moved, pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2680, the Montpelier City Council grants its approval for the Montpelier-Roxbury School District to mail its annual meeting ballot to all active registered voters in the district should the School Board so choose and should the Roxbury Selectboard grant its approval. Councilor Hierl seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Comments were offered by Stephen Whitaker regarding CVPSA.

2021-374. Finance Director Kelly Murphy discussed the FY23 budget. Comments were offered by Vicki Lane, Didi Brush, Shaina Kasper, Jeremy Beaudry, and Stephen Whitaker. Councilor McCullough moved to put this budget forward for the public hearings. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2021-370/375. Cameron Niedermayer participated in the discussion of the council appointments needing to be made. Councilor Casey moved to appoint Councilor Bate to the Community Justice Center Community Advisory Board and was seconded by Councilor Hierl. The motion carried unanimously. Councilor Bate moved to appoint Councilor McCullough as Council Parliamentarian and was seconded by Councilor Casey. The motion carried unanimously.

2021-377. Councilor Bate wished all a Happy New Year, and best wishes to the mayor on her coming baby. All agreed. Councilor Hierl raised questions about reverting to remote meetings.

2021-378. The mayor brushed on her coming absence.

2021-380. The City Manager responded to the mayor and lauded Council and staff for perseverance through the last two years' challenges.

Without objection the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:44 PM.