

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
January 20, 2022, 6:30pm
Videoconference

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

2022-021. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

2022-022. General Business and Appearances. Stephen Whitaker spoke regarding temperature/cold concerns about homeless and frustration about winter parking. Peter Kelman spoke on transparency on budget process, frustration with accessibility of City Council meetings and materials, and the public input process on the budget. Vicki Lane responded to some of Mr. Kelman's concerns and then addressed the tone of some comments. Maria Aveni spoke on availability of information on the proposed bonds.

2022-023. Consent Agenda
b. Payroll and Bills
c. Bond Necessity Resolution
d. Community Fund Board Awards Amended

Councilor Casey moved the consent agenda and Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2022-024. Audit Report. Finance Director Kelly Murphy introduced discussion. Ron Smith presented. Comments were offered from Vicki Lane. Councilor Hierl moved to accept the audit and Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2022-025. The Central Vermont Public Safety Authority (CVPSA) Discussion. Councilor Bate gave a presentation. The following persons participated in the discussion: Kim Cheney, Justin Dreschler, Doug Hoyt, Stephen Whitaker, and Vicki Lane.

The Chair called a recess at 8:33PM. The meeting reconvened at 8:44.

2022-026-7. The 2nd Public Hearing for Budget Adoption and the Bonds was opened by the Chair at 8:44PM. Comments and questions were offered by: Stephen Whitaker, Tina Muncy, Vicki Lane, Linda Berger, Nat Frothingham, Maria Aveni, Ethan Atkin, Peter Kelman. Finance Director Kelly Murphy participated in the discussion.

The Chair closed the public hearing at 10:04PM. Councilor Bate moved to adopt the budget as presented. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Councilor Bate moved to place the bond for East State Street for 7.2 million on the ballot. Councilor Casey seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Councilor Bate moved to put the ballot item for the purchase of land – \$2 million dollars – on the ballot. Counselor Casey was the 2nd, and the vote carried unanimously. Councilor Bate

moved to put the bond for infrastructure projects for \$1.815 million on the ballot. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Councilor Bate moved to put the bond for the wastewater recovery facility, \$16.4 million on the ballot. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- 2022-028. The 2nd Public Hearing for the Annual Meeting was opened at 10:16PM. Comments from Stephen Whitaker. The Chair closed the public hearing at 10:17. Vicki Lane made comments. Councilor Casey moved to adopt the warning as amended. Councilor Bate seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2022-029. Assistant City Manager Niedermayer presented a Strategic Plan update.
- 2022-030. The Clerk reported that there were no petitions for Annual Meeting.
- 2022-031. Mask Mandate Extension discussion. Councilor Ericson moved to extend the mask mandate for an addition 30 days. Councilor Morton seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2022-031. Councilor Bate discussed remote meetings. Comments on the topic were offered by Stephen Whitaker. Councilor Bate moved the council meet remotely for February and reassess at the end of February. Councilor Morton seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2022-033. Council Reports. Dona thanked the Assistant City Manager for her work and reported on Community Justice Center advisory group. Councilor Casey thanked staff - especially public works. Councilor Ericson touted the work of staff in the school system during COVID. Councilor Morton noted being impressed with the school district and teachers. Councilor Hierl echoed the appreciation of school staff, of the Assistant City Manager, and of city staff. She noted she has received questions about parking Councilor Presiding Officer McCullough echoed sentiments about city and school workers and praised Montpelier police department which was selected for a pilot site for an online project.
- 2022-035. The City Clerk reported on the filing deadline, early voting, and the online voter guide.
- 2022-036. The City Manager offered a report on lobbyist hiring.

Adjournment by unanimous consent at 11:13PM.