

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting - INCOMPLETE
March 23, 2022, 6:30pm
Videoconference

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

2022-081. Items 2022-089 and 2022-091 were removed from the agenda, and the agenda was approved by unanimous consent as changed.

2022-082. The mayor noted the year anniversary of the City Manager's employment with the presentation of a pin. Hanif Nasarali and Laura Brooke gave a Capitol Area Neighborhoods update. Diane Sherman suggested allowing the Development Review Board authority to consider applicants' prior development history. Susan Walbridge spoke on the Ukraine crisis. Stephen Whitaker spoke on open meeting concerns and public records request concerns, access to public restroom and coming increases in the homeless population, concerns about parklets in fire lanes, and his frustrations with the City Manager. JoAnn Petterson had questions about the Elk's Club land purchase (the City Manager responded with a brief update). Alan Johnson supported Diane Sherman's comments and noted sound quality issues. Peter Kelman spoke on recent actions of the Bove brothers (developers) and supported enforceable landlord behavior laws as well as Council participation in discussions.

2022-083. Councilor McCullough moved the consent agenda and was seconded by Councilor Bate.

- b. Liquor licenses.
- c. Payroll and bills.
- d. Community survey contract.
- e. Fire Department vehicle exhaust extraction system funded by grant.
- f. Street closure applications for All Species Day parade and Our Voices Xposed rally.
- g. Envisio renewal.
- h. Award of pavement marking contract.
- i. Appointment to Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC).
- j. Capital Areas Neighborhoods (CAN) Memorandum of Understanding MOU with city.
- k. Police vehicle purchases March 2022.

The motion carried unanimously.

2022-085. Hanif Nazerali addressed the council on his candidacy for re-appointment to the Complete Streets Committee. Councilor Casey moved to appoint Hanif Nazerali to the alternate spot on the Complete Streets Committee and was seconded by Councilor Hierl. The motion carried unanimously.

- 2022-086. Holly Fowler shared a Complete Streets presentation about the Barre Street bike path pilot. Jonathon Weber and Corey Line participated.
- 2022-087. The 2nd public hearing on the Temporary Parklet Ordinance opened at 7:20. Stephen Whitaker offered input. Councilor Bate moved to adopt the temporary parklet ordinance as written and was seconded by Councilor Casey. The motion carried unanimously. The public hearing was closed at 7:24.
- 2022-088. The 1st public hearing on proposed zoning revisions was opened at 7:25 with a presentation from Michael Miller. Comments were offered by Thomas Weiss. Discussion of item 3 was chaired by Councilor McCullough (the mayor recused herself from discussion). Comments were shared from Alan Johnson, Thomas Weiss and Zach Watson.
- A recess was called at 8:46. The meeting was reconvened at 8:57 by the mayor before the Chair was returned to Councilor McCullough. Comments were offered from Zach Watson.
- The Chair was returned to the mayor at 9:02. Comments on ongoing discussions were offered by Courtney O'Connor, Susan Walbridge, Catherine Gordon, Sandy Vitzthum, Janet Wormser, Bob McCullough, Kirby Keeton, Joe Castellano, Barbara Conrey, Stephen Whitaker, Eric Gilbertson, Alan Johnson, and Thomas Weiss. The public hearing was closed at 10:09.
- Councilor McCullough moved to take proposal 8 out of the proposed changes. Councilor Hierl seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- Councilor Hierl moved to remove the solar provisions in the proposal. Councilor McCullough seconded and the motion carried 4-2 (Councilors McCullough and Bate voting nay).
- At 10:26 PM, Councilor McCullough chaired the discussion of zoning proposal items 3 and 7, as the mayor recused herself. Vicki Lane commented. Councilor Bate moved to adopt items 3 and 7 and was seconded by Councilor Casey. The motion carried unanimously. The chair was returned to the mayor at 10:32. Councilor McCullough moved to advance remaining items of the proposal that were not voted out. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- 2022-093. Councilor Bate thanked everyone who came in person to the meeting or emailed. Councilor Brown thanked those who came to the meeting and who reached out to her directly. Councilor Casey offered congratulations to the high school basketball team and noted tomorrow's Senior Center meal delivery. Councilor Morton thanked everyone who reached out to her. Councilor McCullough touched on the Master Plan process (comments were added by Kirby Keeton). Councilor Hierl echoes the previous comments and reported on the Elks Club parcel public meeting.
- 2022-094. The Mayor noted the Senior Center meal delivery and the Elks Club parcel meeting.

- 2022-095. The Clerk reported he was looking into whether ORCA meeting recordings constituted public records.
- 2022-096. The City Manager's Report noted the comparative state capitol size, indicated he was collecting information about the open records request from Stephen Whitaker (and that he had consulted an attorney), spoke briefly of the zoning amendment process and it's impact on coming meetings, and the Guertin Park structure.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:47.