

Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
April 27, 2022, 6:30pm
City Council Chambers

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

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

2022-119. The mayor reviewed the meeting procedures:

- If you are joining remotely, please change your name to be your first and last name.
- When you speak, please start by stating your name and where you live.
- We recommend that you keep your comments or questions under two minutes.
- If you are speaking about a specific agenda item, please keep your comments germane to the topic at hand.
- If you wish to speak, you must be called on by the mayor. Once you are called on by the mayor, you may make a statement or ask questions, but if you have multiple questions, please ask them all consecutively, as the council generally does not allow "back and forth" comments or questions.
- If you speak out of turn, discuss non-germane topics, go on too long, etc. you may be interrupted and asked to adjust your comments or behavior.

2022-120. Without objection, the agenda, with the Confluence Park item removed, was approved by unanimous consent.

2022-121. Mary Messier had questions about procedures. Thomas Moore relayed his concerns on bike safety. Stephen Whitaker spoke on ongoing public records requests, mud and sand on streets, sidewalk damage, potholes. Thomas Valin spoke on building new housing, greenspaces, and a dog park. Peter Kelman spoke on Capitol Area Neighborhood's involvement in communication relating to council meetings. Vicki Lane spoke on personal comments during public comments. Zach Hughes congratulated Dan Richardson in his recent appointment and urged civil communication.

2022-122. The following consent agenda was moved and seconded by Councilors McCullough and Bate respectively. The motion carried unanimously.

- a. Berlin Pond Easement
- b. Strategic Plan Update
- c. BAN
- d. Street Closures
- e. Minutes for April 13th Council Meeting
- f. Liquor Licenses

2022-123. Council McCullough moved adoption of the No Mow May Resolution and Councilor Casey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2022-125. Council discussed the Guertin Park structure. Fire Chief Robert Gowans and Police Chief Brian Peete participated in discussion. Comments were shared by Lucien (last name unknown), Chris (last name unknown), Stephen Whitaker, Mary Messier, Susan Merchant, Thomas Valin, Zach Hughes, Peter Kelman, Dawn Little, Rebecca Copans and Nancy Bruce.

Councilor McCullough moved for the time being remove the Guertin shelter from where it is and put it into storage. Councilor Bate seconded. The motion carried 4-2 (Councilors Casey and Hierl voting nay).

The Chair called a recess at 8:14 PM. The meeting was reconvened at 8:25 PM.

2022-126. Assistant City Manager Cameron Niedermayer opened the discussion of providing lockers for residents experiencing homelessness. Public input was offered from Susan Merchant, Stephen Whitaker, Mary Messier, Dawn Little, Vicki Lane, Ron Merkin

Councilor Bate moved to accept the recommendation of purchasing these lockers and locating them in the recommended location. Councilor McCullough seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

2022-127. Chief Peete opened the conversation on public drinking standards. Offering comments were Justin Drechsler and Michael Sherman, as well as Stephen Whitaker, Peter Kelman, Dawn Little, and Vicki Lane.

Councilor McCullough moved to place on a future agenda a proposal to remove the public drinking ordinance. Councilor Hierl seconded.

Councilor McCullough moved to amend the motion to place on a future agenda a discussion of the public drinking ordinance. Councilor Hierl seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The underlying motion as amended passed unanimously.

2022-129. The council discussed an Appointment of a Council representative to Montpelier Alive board. Stephen Whitaker offered comments. No formal action taken.

2022-131. Councilor Brown thanked commenters on spoke on the Guertin Park structure. Councilor Casey spoke positively about the coming cannabis dispensary. Councilor Morton thanked Chief Peete for her recent tour of the police station and her ridealong. Councilor McCullough noted the upcoming Race Against Racism event. Councilor Hierl also thanked commenters and staff for participation in difficult conversations.

2022-132. The mayor noted the coming Rally for the Planet event and the July 3rd parade.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:22 PM.