

Montpelier Homelessness Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2026

Attendance: Zack Hughes Chair, Sophie Lewis, Marty Roberts, Nolan Carver

City Council Rep: Jim Sheriden

City Planning Manager: Matt Jelacic

1. Introductions

- a. Zack opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda. The minutes from the Feb 4 meeting were approved.

2. Quorum

- a. Marty asked for a discussion about quorum. According to the Council, a quorum is defined as (percent?) of the total number of potential members, not the number of currently approved members. This committee can have 9 members, which will make it difficult to reach a quorum. Jim will raise this issue at the next Council meeting and request that the total number be reduced to 7 with two alternates.

3. Christ Church

- a. In anticipation of warmer weather, Marty reminded the group that Christ Church will not be able to allow camping in their parking lot due to the amount of work that is involved. Marty asked about the status of the identification of a camping location by the city. Matt explained that the City's major concern is liability, and the next step is to identify a lawyer who can provide an explanation of what if any liability the City would have were something to happen on an approved camping site. This is something the new City Manager may be able to assist with. Jim will raise this at the Council meeting.

4. Council

- a. The new City Manager has started, and Jim will meet with her and let her know that he is the liaison to the Homelessness Committee.

5. Street Outreach

- a. Zack reported that calls to the police regarding unhoused individuals were down to 11 in the last week, which is a big decrease. He also reported that the "cold weather" shelter has been open for 40 nights so far due to the extreme weather so far this winter.

6. City Planning Manager Report

- a. Over the summer approximately 25% of all calls to police are related to fights or other issues with individuals. Matt reported that between the police and fire department, calls regarding unhoused individuals cost the city as much as \$1.1 million dollars. This is something the committee will discuss again.
- b. Matt reported that he has been trying to get the city to adopt a policy where the appeals' fees on affordable housing units would be high enough to cover the cost of providing housing to unhoused individuals, who have even fewer housing options when affordable housing is being appealed. However, due to the way VT laws are written, the City does not have the authority to write a policy like that.

7. Meeting Day/Time

- a. There are still individuals who have not responded to the survey. The two days/times with the highest votes are the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 9:00-10:30 and the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 9:00-10:30. A majority of individuals are not available on Fridays. Zack will contact the people who have not responded and attempt to get an answer.

8. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 12:20