

INCOMPLETE: Minutes of the Montpelier City Council Meeting
January 23 2020, 6:00pm
City Council Chambers

In attendance: Mayor Anne Watson (Chair), Councilors Dona Bate, Conor Casey, Lauren Hierl, Glen Hutcheson, Jack McCullough, and Dan Richardson (at 6:38 PM). City Clerk John Odum acted as secretary.

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 6:00

- 20-031. The proposed agenda with the removal of the ADA appointment was approved by unanimous consent.
- 20-032. The Council took up the City Council Appointment. Speaking on behalf of their candidacies were Zach Hughes and Dan Richardson. Councilor McCullough moved the Council enter executive session under 1 V.S.A. § 313 to discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously (5-0) at 6:18. At 6:32, Councilor McCullough moved the Council come out of executive session and was seconded by Councilor Bate. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilor McCullough moved that the Council appoint Dan Richardson to the term vacated by Ashley Hill up until Town Meeting Day. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously following brief discussion.

The Mayor called a recess at 6:35. (During recess, outside the context of the meeting, Mr. Richardson was sworn in by the Clerk). The meeting resumed at 6:38.

- 20-033. Public Works Director spoke to inform listeners of the evening's winter parking ban. Brief discussion followed.

Zach Hughes offered congratulations to Dan Richardson and urged listeners to continue participate in city service.

Stephen Whitaker spoke regarding ice in crosswalks, and pending/incomplete public records requests. He also noted website issues in regards to agendas.

Laura Rose Abbot appealed for information on the Energy Disclosure Ordinance Working Group and the open meeting law as relates to conference calls. She also spoke on climate emergency considerations from the Council in regards to legislative agenda.

- 20-034. The following items on the consent agenda were moved by Councilor McCullough and seconded by Councilor Casey:
- a. Approve minutes from 1/8 meeting
 - b. Assistant City Treasurer Appointment
 - c. Set date and time for Annual City Meeting
 - d. Authorization to Receive Business License Fees
 - e. 2019 Certificate of Highway Mileage (FY 2020)

f. Payroll & Bills

The motion passed unanimously.

- 20-040. The Dog Ordinance, 2nd Public Hearing was opened at 6:49. Included in discussion were comments from Stephen Whitaker and Lara Rose Abbott. After discussion, the public hearing was closed at 6:54. Councilor Bate moved to adopt the proposed language for the dog nuisance ordinance amendment. Councilor Hierl seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 20-039. The Council received a Water Resource Recovery Facility phase 2 presentation from Kurt Motyka, Chris Cox, and Ian Lynch. Discussion included comments from Geoff Fitzgerald. And David Pinterski. Councilor Bate moved to authorize the Department of Public Works to enter into negotiations with Energy Systems Group for a project development agreement to advance Phase 2 of the CHP project. Councilor McCullough seconded. After more discussion, the motion carried unanimously.
- 20-036. The Budget Public Hearing was opened at 7:36 with an overview from the City Manager. Participating in discussion were Kim Cheney, Stephen Whitaker, Bill Kaplan, Stephen Mills, and Laura Rose Abbot.
- Councilor Casey moved the Council shift \$25,000 budgeted for the Montpelier Development Corporation to CIP. Councilor Hutcheson seconded. After discussion, the motion failed on a 4-2 vote (Councilors McCullough and Casey voting aye, all other nay).
- Councilor Hierl moved to add a contingency to the MDC line item in the budget to insure full transparency of where money is spent at the end of the year and to include statements from previous years' financial disclosures. Councilor Richardson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- The Mayor closed the public hearing at 9:33. Councilor McCullough moved to finalize the fiscal 2021 budget as adopted with all the changes, and that we set it for the City Meeting ballot. Councilor Hierl seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 20-038. Councilor McCullough moved to accept the petitions for the ballot item from Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice. Councilor Casey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 20-037. The Annual City Meeting Warning public hearing was opened at 9:41. The hearing was closed at 9:42. Councilor Richardson moved to approve the warning for the Annual City Meeting. Councilor Bate seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
- 20-043. Councilor Bate thanked Mr. Cheney for his participation in budget discussions. She also appealed for volunteers on Town Meeting Day.

Councilor Casey offered an update on the non-citizen voting charter change.

Councilor Hutcheson updated the Council on his engagement with Another Way and the TW Wood Gallery, as well as the Homelessness Task Force.

Councilor Hierl welcomed new councilor Dan Richardson.

Councilor Richardson encouraged people to apply for the open Development Review Board position and offered thanks to the Council for his appointment.

20-044. The Mayor welcomed Mr. Richardson onto the Council, noted the coming candidate filing deadline, and reported on her new City Hall office hours.

20-045. The City Clerk noted he expected some ballots by the end of the next week. Brief discussion followed.

20-046. The City Manager thanked the Council and commenting members of the public for their work on the budget.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:49 PM.