

Vergennes City Council

Final Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 25, 2023 recessed and

continued Tuesday, May 2, 2023

COUNCIL MEMBERS/STAFF: Mayor Christopher Bearor (Zoom), Deputy Mayor Dickie Austin, Alderwoman Cheryl Brinkman, Alderman Ian Huizenga, City Manager Ron Redmond, City Clerk Penny Austin, Treasurer Angela Bolduc, Zoning Administrator Peter Garon and Recreation Coordinator Martha DeGraaf.

- 1. Microphone Check**
- 2. Call to Order:** 5:33pm
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 4. Amendments to the Agenda:** Due to the time constraints on having a quorum, Deputy Mayor Austin made a motion to renumber the agenda items to make sure the time-sensitive items were completed that night then recess and complete the remaining items on next Tuesday, May 2nd, with Alderwoman Brinkman seconding. Vote: 4-0 Approved.
- 5. Visitors:** Mel Hawley, Tim Cook
- 6. Approval of Minutes (4/11/2023)** Motion made to approve with date fixed in section 7d. of minutes by Alderwoman Brinkman and seconded by Alderman Huizenga. Vote: 4-0 Approved.
Approval of Warrants (4/25/2023) The invoices for Ryan's were pulled since Mayor Bearor is employed by them and would have to recuse himself so there would not be a quorum. The remaining warrants went forward. Motion made to approve by Alderwoman Brinkman and seconded by Alderman Huizenga. Vote: 4-0 Approved.
- 7. a. Request to approve a one-year license (from May 1, 2023, to April 30, 2024) First-Class Restaurant/Bar License for The Hill LLC d.b.a. Vergennes Laundry.** Motion to approve by Alderman Huizenga with second by Alderwoman Brinkman. Vote: 4-0 Approved.
b. Request to approve a one-year license (from May 1, 2023, to April 30, 2024) Tobacco Substitute Endorsement for Community Market, LLC. Motion to approve by Alderman Huizenga with second by Alderwoman Brinkman. Vote: 4-0 Approved.
c.1. TIME CERTAIN: 5:45 PM. Public hearing on the proposed amendments to the zoning and subdivision regulations. 5:47 Public Hearing Closed.
c.2. Adoption of proposed amendments to the zoning and subdivision regulations. Motion by Alderman Huizenga with second by Alderwoman Brinkman to adopt. Vote: 4-0 Approved.
d. Request to appoint Rebecca Rey to the Board of Listers for a one-year term ending March 2024. Motion to approve by Alderman Huizenga with second by Alderwoman Brinkman. Vote: 4-0 Approved.
e. Request to appoint Shannon Haggett to a one-year term as the City's representative to the Addison County Communications Union District (Maple Broadband) from 5/1/23-4/30/24. Motion to approve by Alderman Huizenga with second by Alderwoman Brinkman. Vote: 4-0 Approved.

Deputy Mayor Austin moved to recess the meeting at 5:50 PM until 5:30 PM next Tuesday, May 2nd with a second by Alderman Huizenga. Vote: 4-0 Approved.

1. **Microphone Check**
2. **Call to Order:** 5:33pm
3. **Visitors:** Justin Bassett, Paul Saylor, and Jim Sestokas, Katie Raycroft-Meyer, Addison County Regional Planning Commission; Julie Basol, Vergennes Partnership, Dawn Wagner, Daily Chocolate

7f. Presentation on Disc Golf at Falls Park. Justin Bassett and Paul Saylor. Justin Bassett, Paul Saylor, and Jim Sestokas gave a PowerPoint presentation on the disc golf plan and said that they checked with GMP and other groups to make sure they are not impacting any wires and such.

7g. Request to allocate up to \$2,000 from the Watershed Fund for the purchase of baskets, signage, and tee pads for Disc Golf at Falls Park. There was some confusion about the amount that was supposed to be requested. The vote was tabled until the May 12th meeting to find out what the balance of the Watershed Fund.

7h. Presentation of Public Art Corridor Plan for Vergennes, funded by Municipal Planning Grant 07110-MP-2022-Vergennes C-38. Presenters: Katie Raycroft-Meyer, Addison County Regional Planning Commission; Julie Basol, Vergennes Partnership, Dawn Wagner, Daily Chocolate. A presentation (in the meeting packet) of the Art Corridor project was given by the above members with the first phase being the bus stop on Green Street.

7i. FY 24 Budget Discussion. City Manager Redmond started the FY24 budget discussion by contrasted projected expenditure increases/decreases in the Administration, Police, Public Works and Recreation; a chart showing possible tax increases and their impact on a home assessed at \$350,000; a chart showing revenue generated by each penny increase; a scenario of a 10-cent tax increase.

7j. Presentation of staff process for managing requests for sewer tap on or reservations. Peter Garon, our Zoning Administrator, spoke of the new process. There has been no written process of how to keep track of sewer tap-ons and how the forms should flow. The City Staff involved with the process (Peter, Angie, Penny, Jim, and Rick) got together and developed a system or flow of how the City can track this and make sure payments are made, inspections are done before pipes are covered, and we know how many households are being add both for billing and capacity. Also, to make sure Hook-ups meet standards and compensate the City for costs. The Sewer Ordinances are being reviewed and revised so that the language cannot be misinterpreted, and it clearly aligns with the process.
8. **City Manager's Report:** Redmond reported that Alderwoman Brinkman, following the 4/11/23 council meeting, sent edits to the draft guidelines for the Community Engagement Committee. He provided an update regarding concerns about the location of a building at the Cornerstone project at 1-3 West Main Street, potentially built in the city's right of way. Redmond said in the past week that city staff measured the distance from the center of Route 22A to the Cornerstone Property, which conflicted with what Cornerstone's architect was showing in the survey and drawings provided to and approved by the DRB. He said he has contacted Tim Cowan, a surveyor with Civil Engineering Associates to research the matter and who has reviewed the history of that parcel back to the 1800s; Shane Morin, District Project Manager at VTRANS who oversees bridges in our region; and Ed Adrian of Monaghan Safar. The appeal period for the

project has passed. He said he is bringing together Cornerstone's architect with Tim Cowan for clarification about how Cornerstone's survey was conducted. Mayor Bearor noted that he had asked Redmond to contact the city's VTRANS District 5 representative to determine if they have GIS information that can help clarify the matter. Alderwoman Murray-Killon asked: What happens if the city determines that Cornerstone is in the right of way, and that land anticipated for a new bridge is no longer available? Does VTRANS move the bridge? Does Cornerstone pay a fee or penalty? Is it the city's fault?

9. **Mayor's Report:** Saturday is Green-Up Day. He thanked Sierra and Lowell Bertrand for taking on the task of getting everyone involved with cleaning up our City. He also announced that there is a Pool Clean-Up Day on Saturday as well.
10. **City Council Reports:** Alderwoman Brinkman announced that Keith Morrill has resigned from the Energy Committee citing issues with his work schedule conflicting. She also asked about having City emails as some of the organizations that we deal with like VLCT, you can't sign up for webinars unless you have one. Deputy Mayor Austin talked about how Champlain Construction helped with making sure the pitch of the sidewalk in front of the Basin Block was smooth so people would not catch their toes and fall like someone did with the old sidewalk. Kudos to Champlain Construction!
11. **Adjournment:** Deputy Mayor Austin moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 with a second from Alderwoman Kaslow. Vote: 7-0 Approved.