

**CITY OF MONTPELIER  
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

**City Manager's Weekly Report – 6/19/2015**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS ...**

- Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - 11:00 A.M. Sprinkler Committee Meeting, City Council Chambers
  - 5:30 P.M. Planning Commission Meeting, City Council Chambers
  
- Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - 10:30 A.M. Meeting of Montpelier Senior Advisory Center's (MSAC) Current Advisory Board, Resource Room, 58 Barre Street
  - 12:45 P.M. MSAC Annual Meeting, Community Room, 58 Barre Street
  - 2:30 P.M. First Meeting of New MSAC Advisory Board, Resource Room, 58 Barre Street
  
- Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>
  - 6:00 P.M. Board of Civil Authority Meeting, City Council Chambers**
  - 6:30 P.M. City Council Meeting, City Council Chambers
  
- Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>
  - 6:00 P.M. "Friends of the Winooski" Meeting, City Manager's Conference Room, City Hall

**ATTACHMENTS ...**

- ✚ **Thank You Note from Jake Brown:** Jake and his family are hosting one of a group of five students from China. Staff was able to arrange a tour of Montpelier facilities for these students; they visited the Fire Department, Police Department, the Water Treatment Facility and the Public Works Garage. Unfortunately, they ran out of time and were not able to tour the Water Resource Recovery Facility, but as Jake mentioned in his note, they thoroughly enjoyed their morning with City staff.

## CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

June 19, 2015

Page 2

### CITY MANAGER'S REPORT ...

#### Legal

*Hallsmith vs. City, Fraser, Baker* – Appealed to Supreme Court. Represented by Bernie Lambek. Oral arguments were held on December 18, 2014. Decision issued June 19, 2015, to be discussed on Wednesday night.

*VCFAs vs. City, Tax Appeal.* – Status conference held on Wednesday. Deadlines have been set for filings so that case is ready for hearing by June 15. Represented by Robert Fletcher.

*Bettis/Powers vs. Bean* – Motions being filed. Represented by Nancy Sheahan through VLCT.

*Illuzzi vs. City, Law, Motyka, Renaud Bros.* – Motions have been filed. Going into mediation. Represented by Constance Tryon Bell through VLCT.

### WEEKLY UPDATES FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

#### Assessor's Office (week ending June 19, 2015 - last 3 months)

- ✓ The new Abstract (Preliminary) Grand List was lodged with the City Clerk on Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> and Change of Appraisal Notices were mailed to property owners. There were 237 appraisal changes this year. The real estate portion of the Grand List has increased by \$3.2 million but is subject to revisions/adjustments made during the grievance process.
- ✓ Eighty-seven of the appraisal changes were value reductions, while 150 properties had value increases. Thirty-one of the reductions were a result of changes in State law regarding the calculation of values for resale restricted properties. Other reductions were the result of sale prices below listed values; corrections to property records; and damage to, or removal of, structures and other improvements.
- ✓ Values were set for 505 Personal Property accounts.
- ✓ Grievance hearings will be held on Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ The Assessor worked with the Town of Berlin Assessors to correct the acreages of City-owned parcels associated with the Water Treatment Plant. This resulted in a \$99,200 decrease in the assessed value of these parcels and will reduce the City's tax bill by about \$2,000.

# CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

June 19, 2015

Page 3

## Public Works

### *State Street*

Business US Route 2 - Class One Town Highway) Resurfacing Project being developed and managed by the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans).

This project (VTrans Project #STP 2950 (1)) was previously delayed at the request of the City for various reasons including potential construction conflicts with the District Heat Project and to pursue modifications to the geometric alignment of the street curbing to provide for the addition of bike lanes and/or parking.

A decision to advance the project as originally presented, absent the modifications, is now necessary based upon the determination of certain permitting implications and findings as a result of the realignment review.

City staff coordinated with the State of Vermont's Buildings & General Services (BGS) Division to consider modifications of the traditional scope of work for this Class One Town Highway Resurfacing Project. The alterations to the scope of work triggered the need for certain State and Federal permits to be obtained because the alterations would take place within the Capitol Complex District which is on the National Register of Historic Places ("Montpelier Historic District"). The permit issues have proven to be problematic and are likely to be insurmountable.

As a result, the State Street project will revert to a rehab of the street within its existing footprint. No bike lanes or additional parking are able to be added. VTrans will be handling this project and it will be scheduled for 2016 or 2017. The City will proceed with sidewalk improvements earlier – probably this summer – since they will not be connected to the road work.

## Police Department

### *Police Chief Announces New Emergency Communications Supervisor Hire*

I am pleased to announce that Fred Cummings of Hanover, NH has been hired as the Montpelier Police Department Dispatch Supervisor. Fred has considerable background in fire, EMS, and of course, dispatch services. He will be leaving the Hanover PD communications center to begin work here on July 21, 2015.

We look forward to the support, leadership, direction, and energy that Fred will bring to our top-notch communications team here at MPD. He will also be joining us at a time where we will begin the physical renovations (late summer-early fall) of the dispatch center.

# CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

June 19, 2015

Page 4

## TOPICS FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS ...

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| June 24                               | Conservation Commission Appointment<br>Greening America's Capitals Update<br>Sales Tax Reallocation<br>Stormwater Master Plan Vendor<br>Parks Events |
| July 8                                | Budget process<br>One Taylor Update<br>Sprinkler Ordinance<br>Transportation Committee Appointments<br>Montpelier in Motion<br>TIF discussion        |
| July 22<br>(AT 5:00 P.M. IF NEEDED)   | Consent Agenda Items Only  |
| August 12<br>(AT 5:00 P.M. IF NEEDED) | Consent Agenda Items Only  |
| August 26                             | Winter Parking Ban Ordinances<br>Community Fund Board  |
| September 9                           |  |



William J. Fraser  
City Manager

June 16, 2015

Dear Sandy and the city staff -

Thank you for the tour  
of city departments - we  
enjoyed it a lot!

何浩宇

苏暖晴

龙千意

王景龙

李疏影

钟小苗

梁语桐