

CITY COUNCIL GOALS 2013-2014
Adopted May 22, 2013

Goal: Balance and control municipal budgeting, taxes and services relative to current population and grand list tax base.

Steps:

- Continue long term budget projections including development scenarios. City Manager, Finance Director
- Set a budget target, focus budget discussions on policy and services, not line items. City Council
- Complete plan to implement debt and fund balance policy after we receive the annual audit. Council, Manager, Finance Director
- Further explore inter-municipal and intra-municipal agreements as well as the possibility of merged services to find efficiencies. City Manager

Goal: Maintain all city streets, bridges, sidewalks and other infrastructure (parks, rec paths, etc.) in (at minimum) fair or good condition as per appropriate rating indices.

Steps:

- Maintain commitment to the “steady state” funding plan adopted in 2013 to improve streets and sidewalks. Council re: Funding, DPW re: completing work
- Explore ways to remove all dual utility poles in Montpelier. Manager, DPW

Goal: Support the work of the Parking Committee in an effort to alleviate parking pressures in Montpelier.

Steps:

- Review and balance alternatives between adding parking and reducing parking demand. Council
- Explore the long-term viability of the Circulator bus. Council

Goal: Provide and receive comprehensive, accessible and useful information to and from constituent groups about the City government and the community.

Steps:

- Re-vamp city website to make it more user-friendly; provide clear and easy-to-find information for residents AND for potential residents and potential businesses. Manager, Asst. Manager
- Expand use of social media to communicate city’s message while continuing traditional communications methods. Manager, Asst. Manager
- Provide adequate staff and volunteer support to maintain communications efforts once they have started. Council, Manager
- Target appropriate information messages to specific audiences. Manager, Asst Manager
- Gather contact information from residents. Manager, Asst. Manager
- Gather information from the community about City services. Council, Manager, Asst. Manager

Goal: Create a hospitable environment for residential growth.

Steps:

- Monitor zoning process to assure that regulations will help promote new housing. Council, Manager, Planning Director
- Follow-through with recommendations of Barriers to Housing Committee. Council, Manager, Planning Director

- Consider public investment in infrastructure to generate housing. Council, Manager.

Goal: Maintain an environment that is hospitable for businesses to thrive throughout Montpelier.

- Adopt an economic development strategy. Council, Manager, Asst. Manager, Community Development Specialist
- Change narrative and present Montpelier as business friendly through brochures, communications and marketing. Council, Manager, Asst. Manager, Community Development Specialist
- Maintain an active role in upper floor development. Council, Manager, Asst. Manager, Community Development Specialist
- Establish Economic Development and Business Recruitment/Retention as municipal priorities. Council, Manager, Asst. Manager, Community Development Specialist
- Explore the Montpelier Business Loan Fund and other tools the City has to promote economic development. Council, Manager, Asst. Manager, Community Development Specialist
- Review Water rates. Council, Manager Finance Director

Goal: Become a nationally known bike and pedestrian friendly city.

Steps:

- Support the work of the Bike Committee. Council

Goal: Make significant progress on three major outstanding capital projects: District Heat, Transit Center and Montpelier Bike Path.

Steps:

- Acquire the Carr Lot and ensure that it is out to bid by the end of the calendar year. Council, Manager
- Maintain the Bike Path schedule. Manager, Asst. Manager
- Complete the District Heat project. Manager, Asst. Manager, DPW

Goal: Proactively explore energy initiatives.

Steps:

- Explore reenergizing the North Branch dam. Manager, Planning Dept.
- Pursue photovoltaic initiative. Council, Manager, Energy Committee

Goal: Support and promote a vibrant downtown.

Steps:

- Work to ensure that the Farmers' Market stays downtown. Council, Manager
- Support groups that come to the City Council with downtown initiatives. Council, Manager
- Explore the periodic closure of State Street. Council, Manager
- Successfully implement the Downtown Improvement District. Manager, Finance Director