

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 4/8/2016

UPCOMING MEETINGS ...

Monday, April 11 th	Planning Commission, 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers
Tuesday, April 12 th	Transportation Advisory Committee, 6:00 P.M. in the City Manager's Conference Room
Wednesday, April 13 th	City Council Meeting: Executive Session at 5:00 P.M. in the City Manager's Conference Room; Regular Session at 6:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers
Thursday, April 14 th	Conservation Commission, 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers

You can also click on the following link for a listing of the Montpelier Senior Activity Center's upcoming events: <http://www.montpelier-vt.org/calendar.aspx?CID=30,36>

ATTACHMENTS ...

None this week

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT ...

Goals

The draft goals document is being revised to include estimated delivery dates, more information and to better flag council actions needed. I hope to have it out with today's packet but, if not, will have it to you in advance of next week's meeting.

Water/Sewer Infrastructure

Our DPW and Finance teams have put together a draft plan for addressing long term underground infrastructure. The next step will be to review this draft with the Capital Projects Committee. Once that group has a formal recommendation it will be brought to the Council for a detailed briefing and the Council's consideration and approval. Finance Director Sandy Gallup will be pulling the committee meeting together in the next couple of weeks.

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Dogs and Ordinances

A working group consisting of the Police, the Parks, the Justice Center and I have been meeting about strategies for addressing dogs as per the Council's direction in February.

The group is focusing on a three-pronged approach to the issue: ordinance revision, enhanced education and expanded opportunities.

Ordinance - We are still in the drafting and review process for an ordinance but key issues include clarity of definition of "under control", improved definitions and consequences for running at large, nuisance and aggressive behavior. At this point, we do not plan to require leashes at all times but will tighten up provisions for violations. A restorative justice component will be built into the process as well. This may even include a special restorative panel dedicated to dog issues. One key problem to be resolved is what to do with vicious dogs or dogs which require impoundment due to limitations of options for placing these dogs. Other ordinance revisions will include an increased fine for unlicensed dogs.

Education – The Parks Commission has developed a good brochure about dogs in the park. This brochure, along with the revised ordinance once adopted, will be given to all people who license dogs and distributed throughout the community. We are considering a tax bill mailing as well. Additionally, we will devote a Bridge article to this topic and keep a regular link with information on the City's website.

Expanded Opportunities – Both the Recreation and Parks Departments are exploring the feasibility of enclosed dog parks where dogs may run off leash. While not meeting all needs, these may provide some alternatives for getting dogs the chance to run around for a while.

The group does not expect to have a final recommendation to the Council until May. We would welcome a Council Member joining the group if any of you are interested.

Legal

VCFA vs. City, Tax Appeal. – Awaiting decision. Oral argument on cross motions for Summary Judgment was held at Washington Superior Court on Tuesday, January 12th. Represented by Robert Fletcher

NOTE - Legal Update re Illuzzi vs City: Motion for continued discovery filed by plaintiff. Awaiting ruling on Motions (2) for Summary Judgment. Represented by Constance Tryon Bell through VLCT

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WEEKLY UPDATES FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Finance Department

The FY17 Budget books will be sent out digitally to the City Council and Department Heads today. Hard copies will be available at next week's Council Meeting.

Public Works Department

The announced water main flushing program was delayed because of extreme cold overnight temperatures which would have resulted in hazardous conditions. The flushing began yesterday and will continue for the next few weeks including overnight operations.

The summer projects list has now been posted on the City's web site at <http://www.montpelier-vt.org/837/Construction-Schedule>. This posting will be updated when schedules are established through contractual arrangements. Projects to be accomplished solely by DPW crews will be added to the list when these schedules are approximated.

Project management and engineering staff are moving forward with applications for various grant opportunities annually due in April including:

- ✓ Clean Water Initiative Program, Ecosystem Restoration Grant: Route 302/Forest Drive/Hebert Road drainage basin planning, feasibility and design.
- ✓ VTrans Class 2 Town Highway Grant: Barre Street Rehabilitation (Granite Street – Pioneer Street) to be coordinated with Bike Path Extension Project.
- ✓ Better Roads Grant: Erosion control/ water quality measures for Gould Hill Road area; and also for road inventory and capital budget planning project.
- ✓ Drinking Water Asset Management Grant: Infrastructure inventory and condition data acquisition and rate/financial analysis.

A qualifications based engineering consultant selection process has begun for modernization and enhanced phosphorus removal systems at the Water Resources Recovery Facility (formerly: Waste Water Treatment Plant), Northfield Street reconstruction drafting services, and the East State Street CSO Elimination Project. Qualifications statements are due by the submittal deadline of April 12th.

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Community Justice Center

The Montpelier Community Justice Center and the Community Justice Network of Vermont (CJNVT) are now working with Vermonters who were convicted of certain crimes before the age of 25 to have their criminal record cleared.

Legislation passed last year provides an expedited process for people who committed certain crimes when they were young to move forward in life without a criminal record, as long as they have not committed another crime since. Under 13 V.S.A. §7602(d) offenses that qualify are generally non-violent misdemeanors, with a few exceptions. A number of conditions apply. At least five years must have elapsed since the date on which the person successfully completed their sentence. They must also have paid any court ordered restitution. The person must demonstrate to a Restorative Justice Panel at their local Community Justice Center that they have been living a productive life since. This can be demonstrated through regular employment; completion of a year of military service or other public service such as Americorps; or a combination of community service, reparation of harm, and education about ways to not reoffend.

The Montpelier Community Justice Center can assist community members to understand what is needed based on the Expungement Law and CJNVT policy. Please contact 223-9606 or igbson@montpelier-vt.org for more information.

TOPICS FOR UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS ...

April 13	Zoning Goals Taxi Ordinance/Uber Website Report
April 27	Master Plan Contract EDSP – Draft Recommendations Parking Advisory Committee Appointments Zoning
May 11	Rec Building Zoning Dog Ordinance Update
May 25	
June 8	EDSP – Final Plan?



William J. Fraser
City Manager