

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 5/13/2016

UPCOMING MEETINGS ...

- Monday, May 16th
- Capital Improvement Projects Committee, 10:00 A.M. in the City Manager's Conference Room
 - Design Review Committee, 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers
 - Development Review Board, 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers
- Tuesday, May 17th
- Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee, 7:00 P.M. in the Memorial Room
- Thursday, May 19th
- Montpelier Senior Advisory Council, 1:00 – 2:00 P.M in the MSAC Resource Room
 - “Friends of the Winooski, 5:00 P.M. in the City Manager's Conference Room
 - Housing Task Force, 5:15 P.M. in the City Council Chambers
- Friday, May 20th
- Cemetery Commissioners, 12:00 noon in the City Manager's Conference Room
 - Conservation Commission, 7:00 P.M. in the City Manager's Conference Room

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 ...

-  Memo from DPW Director re: Chapman Road and Terrace Street Parking Ordinances (These proposed amendments will be on the Council's May 25th agenda for first reading.)
-  Proclamation Issued by Governor Shumlin for *National Public Works Week*

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CITY MANAGER'S REPORT ...

Community Services Planning

The Steering Committee (made up of staff and volunteer/elected advisors from Recreation, the Montpelier Senior Activity Center, Parks, Cemetery, the City Manager's Office, and the City Council) met with our identified facilitators this week to orient the facilitators to City services and develop a plan for the data collection and public process around a future integrated Community Services Department. The contract for these services, including an outline of this process, was on the City Council agenda for consideration at their May 11th meeting.

Dog Ordinance Update

The working group continues to meet. We expect to have a proposal for the May 25th meeting with the draft reviewed by the Parks Commission the previous week.

VTCMA Conference

Assistant City Manager Jessie Baker and I attended the Vermont Town and City Management Association Spring Conference in Ludlow on Thursday and Friday. Topics included road permits under the Clean Water Act, Legislative wrap-up, energy issues, marketing communities, workers comp changes, Human Resource issues, 21st Century policing, and an open discussion on Vermont municipal issues.

Legal

VCFA vs. City, Tax Appeal: Decision issued this week which supported the City's position on tax status of Schulmaier Hall.

Illuzzi vs City: Response issued on April 28th to Plaintiff's opposition to Defendant's motion for summary judgement and to disputed material facts. Awaiting Court ruling on motions. Represented by Constance Tyron Bell through VLCT.

WEEKLY UPDATES FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Community Justice Center

The Council of State Governments Justice Center published a report last week on COSAs (Circles of Support and Accountability) and features Dave Brunell, who successfully

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completed this program at the Montpelier Community Justice Center. Dave started working for the City of Montpelier about eight year ago as a volunteer and then became an employee who stayed with the City until he moved out of state a few months ago. This very successful reentry program supports people in living an accountable life when they return to community from incarceration. The operation of this program depends on the incredible commitment of ordinary citizens who are willing to engage in training, fulfill a defined role, and give of their time to show up for their “core member” on a weekly basis for a year or more. Read the report at

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/reentry/posts/vermont-doc-builds-commitment-to-restorative-justice-2/>.

Assessor's Office

VCFA vs. City, Tax Appeal

Decision was received from Vermont Superior Court, Washington Unit, on May 10, granting the City's motion for summary judgment. VCFA's motion for summary judgment was denied. The decision upholds the City Assessor's determination that Schulmaier Hall, owned by VCFA, is taxable because it is leased for “a general commercial purpose” (in this case to the State of Vermont) and is not used for an educational purpose by the owner. The Court also disagreed with VCFA's assertion that leasing to the State was a “public use” that would render the property exempt from taxation. The City was represented by Robert Fletcher.

Public Works Update

The week of May 15th – 21st is the 56th annual National Public Works Week which is sponsored by the American Public Works Association (APWA). Governor Peter Shumlin issued a Proclamation which states in part “it is in the public interest for Vermonters to understand the importance of public works and public works programs in their respective communities”. The 2016 National Public Works Week Poster theme is “Public Works Always There”. As noted by the APWA, “This theme showcases the pervasiveness of Public Works. Communities depend on Public Works, and the men & women of the profession are always there and always ready.” The Public Works Director wishes to recognize the entire dedicated & professional crew of the Montpelier Public Works department and all Public Works professionals across the state and country for always being there day & night to ensure the critical infrastructure we all depend on from our roads, sidewalks and bridges to our drinking and waste water systems are safe and dependable.

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TOPICS FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS ...

May 25

Zoning – Part 2
Parking Advisory Committee Appointments?
Taxi Ordinance -1st Reading
Meet Master Plan Consultant
Dog Ordinance -1st Reading
Meet Community Services Facilitator
Approve Local Option Tax Resolution
Parking Ordinance Amendment - 1st Reading
Non Profit Board Policy
Possible Tax Stabilization Application
Caledonia Spirits – Tax Stabilization
Set Summer Schedule

June 8

Zoning – Part 2 (continued) or Part 3
Goal: Keep Montpelier Affordable
Parking Ordinance Amendment - 2nd Reading
Taxi Ordinance - 2nd Reading
Dog Ordinance - 2nd Reading
Approve New Fees
Approve EDSP
Fund Balance Transfers
Executive Session: Water Security

June 22

(Maybe June 15th or 29th)

Zoning – Part 3 or 4
Goal: “Steady State”
Water/Sewer Long-term Plan
Taylor Street Cost Estimates

July 6

Brief Meeting to set Tax Rate

July 13

Eminent Domain Hearing re: Overlake Park
Goal: Healthy Community
Zoning (?)



William J. Fraser
City Manager

City of Montpelier
Department of Public Works
Memorandum

for
Packet
1st reading
5/25

To: William Fraser, City Manager
From: Thomas McArdle, Director of Public Works
Anthony Facos, Chief of Police
Copy: Robert Gowans, Fire Chief
Date: May 4, 2016
Subject: Chapman Road & Terrace Street Parking Ordinances

Residents of Chapman Road brought their concerns to our attention about obstructed access to their street caused by parked vehicles. Chapman Road is a very narrow (15' avg) minor residential street which is geometrically not suitable to support on-street parking while serving as access for delivery trucks and other service vehicles. Similarly, Terrace Street in this area is also quite narrow (19' avg) but will support on-street parking while leaving sufficient room one-directional travel including delivery trucks. However, due to the inadequate width of Terrace Street, it has been verified that parked vehicles severely restrict turning maneuvers within the confines of an intersection. The residents reported that vehicles parked on Terrace Street have caused the operators of garbage trucks to refuse service until access has been cleared. The combined effect of vehicles parked on Terrace Street and Chapman Road limit use of the streets to passenger vehicles.

Upon receipt of the access obstruction notice last fall, the Fire Department conducted an inspection using their fire truck and ambulance to travel through the neighborhood. The Chief concluded that delivery of emergency services would be unduly restricted by on-street parking and requested the posting of signs to prohibit on-street parking. The restrictions were authorized by emergency Police order and remain in place.

Additional observations were conducted over the ensuing months, including during the Legislative session when overflow parking is a common occurrence along neighborhood streets adjoining the state Capitol complex. Although the existing seasonal parking restriction on Terrace Street (Section 10-717 (hh)) helps to address one aspect of the issue, it became clear that on-street parking impacts persist throughout the year and is more than simply an occasional nuisance. Parking on Terrace Street opposite Chapman Road adversely impacts the turning movement needs of service and emergency vehicles wishing to enter or exit Chapman Road. Furthermore, the vehicles of concern are parked along a crest vertical curve impacting the sight lines for opposing motorists which, when combined with the narrow street width sufficient for only one-way traffic flow, results in a safety hazard. The safety concern is amplified when pedestrians are present in the street due to the absence of sidewalks. To help rectify this situation, a full-year parking restriction is proposed for a length of 110' (approximate 5 spaces) on this portion of the street.

Signage currently exists on Terrace Street which prohibits parking on the north side of the street from Bailey Avenue to Hopkins Street and on the south side of the street for 55' east of Bailey Avenue. These two parking prohibitions are not currently supported by a city ordinance but are essential for sufficient width for one-directional travel and turning maneuverability at the intersection of Bailey Avenue and Terrace Street. This matter is addressed in the proposed amendment.

Upon review of the dimensions of the street and other factors affecting the capacity and ability of the streets to support on-street parking, we have concluded that amendments to the City's code of ordinances should be recommended to the City Council as follows:

CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE VII. PARKING and PARKING METER ZONES

Section 10-716. PARKING PROHIBITED

New Section:

(uuu) Chapman Road: Parking is prohibited on both sides of Chapman Road for its entire length.

Revise Existing Section:

(ccc) Terrace Street: Parking is prohibited on the westerly side of Terrace Street from its intersection with Bailey Avenue northerly for a distance of seven hundred sixty (760') feet to the driveway serving #26 Terrace Street ("Redstone" property) and on the easterly side northerly to Redstone Avenue. Parking is also prohibited on the southerly side of Terrace Street from Bailey Avenue easterly for a distance of fifty five (55') feet and beginning at a point located two hundred ten (210') easterly of Bailey Avenue and extending easterly for a distance of one hundred thirty (110') feet. Parking is also prohibited on the northerly side of Terrace Street beginning at Bailey Avenue easterly to Hopkins Street.

C: Adjoining Property Owners

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

WHEREAS, public works infrastructure, facilities and services are of vital importance to sustainable communities and to the health, safety and well-being of the people of Vermont; and

WHEREAS, public works facilities and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of the public works professionals, engineers, managers and employees from State and local Government and the private sector who plan, design, build, operate, and maintain the transportation, water supply, water treatment and solid waste systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities essential to serve our citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for Vermonters to understand the importance of public works and public works programs in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, 2016 marks the 56th annual National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim May 15-21, 2016 as

NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

in Vermont, and I encourage all Vermonters to recognize the contributions of our public works professionals, engineers, managers and employees.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 10th day of March, A.D. 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'P' followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Peter Shumlin
Governor