

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 9/23/2016

UPCOMING MEETINGS ...

Monday, September 26 th	Montpelier Planning Commission 5:30 P.M. has been CANCELLED
Tuesday, September 27 th	Montpelier Conservation Commission 4:30 P.M. in the City Hall Memorial Room
Thursday, September 29 th	Historic Preservation Commission 7:15 P.M. in the City Council Chambers

ATTACHMENTS ... *None*

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT ...

FY18 Budget

With the Finance Director position now filled, we will begin thinking about budget schedule, projections, etc. We are still running shorthanded in Finance so I expect our timing to be later than usual.

Zoning

Based on discussion this past week, we will take up zoning in late January at the end of the budget process.

Legal

Illuzzi vs City, et al: On July 12th, the Vermont Superior Court of Washington County issued its “Opinion and Order on Defendants’ Motions for Summary Judgement and Mr. Illuzzi’s Motions to Compel, Enlarge, and Amend”. The City and its employee defendants were granted summary judgement except for the issue of causation. All of the motions filed by the Plaintiff were denied or dismissed. The attorney for the City will now consult with VLCT as to the next course of action.

VCFA vs. City, Supreme Court Appeal: Notice was received that Vermont College of Fine Arts has appealed the recent judgment from Vermont Superior Court, Washington Unit, to the Vermont Supreme Court. Both parties filed Briefs with the Court in late August. Represented by Robert Fletcher.

WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Assessor

The Division of Property Valuation and Review of the Vermont Department of Taxes Annual Sales Study has been completed. This data will be incorporated into the calculation of the 2017 CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) which will be released in January.

The Assessor has started conducting property inspections for the 2017 Grand List. A total of over 280 Building and Zoning permits have been issued to date this year. We have also started processing property transfer returns for the new tax year. Homestead downloads from the State of Vermont continue to be processed and reviewed weekly.

The State of Vermont has issued the second supplemental payment of calendar year 2016 for municipal taxes credited on tax bills for homestead property claimants who filed their property tax adjustment after April 18, 2016 and prior to September 2, 2016. Revised tax bills will be mailed to the property owners.

Police

In order to comply with 2016 Act 147, the Montpelier Police Department submitted a full-year of roadside stop data to the Crime Research Group (CRG). CRG is the data collection point for the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council (VCJTC). While we do not know exactly what the collected data page will look like on the VCJTC website, we do anticipate that the data link will be available soon. Act 147 requires the submission of race data from all Vermont police agencies annually, beginning with September 2016. This is an important step for Vermont Law Enforcement as government moves to more “open data” formatting and it not only improves transparency and accountability in policing, but it also provides a valuable data set that can help departments evaluate policies and identify potential training needs.

On Tuesday (Sept. 20, 2016) Chief Facos attended a group meeting with FBI Director

James Comey in Albany, NY. During the meeting, Director Comey addressed a variety of issues and answered a number of questions and concerns that we raised. Topics covered included: terrorism, our continued need for (and success with) federal, state, and local collaboration, crime rates (overall crime continues with downward trends, but homicide is up 12%), the need to improve police/community relations across the country, and the challenge of effective recruiting and retention of police officers—a significant problem here in Vermont.

The department has begun a promotional process that will identify the department's next police sergeant(s). MPD's future is bright given the quality of the department's officers based on their training, character, experience and education. Within the next four to five years, the department does anticipate a significant turn-over due to retirements in key leadership and investigative positions.

TOPICS FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS ...

October 12	Community Services Proposal Goal – Vibrant Downtown LDC Board Appointments Water Source Protection Plan Berlin Pond Health Order Issue Stormwater Plan PH and approval Development Agreement Tax Stabilization Application Appoint reformed Transportation Committees MHA appointment MEAC appointment Executive Session: Personnel
October 26	Tax Stabilization Application Junkyard Ordinance 2 nd reading FEAST Discussion Budget Schedule & Targets Parking Plan New Directions presentation

November 9	Goal: Excellent Services Department Update – Police Department Update - Fire
November 16	Construction Summary 2017 Work Goal: Healthy Community Department Update – DPW Department Update – Planning
December 14	Department Update – Community Services Department Update – Governmental Services
December 21	Budget
January 4, 11, 18, 25	Budget, Warning, Public Hearings
Feb 8	Zoning



William J. Fraser
City Manager