

**CITY OF MONTPELIER  
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

**City Manager's Weekly Report – 03/09/2018**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS...**

Monday, March 12	Planning Commission, 5:00 P.M., Memorial Room
Monday March 12	Recreation Board, 5:30 P.M., Recreation Center
Tuesday, March 13	ADA Committee, 10:00 A.M., City Manager's Conference Rm.
Tuesday, March 13	Historic Preservation, 6:30 P.M., City Manager's Conference Rm.
Tuesday, March 13	Transportation Infrastructure Committee, 6:30 P.M., Police Department Community Room
<b>Wednesday March 14</b>	<b>City Council, 6:30 P.M., City Council Chambers</b>
Thursday, March 15	Housing Task Force, 5:15 P.M., City Manager's Conference Rm.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...**

**Annual Meeting/Election**

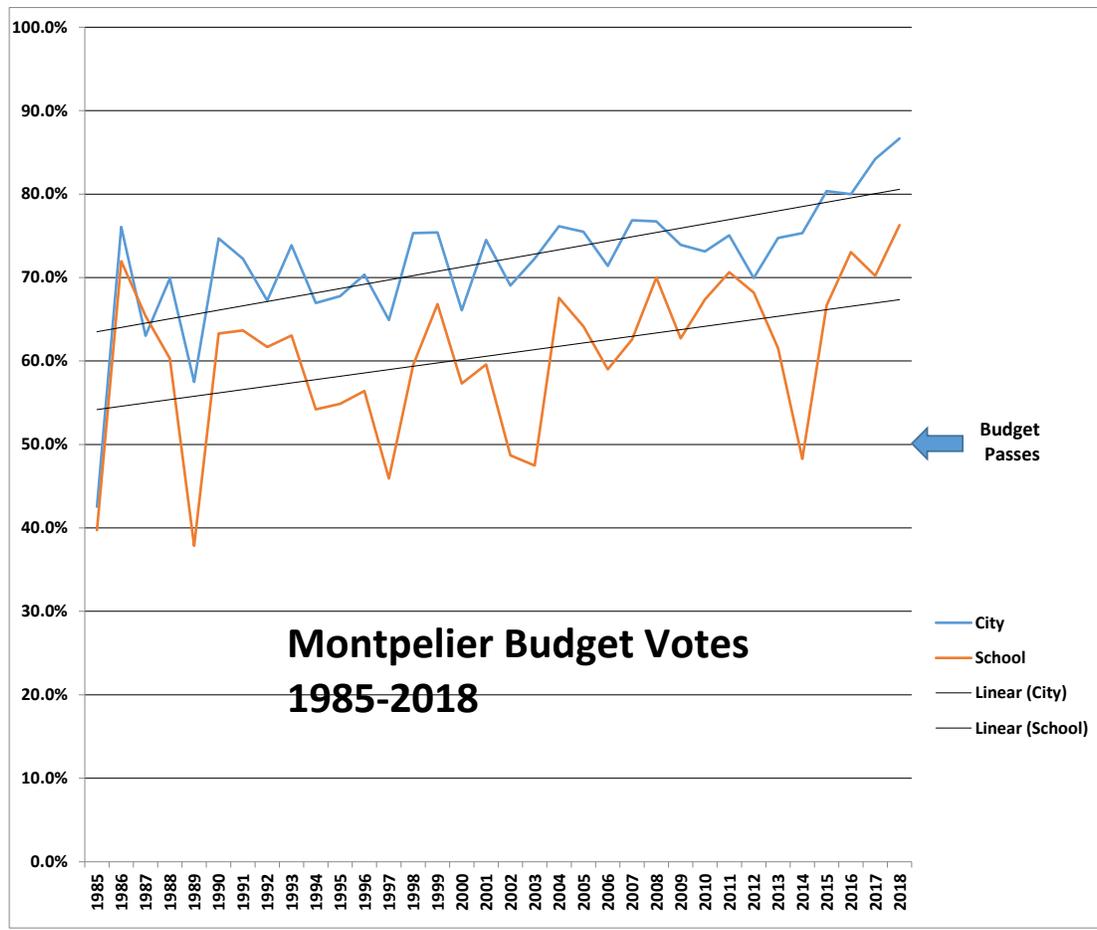
Congratulations to Mayor Watson and Council Members Bate, Casey and Hutcheson on their elections. We welcome the new council members.

The trend of strong public support for financial items continued. The chart below shows the percentage of "Yes" votes on city and school budgets since 1985. I track back to 1985 because that is the last time the city budget was defeated.

The city budget received 86.7% yes votes. This exceeds the 84.2% from last year and 80% from the previous two years. Prior to 2015, city budget approval had never reached the 80% threshold (77% in 2007 was the previous high since '85).

The school budget received 76.3% approval – also a high since '85. This is up from 70% last year. The previous highs had been 73% in 2016 and 72% back in 1986.

The two city bonds received 89.4% and 89.3% approval votes. The school bond received 74.6% approval.



**District 2 Council Seat**

With Mayor Watson’s election, her District 2 council seat is now vacated. The City Charter says the following about this situation:

§ 303. VACANCY IN OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER

*A vacancy on the City Council shall occur upon the death, removal from the district, inability to serve, or resignation of a Council member. A vacancy in the office of Council member with more than 90 days of unexpired term remaining shall be filled by the remaining members of the City Council. At the next annual meeting of the City, the unexpired term of the office shall be filled by election for the balance of the unexpired term. The Council may remove a Council member who has unexcused absences at four or more consecutive Council meetings upon approval of two-thirds of the Council.*

As you can see, the charter leaves any particular process or requirements for filling a vacancy solely in the discretion of the City Council. This item is on next week’s agenda.

This scenario has occurred four times during my 23 year tenure. On the last two occasions, the council required applicants to obtain the same 25 signatures as an electoral candidate.

**One Taylor Street/Mowatt Project**

Remains on schedule. Demolition of the Association for the Blind Building and Montpelier Beverage, as well as the overall site plan for the Mowatt lot, will be reviewed again – and hopefully approved --

by the Development Review Board on March 19.

### **Capitol Plaza Project**

The Capitol Plaza was granted approval by the Design Review Committee on Monday for the hotel and parking garage proposal. This project now requires the approval of the Development Review Board.

### **TIF**

We continue to work closely with White and Burke to determine what infrastructure projects would be required to spark growth – housing and economic development – in the City's growth district (specifically downtown and along Barre Street, and the intersection of Barre and Main Streets); as well as the value to the grand list of that development to ensure taxpayers are protected if the Council moves forward with a Tax Increment Financing District.

### **Ice Rink**

Given the warm temperatures and forecast, the State House ice rink has closed for the season. It was open for nearly three months, and this year it was well used (it was fun to see the little kids leaning on milk crates as they learned to skate). Removal takes a bit of time, so the rink won't disappear immediately. We are working with the State now to plan for coming years, and will keep Council posted.

### **Legal**

We continue to work on the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) appeal of the discharge permit renewal for the Montpelier Water Resource Recovery Facility (one of eight permits under appeal) as issued by the VT Agency of Natural Resources. Parties have exchanged discovery requests (interrogatories) and engaging in settlement discussions. City represented by Joseph McLean, Esq., Stitzel, Page & Fletcher, P.C.

## **WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...**

### **Fire Department and Police Department**

Our thanks to Fire and Police for their assistance and escort for the Amanda Pelkey parade today (Friday). It made the route safer, and certainly more celebratory.

### **Public Works**

We have been repainting some of the interior hallways in City Hall this winter, and the main floor and stair cases looked really fresh and clean for Town Meeting Day. There are a few more areas to go.

Seeking Input For Walking And Biking Improvements On Main and Barre Streets

<http://www.montpelier-vt.org/999/Main-and-Barre-Street-Corridors>

### **Finance Department**

I would like to thank the voters of Montpelier for their overwhelming support of all ballot items at the Annual Meeting. I would also like to congratulate Mayor Anne Watson and Councilor Dona Bate on their election victories! We look forward to continuing to work with both of them. I would also like to congratulate and welcome Councilors Connor Casey and Glen Coburn Hutcheson to City Council.

As a reminder, water and sewer bills are due on Thursday March 15, 2018. Payments may be made via mail, in person in the City Clerk's office, online at [www.montpelier-vt.org](http://www.montpelier-vt.org) or by using the drop box to

the left of the rear entrance to City Hall.

You may also enroll in automatic payments by submitting a completed enrollment form located here:  
<http://www.montpelier-vt.org/documentcenter/view/4532>

## **Community Services**

### Senior Activity Center thanks Supporting Town Voters!

In addition to Montpelier voters who voted on Town Meeting Day in support of the city budget, we extend a special thank you to all the voters of Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, Moretown and Worcester who voted yes when asked to financially support Montpelier Senior Activity Center again. We are happy to continue serving your residents with affordable and diverse programming and services, and to offer them lower annual dues and early registration privileges.

### Upcoming Event at MSAC: How to be an Effective Health Care Agent Tuesday, March 13, 6:30-8pm in MSAC's Community Room at 58 Barre Street

Being a health care agent (HCA) is an enormous responsibility. In this workshop we will cover what is expected of a HCA, how to prepare to be a HCA with the person who asks you, how to explain your role to other family and loved ones, and how to carry out what can be a very challenging role. This workshop requires your participation, so come prepared with questions, concerns, and a willingness to engage. Led by Michelle Acciavatti, End of Life Specialist at Ending Well. Free and open to the public.

### Spring and Summer Programs for All Ages, Interests, and Schedules!

Registration for spring programs continues! Many classes are scheduled in the evening and on weekends to fit schedules of working people. We also have offsite classes in several supporting towns: Berlin, Middlesex and Worcester. Find our full Program Guide online at [www.montpelierrec.org](http://www.montpelierrec.org) or at our office at 58 Barre Street.

### Lunch with a City Official: City Clerk John Odum | Tuesday, March 13, 12:30-1:30pm at MSAC

Along with being the election administrator for the last six years, John just got his CEH certification (Certified Ethical Hacker). This credential strengthens his expertise in election security. Join John to learn more about the CEH field in general and about our city's 2018 elections in particular. Scheduled one week after Town Meeting voting! Optional FEAST lunch.

### Hiring Summer Staff

We have summer pool and camp positions available. Applications can be picked up at the Montpelier Recreation Department (58 Barre Street) between 9am-4pm or on our website. For more information please contact our office at 225-8699 or visit [www.montpelierrec.org/jobs](http://www.montpelierrec.org/jobs). Montpelier Recreation is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Apply by March 31!

**TOPICS FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS...**

<b>Mar. 14</b>	Organizational Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elect Officers</li> <li>• Ethics Policy</li> <li>• Rules of Procedure</li> <li>• Orientation/Information</li> </ul> Goals process & schedule Council committee appointments District 2 Council Seat Audit CVSWMD appointments	<b>Mar. 28</b>	Apartment inspections Army Corps update
<b>April 11</b>	Design Review Committee Appt. Tree Board Appointments	<b>April 25</b>	Water Resource Recovery Facility
<b>May 9</b>	Project Development Plan TIF?		



William Fraser  
 City Manager