

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report –7/23/10

UPCOMING MEETINGS ...

- ❖ **Planning Commission:** Monday, July 26th, at 7:00 P.M. (Cancelled).
- ❖ **Design review Committee:** Tuesday, July 27th, at 5:30P.M. (Cancelled).
- ❖ **City Council:** Wednesday, July 28th, at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

STATUS REPORTS ...

Reappraisal:

The final total of official grievances was 339 including those submitted only in writing without a hearing. Hearings conclude today and then the Assessor will begin the work of making decisions. We have also been in discussions with officials and attorneys from Vermont College of the Fine Arts with regard to their tax exempt status. Attorney Glenn Howland will review their information and make a recommendation to the Assessor about how to properly list these properties.

Berlin Pond Ordinances:

Attorney Giuliani has provided revised drafts of the Berlin Pond Ordinance and Health Order which you have received. He will be present on the 28th.

Flood Mitigation Study:

Work is beginning on this study. The first thing to be completed is a full inventory of structures (and their value) within the flood plain. This work is being done by DuBois & King on behalf of the city. They will utilize new appraisal information but still will need to make some physical exterior inspections to determine the lowest point of possible water entry on buildings and to characterize building contents (generally, like noting that it's a jewelry store or a stationery store or a clothing store, not a full contents inspection). Nonetheless people may see D & K employees looking at buildings, taking pictures etc. This is not part of the reappraisal but a separate project!

Hubbard Street Slope:

Final documents are being completed. The bid date will be August 3rd. At the July 28th meeting we will seek authorization to award the bid on the 3rd pending available funds and proper bid submissions. We will, of course, report the results and numbers to you before making a final award. However, waiting until the August 11 meeting is a problem because a lot of the work needs to be done prior to the opening of school on August 26th.

Police Negotiations:

We met with the union on Wednesday and reached a framework for a potential agreement. We will review this at the meeting. We have a follow up session scheduled for August 10th to, hopefully, wrap everything up.

Montpelier Net:

We have closed down the network and are no longer providing service. Summit Technologies has agreed to remove all of the installed equipment in exchange for the right to keep or resell any of it. Attorney Giuliani has drafted an asset assignment agreement. Adoption of that agreement will completely end the city's involvement with Montpelier Net.

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Planning Commission:

Terms of three Commissioners expire this week and we missed this at our end. I've placed an item on the agenda to extend these existing terms until August 25th. We will advertise and schedule full appointment of these slots at your Master Plan hearing on the 25th.

Rail Lease near Montpelier Beverage:

VTrans has scheduled a meeting with us for 9 AM on Monday morning to review their map and documentation about public access. I will continue to request that the lease cancellation be postponed until all details can be resolved.

Charter Changes:

I will schedule time on the July 28 and August 11 meetings for discussion about possible charter changes and ballot items for the November election. That will allow time for language to be adopted and filed with the Clerk on September 8th.

Upcoming Meetings:

August 3	DOE Public Hearing on District Energy environmental assessment.
August 11	Set tax rate Cash Flow Events policy Discuss Economic Development Committee Structure Possible charter changes/ballot items Langdon Street Festival Requests Elks Club/Montpelier-palooza Festival Requests
August 25	Master Plan – 1 st Public Hearing Appoint Planning Commission members
September 8	Master Plan – 2 nd Public Hearing Finalize charter changes, ballot items Water/sewer ordinance resolution changes

William Fraser
City Manager