

**CITY OF MONTPELIER  
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

**City Manager's Weekly Report – 2/06/2015**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS ...**

- **Planning Commission Meeting:** Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.
- **Regular City Council Meeting:** Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.
- **Sprinkler Committee Meeting:** Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 P.M. in the City Manager's Conference Room.

**FOR YOUR CALENDAR ...**

- **Pre Town Meeting:** Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M., at the Montpelier Senior Activity Center, 58 Barre Street.

**ATTACHMENTS ...**

 *None this week*

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

**1 Taylor Street**

The team recommendation for DEW as Construction Manager at risk is on the agenda with supporting memo. We were fortunate to have three excellent firms – DEW, PC Construction (Pizzagalli) and Engleberth Construction – as finalists.

Having a CM in place means that more specific project budgets can be developed as we move into permitting and design. The earlier we identify cost issues, the earlier we can make adjustments with less disruption.

**Public Works Director**

This process just has some final wrap up to be completed. I expect to make an announcement at the Council meeting on Wednesday.

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## Union Negotiations

I think that we are closing in on a possible agreement with the Police Union. Their team has been working on the City's most recent (January 8<sup>th</sup>) proposal.

We need to begin discussions with the Fire Union. Their contract expires on June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year.

## Council Handbook

In anticipation of a new Council "year" beginning on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, staff is preparing a comprehensive handbook for Council Members with information about department operations, roles, policies, etc. It will also be available on line as an information resource for others.

## Legal

*Hallsmith vs. City, Fraser, Baker* – Appealed to Supreme Court. Represented by Bernie Lambek. Oral arguments were held on December 18, 2014. Awaiting decision

*VCFA vs. City, Tax Appeal*. –discovery from VCFA due today. Represented by Robert Fletcher.

*Steuernwald vs. Fraser, Cleveland, City* –Motions being filed. Represented by Nancy Sheahan through VLCT.

*Bettis/Powers vs. Bean* – Motions being filed. Represented by Nancy Sheahan through VLCT.

*Illuzzi vs. City, Law, Motyka, Renaud Bros.* – Suit filed today regarding damage to a building allegedly caused by work done by the city. Represented by Jim Carroll through VLCT.

## WEEKLY UPDATES FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

### Planning and Community Development Department Highlights:

**Review of Solar Contract:** The MEAC Solar RFP Subcommittee met with our attorney and groSolar to review the draft contract. Most areas of disagreement were resolved and hope to have a final contract ready in a few weeks.

**Zoning Update:** The Planning Commission continues to meet to review the draft zoning bylaws. A final first draft is expected by the end of March when more extensive outreach will begin before adoption in the summer.

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**Grant Applications:** In the fall, the City applied for 4 grants.

- Municipal Planning Grant (submitted September 30<sup>th</sup>) to finish zoning bylaws with Brandy was approved.
- Strong Communities Better Connections (submitted October 3<sup>rd</sup>) to develop design standards for our streets that will combine everything we will learn from the Bike Ped Master Plan, Stormwater Master Plan, Greening Americas Capitals Grant, and other projects into a single master plan. That application was not funded.
- Regional Economic Development Grant (submitted October 10<sup>th</sup>) is the best grant we have found so far which may be used for the development of an Economic Development Strategic Plan (EDSP). That grant was not funded.
- Transportation Enhancement Grant (submitted October 16<sup>th</sup>) to develop construction documents and permitting for the North Branch Parking Structure. That grant was announced this week, and we were not funded.
- We have recently applied for an NEA Arts Grant and are preparing applications for CLG (Certified Local Government) to complete the Historic District revision that was nearly completed in 2010 and a Downtown Transportation Grant to work on streetscape improvements to Taylor Street.

**Greening Americas Capitals:** Final report is expected in the next month.

**Montpelier in Motion:** Plan to have final Council presentation in March.

**Stormwater Master Plan:** Donna Casey has prepared an RFP for release. Plans are to have a consultant on board before June.

**Parking Counts:** In an effort to understand parking demands, staff has started daily parking counts in the downtown core which will continue through at least July.

## TOPICS FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS ...

February 11

Review of Flood Mitigation Plan  
One Taylor – Approve Construction Manager  
Montpelier Energy Committee Appointments  
Bicycle Committee Appointments  
Montpelier River Park  
Liquor Licenses (Renewals)  
Executive Session on Contracts  
City Manager's Review

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February 17	Pre-Town Meeting Forum at Senior Center 7:00 PM
February 18	City Manager's Review (cont'd.)
March 3	City Meeting Election
March 10	Organizational Meeting Rules of Procedure Ethics Policy Montpelier in Motion
March 24	Goals and Priorities



William J. Fraser  
City Manager