

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 11/13/2015

UPCOMING MEETINGS ...

- Monday, November 16th Development Review Board Meeting, 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers

- Tuesday, November 17th Design Review Committee Meeting, 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers

Energy Advisory Committee Meeting, 7:00 P.M. in the Memorial Room

- Wednesday, November 18th **Continuation of Hallsmith Hearing, 10:00 A.M. in the City Council Chambers**

Special City Council Meeting, 6:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers

- Thursday, November 19th Housing Task Force Meeting, 5:15 P.M. in the City Council Chambers

“Friends of the Winooski” Meeting, 6:00 P.M. in the City Manager’s Conference Room

FOR YOUR CALENDARS ...

- ✓ Thursday, January 28, 2016 Welcome Legislators Reception, Capitol Plaza (Governor’s Ballroom), 5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

ATTACHMENTS ...

 *None this week*

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT ...

One Taylor

Appraisals are being completed now; expect State approval by mid-November. Grant opportunities to support funding remain hopeful. The Infrastructure Bond for the budget will need to include additional matching funds as planned. As you know, the Mowatt Hearing has been continued until December 14th.

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Budget

Please see attached information on Local Options Taxes, as well as a summary of budget status based on last meeting's discussion.

Charter Change Timeline

The Statutes allow for Charter amendments to be initiated either by the legislative body (the City Council) or by petition of five percent of the registered voters. The hearing and adoption process is similar but not identical, depending on how the amendment is initiated. For our purposes, I will focus on amendments proposed by the Council.

- 1) The first requirement is that an official copy of the proposed Charter amendments must be filed with the City Clerk at least 10 days prior to the first public hearing on the amendment. That means that a draft of the amendment must be on a Council agenda in sufficient time to allow for formal adoption of the item and the timely filing of that item with the Clerk.
- 2) Charter amendments require two public hearings. The first public hearing **MUST** be held more than 30 days prior to voting day. The second must be held in advance of the election, but the timing is otherwise not specified.
- 3) If the Council changes the proposed amendment based on comments heard at the first public hearing, the revisions must be posted publicly and filed with the Clerk at least 20 days prior to the election day.
- 4) Otherwise, notices of the Charter change must be warned and publicized in the same manner as the Annual or Special Town Meeting.

Using Wednesdays, the following dates meet the Statutory timing requirements:

Council Discussion	November 18th
Approve Language, File with Clerk	December 9 th or December 16 th
Officially Warn Special City Meeting, Conduct First Public Hearing 30 Days Prior to Election Date	January 13, 2016 or January 21, 2015
Deadline for Revisions After 1st Public Hearing 20 Days Prior to Election	February 10, 2016

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Conduct Second Public Hearing February 10, 17 or 24

Voting Day March 1, 2016

30 Day Period for Reconsideration Ending March 31, 2016

Legal

VCFA vs. City, Tax Appeal. – Motions for Summary Judgment were filed by both parties on June 15. Represented by Robert Fletcher.

Illuzzi vs. City, Law, Motyka, Renaud Bros. – Motions have been filed. Going into mediation. Represented by Constance Tryon Bell through VLCT.

Hallsmith Grievance Hearing is continued until November 18, 2015 at 10:00 AM. Michael Marks is serving as the neutral hearing officer.

WEEKLY UPDATES FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Public Works Department

Montpelier Water System – Musty Smell and Taste Issue:

About two weeks have now passed since the Water Treatment Facility implemented the recommended remedies to address the unpalatable water system issues. DPW staff calculates that it takes about 15 days for the water storage reservoirs and distribution system to completely turn over and be replaced with new water flows. Staff has observed that no new complaints have been received since the improvements were made with one person commenting that the issue has been addressed. This person told us, "Sometime over the past week, the odor and taste issue completely went away". The City often hears about what is wrong but less is said when something is ok, and we assume that no news often can mean good news. As the winter months approach and the organic load affecting taste and odors naturally decreases in the water source, the Treatment Plant will begin reducing the amount of activated carbon in the finished water process. The amount of carbon used to flush out the system was at plant capacity and this reduction will be phased in over the next several weeks. Public Works expects the water quality will now remain stable but will continue to monitor all aspects of the system.

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TOPICS FOR UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS ...

November 18

Continuation of Hallsmith Hearing at 10:00 A.M.

November 18

Heaton Woods Community Development Loan
Stormwater Master Plan
Budget discussion
Berlin Pond Charter Change
Montpelier Foundation
Executive Session: Manager's 6-month Review
Real Estate Discussion

December 9

Budget
Adopt Charter Language for Pond (if proceeding)
Kellogg-Hubbard Library
Mountaineers Lease (tentative)

December 14

Continuation of Mowatt Hearing at 6:30 P.M.

December 16

Budget

January 6, 2016

Budget

January 13

1st Public Hearing on Budget
1st Public Hearing on Warning
Public Hearing on Charter Change
Necessity Resolution for Bond
Public Hearing for Bond

January 21 (Thursday)

2nd Public Hearing on Budget & Adoption
2nd Public Hearing on Warning & Adoption
Deadline for Petitioned Items
Public Hearing for Bond



William J. Fraser
City Manager