

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 2/10/2017

UPCOMING MEETINGS ...

Monday, February 13 Montpelier Senior Activity Center Advisory Council,
12:00 noon to 1:00 P.M. in the Center's Resource
Room (different day than usually scheduled)

Special City Council Meeting (Executive Session) at
4:30 P.M. in the City Manager's Conference Room

Planning Commission, 5:30 P.M. in the City Council
Chambers

Wednesday, February 15 Public Meeting – 2017 Reconstruction of Northfield
Street, 5:30 – 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers
(See attached flyer.)

Thursday, February 16 Housing Task Force, 5:15 P.M. in the City Manager's
Conference Room

ATTACHMENTS ...

 Public Meeting: 2017 Reconstruction of Northfield Street

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT ...

Assistant City Manager

As requested, I forwarded you the job description used in 2013. This will be updated shortly. Following up on the conversation, while I haven't done an exhaustive search the following communities have Assistant Managers or Administrative Service Directors: Barre Town, Brattleboro, Colchester, Essex, Middlebury, Shelburne, Saint Albans City, Saint Johnsbury & South Burlington.

One Taylor

The full project team is meeting on the 14th to review the updated cost estimates and revised schedule. Work is wrapping up on the retaining wall.

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Our internal team met yesterday to sort out assignments with Jessie leaving. We have a full plan for moving forward.

We met today with VTrans and Federal Highway to work through ways to structure a potential Mowatt agreement within federal regulations. We made good progress.

Berlin Pond

Mayor Hollar, Public Works Director McArdle and I are meeting with ANR Secretary Julie Moore on Tuesday to talk about Berlin Pond issues.

Parking Strategy

This report is long overdue but is nearly complete. We expect to present it at one of the March meetings, probably the 22nd, ideally in conjunction with the Net Zero Vermont presentation of the winning design for a sustainable future.

Economic Development

I am told that the MDC has begun interviews with Economic Development Director candidates. In the meantime, the Mayor, Asst. Mgr. Baker, Asst DPW Director Kurt Motyka, WRRF Operator Chris Cox and I met with the business with whom we have been having ongoing discussions. It was a generally positive discussion which identified some key issues that we need to work through together with them. We are already following up on our end.

Econo Lodge

The State has taken administrative action against the Econo Lodge for failing to meet a deadline submitting a clean up and site improvement plan. In the meantime, I am reviewing drafts of ordinances in other Vermont communities which deal with these situations and will have a recommended draft to you for a March meeting.

Legal

Illuzzi vs City, et al: The VT Superior Court of Washington County issued its "Opinion and Order on Defendant's Motions to Compel, Enlarge, and Amend".

The plaintiff has taken no action since the Opinion & Order was issued. The Court has scheduled a status conference for February 27th in this matter.

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VCFA vs. City, Supreme Court Appeal: The Vermont Supreme Court issued its decision on Friday, February 10th, affirming the Superior Court's October 2016 ruling that Schulmaier Hall at Vermont College of Fine Arts, most of which was rented to agencies of the State of Vermont, was taxable during the 2013 and 2014 tax years. The City was represented by Robert Fletcher.

WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Montpelier Senior Activity Center

Montpelier Senior Activity Center's 50th Anniversary Gala; Save the Date!

Save the date for the Montpelier Senior Activity Center's 50th Anniversary Celebration Gala on Saturday, June 10th at the Capitol Plaza Hotel! It's sure to be a great time, with special guests, a 50th Anniversary presentation, dinner, music by Fred Wilbur, dancing, and fun! Everyone of all ages is welcome. Thank you to Westview Meadows, The Gary Home, and Ben and Jerry's for their support of this event. More information to follow.

Upcoming Events at the Montpelier Senior Activity Center

The Montpelier Senior Activity Center is hosting several great events in February, and you are invited! Learn about Coca Cola's sustainability program and its remarkable 96% recycling rate on Friday, February 17, at 12:30 PM. Enjoy photographs from the Hill Towns of Central Italy on Tuesday, February 28, at 6:30 PM. Both events are free and open to the public! Call us at 223-2518 to learn more or RSVP.

Montpelier Senior Activity Center Receives Grant

Our immense appreciation to The Hoehl Family Foundation for their recent \$10,000 grant in support of Senior Center operations. The Hoehl Family Foundation has now supported the Montpelier Senior Activity Center for two consecutive years. Their support allows us to provide affordable programming to promote healthy aging and lifelong learning in Montpelier and central Vermont.

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DPW Report

Based on the current weather forecast, significant snowfall is expected beginning Sunday afternoon and continuing into Monday. Therefore, we expect to be implementing the on-street winter parking ban on Sunday for plowing operations early Monday morning. All winter operations equipment is operational, and we will have all personnel available to perform the necessary snow removal work.

As soon as possible after the clean-up work is completed, and the crew is sufficiently rested, night-time snow bank removal operations will commence beginning in the downtown district and immediately adjoining high density residential areas such as Barre Street, Elm Street, East State Street, etc. This will be followed by streets in and around Union Elementary and Main Street Middle Schools. Upon completion of these priority areas, we will begin daytime snow bank removal operations by working out into the medium density residential areas concentrating on the narrower streets first.

As of this date, we are a little beyond the mid-point of a “normal” Vermont winter. As of February 10th, overtime costs are at 51% of the budget which is about where we would expect to be for winter operations work even considering the several rain and icing storms received thus far many of which occurred during the night and on weekends / holidays. The amount of salt purchased to this point exceeds our projections with approximately 77.7% of the budget expended at this time. However, we still have 150 tons of salt currently in storage (valued at about \$11,000). If the fluctuating freeze / thaw weather patterns persist with any frequency, including freezing rain and ice storms, the expenditures may exceed the budget. Controls are being fully utilized to manage the dispersal of deicing materials to only that which is necessary to achieve safe roads at safe speeds. Fuel expenditures are at about 36% of the budgeted which should help the bottom line, and equipment repair costs are approximately as expected.

TOPICS FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS ...

February 22

Debt Policy
Fund Balance Policy
Personnel Costs
Langdon Street Alive Update
Paving Ordinances – 2nd Reading
Energy Revolving Fund
Event/Safety

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March 8	Organizational Meeting Elect Officers Rules of Procedure Ethics Policy Discussion of Goal-setting Process Discussion re: Orientation/Retreat Zoning Tax Stabilization – Development Agreement (?)
March 22	Zoning Parking Strategy
April 12	Zoning



William J. Fraser
City Manager

PUBLIC MEETING

2017 Reconstruction of Northfield Street

Significant work is planned for Northfield Street in 2017

- New Water Main & Services
- New Sewer Main and Services
- Sidewalk Replacement & Extension
- Addition of a 5ft bike lane
- Street reconstruction and resurfacing

We invite all interested members of the Montpelier community to a PUBLIC MEETING to learn more and provide input on this construction project.

WHEN: Wednesday, February 15, 2017
5:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

WHERE: City Council Chambers, City Hall (39 Main Street)

WHAT: Discussion will include

- * Current project plans
- * Timing of construction
- * Detours planned to accommodate construction
- * Residential Access Impacts
- * Public Outreach

Questions? Contact City Engineer, Kurt Motyka at kmotyka@montpelier-vt.org or Public Works Director, Thomas McArdle at tmcardle@montpelier-vt.org.