

**CITY OF MONTPELIER  
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

**City Manager's Weekly Report – 03/31/2017**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS ...**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Monday, April 3    | Design Review Committee, 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers  |
| Tuesday, April 4   | July 3 <sup>rd</sup> Committee, 12:00 P.M. in the City Manager's Conference Room<br><br>Montpelier's Transportation Infrastructure Committee, 6:00 P.M. in the Memorial Room |
| Wednesday, April 5 | Montpelier Business Association, 8:30 A.M. in the Memorial Room  |

**FOR YOUR CALENDARS ...**

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|-------------------|--|
| Tuesday, April 11 | City Council's Goal Setting Session, 5:30 P.M. in the Police Department Community Room |
| Friday, May 19    | City Council Retreat, Capitol Plaza, 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.                             |
| Monday, May 22    | City Council Retreat Continued, 5:00 – 9:00 P.M.                                       |

**ATTACHMENTS ...**

 *None this week*

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

**Zoning**

Based on the Council discussion this week, you will review the zoning by section at each Council Meeting until completed. Meetings will start at 5:30 P.M. for regular city business. At 6:30, the zoning discussion will start. Each session will begin with a Council Workshop including the Planning Director, followed by public comments. The first meeting will focus on Sections 1 and 2. The second two meetings will focus on Section 3.

# **CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT**

**March 31, 2017**

**Page 2**

## **Goal Setting**

We have established Tuesday, April 11, at 5:30 P.M. in the Police Station Community Room as the date/time for the first Goal Setting Session. I'll re-send the outline next week.

## **Council Retreat**

Thank you all for finding common times for our retreat. Part one will be held on Friday, May 19, from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.; Part two on Monday, May 22, from 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. The location will be a conference room at the Capitol Plaza. More details to come. You can expect to be contacted in advance of these sessions by Delia Clark or Tim Traber to talk through topics with you.

## **Open Meeting Law/Public Records Law Briefing**

VLCT Attorney Sarah Jarvis will present a brief workshop on the Open Meeting Law and Public Records Law at our next meeting, April 12<sup>th</sup>. This session will be held from 5:30 to 6:30, before the zoning discussion. This was suggested as a possible retreat topic but can be handled this way to free up retreat time.

## **Building Issues**

The Mayor and I met with City Attorney Paul Giuliani to discuss legal options for dealing with vacant and dilapidated buildings. Attorney Giuliani is drafting a public nuisance ordinance based on Rutland and Brattleboro among others.

## **Assistant City Manager**

The April 3 deadline is Monday. As of noon on Friday, the 31<sup>st</sup>, I have received 63 applications from 21 states and 2 provinces. Twenty-three are from Vermont, with 11 Montpelier residents. Forty-six are male and 17 are female. I have three other people assisting in the resume review. After Monday, we plan to reduce the field to 8-10 candidates for a more detailed review over the next two weeks. That pool will be reduced to around 4 finalists who will meet with the leadership team and an advisory group of community members, ideally during the last week in April and/or first week in May. Decision, background check, negotiation and offer will be made after that.

# **CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT**

**March 31, 2017**

**Page 3**

## **ICE List**

Much publicity has occurred due to the City being included on a list regarding immigration policy. After close review, we believe that the Police Department's policies and practices fall within both state and federal law while also providing the freedom and welcoming spirit our community wishes to extend.

## **One Taylor Street**

Appraisals for properties related to a Mowatt transaction have been completed and are being reviewed by VTrans. The project is being submitted for local permitting next week. We continue to work hard on the private piece of the project.

## **Economic Development**

MDC Executive Director Joe Evans begins work on Monday. I am meeting with him on Tuesday morning to develop our partnership and review pending projects and issues. We look forward to Joe being on board and the MDC fully up and running.

## **Collective Bargaining**

The Public Works and Police Department Union Contracts expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>. We need to begin bargaining for successor agreements soon. I will schedule a strategy discussion for one of the next two meetings.

## **Berlin Pond**

Rep. Kitzmiller has informed us that the House Government Operations Committee will be taking testimony on the City's Charter Bill on Tuesday afternoon. DPW Director Tom McArdle and our water system consultant Robert Dufresne will testify on behalf of the City.

## **Jed Guertin**

I wish to publicly acknowledge the loss of Jed Guertin and send our condolences to Page and their family. Jed (and Page) went above and beyond on behalf of protecting Berlin Pond. His diligence and passion will be sorely missed.

## **CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT**

March 31, 2017

Page 4

### **Northfield Street Construction Project**

Documents and information related to this project are available here:  
<http://www.montpelier-vt.org/925/Northfield-Street-Reconstruction>

### **Downtown Paving Project**

Information about this project is available here: <http://www.montpelier-vt.org/929/State-Paving-Project-STP29501>

### **Legal**

*Illuzzi vs City, et al:* Status conference requested by Court was convened on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup>. It was concluded that this case will proceed to trial.

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

### **Parks and Trees Report**

Over the last few weeks, Parks staff has started work on design work for the first phase of updating signs in the parks

We just received notice of being awarded a Watershed Grant for \$8700 for a major effort in managing/controlling invasives, especially along the river corridors in our parks along the rivers. This will assist in not only pulling invasives, but purchasing native plants to create buffers to prevent the spread of invasives, displace invasives, as well as provide us the opportunity to hold local workshops so residents can learn how to manage invasives on their properties.

In separate but related news, we also recently got word that we have been granted the award of having a NCCC crew for four weeks in May. This will be a group of 8-10 Americorp members that will assist us with the control of invasives, plantings, trail work improvements and more! Many thanks to Vermont College of Fine Arts for hosting the group. Without that support, the huge assistance from NCCC would not be possible

# CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

March 31, 2017

Page 5

## TOPICS FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS ...

April 11	Goals Workshop
April 12	Open Meetings/Public Records w/VLCT Zoning – Sections 1 & 2 Public Nuisance ordinance – 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading (?) Net Zero/Bridges Concept Street Closure Applications (3) Collective Bargaining Executive Session (if time)
April 26	Zoning – Section 3 Goals Discussion Continued Parking Strategy Dog Ordinance – 1st Reading (?) Public Nuisance Ordinance – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading (?) Appoint Rep to CVRPC
May 10	Zoning – Section 3 Adopt Goals (?)
May 19 and 22	City Council Retreat
May 24	Zoning
June 14	Zoning
June 28 (Possibly 21 <sup>st</sup> ?)	Zoning



William J. Fraser  
City Manager