

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 01/05/2018

UPCOMING MEETINGS...

Monday, January 8	Planning Commission Meeting, 5:30 P.M., City Council Chambers
Monday, January 8	Recreation Board Meeting, 5:30 P.M., Barre Street Recreation Center
Tuesday, January 9	Montpelier Transportation Infrastructure Committee, 6:00 P.M., City Manager's Conference Room
Wednesday, January 10	City Council Meeting, 6:00 P.M. for Council photograph 6:15 P.M. general meeting, City Hall Council Chambers
Thursday, January 11	Conservation Committee, 7:00 P.M., City Council Chambers

ATTACHMENTS...



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...

One Taylor Street

Met this week to review budget. Review of electrical and mechanical bids begins next week. Project remains on schedule. Final permits for all Mowatt related lot line adjustments, demolition and new parking are being prepared now that the new zoning is in place.

State House Ice Skating Rink

Please drive by the State House and see our beautiful rink! Water has been added, and given this weather, we're almost certain to open the rink to skating next week (we need to confirm that the water at the deeper end of the rink thoroughly freezes). Enormous thanks to volunteers Nate Hausman and Kimberley McKee, as well as Arne's Rec Team, Tom's DPW team, and Chief Gowans.

TIF

White + Burke is finalizing an indepth workshop on TIF for next week's meeting. Information will be included with the Council agenda.

Montpelier Business Association

At this month's meeting (on Wednesday), merchants reported a "strong December," although the big winter storm that days before Christmas kept shoppers away on what should have been big

pre-Xmas shopping days. The business owners didn't seem down about the month, but instead talked about promotions that are working (moving Moonlight Madness from Thursday to Friday, for example, was a big success) and re-thinking inventory to be more competitive with Amazon. They felt good about the economic health of downtown, and specifically noted that recent business closures have been forced by individual circumstances rather than on-line competition. They found that the closing of ORS really galvanized some local residents to make a point of supporting downtown businesses.

Water Resource Recovery Facility Project

I am delaying the planned workshop for next week on this project. We are still working through numbers and alternatives. DPW Staff and I do not feel that we are in a position to have a productive conversation with Council.

The implication of this decision is that we will not have a bond proposal for this project on the March ballot. There appear to be options which may be better than our own baseline aging infrastructure needs but we will not have full clarity in time for a March vote. This is too large a project to rush without complete vetting. The city has a primary election on August 14th and the general election on November 6th, either of which could include a vote on this project. We could also call a special vote earlier if that makes sense.

We will provide an update on January 24th but it will not be for the purpose of you choosing whether to move forward. Additionally, under separate cover, we will be sending responses to the questions raised by council members.

City Manager's Review

Reminder that this process must be completed by the end of February. We've developed the process and forms. I've added this to the February 14th agenda date. We had talked about a completely separate day but, as of now anyway, the 14th does not look too lengthy. We would still have a couple more weeks in February if needed.

Conservation Law Foundation appeal of the WWTF "Discharge Permit"

Attached please find a memorandum summarizes the pending litigation and the current status of proceedings.

WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Finance Department

The FY19 budget documents are now available on the city website using the following link:
<https://www.montpelier-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/4762>

Water meters are scheduled to be read today (January 5) and bills will be mailed out on or before January 31, 2018 for the second billing of this fiscal year.

Public Works

We're in full snow fighting mode with the entire staff, and fixing an occasional water leak (2 so far, with a possible 3rd now being investigated). We are also watching the river for freeze-up per Chief Gowans' advice, and taking preventative measures to guard against frozen water services. Notices have been issued to those most prone to freeze-up.

Planning Department

The final changes to zoning that were adopted on Wednesday are now available on the city web site.

Community Services

- Most winter classes start the week of January 8; we have space in many evening and weekend classes, and adults of all ages are welcome to register for many classes. Classes occur at many community locations. Our talented roster of instructor includes Megan Pow, Lisa Mase, Hailey Cohn, Suki Ciappara, Rob Mermin, Janice Walrafen, Bill and Carol Pedrick, Janet Ressler, Geoff Beyer and Chelsea Catherine.
- These all-ages Rec classes need more enrollment to run: Chocolate 101 one-time Workshop, Food as Medicine Series, Intro to Creative Writing, HIIT Kick, Fitness Hooping, and Hatha Yoga.
- Older Adult Classes with plenty of space include such diverse options as: Advanced Beginner Guitar, Art Journaling, Zumba (all ages), Bone Builders, Parkinson's Pantomime Project (all ages), Drawing Basics II and Intermediate Beginner Italian.
- Classes on a delayed start schedule, with lots of room to spare, include: Waltz and Rumba (all ages), Quilting for Beginners, Indoor Cycling, and Winter is Here – Stay Healthy with Food as Medicine (all ages).
- Youth classes starting soon (register ASAP) with space include new offerings in Unicycling, All-Species Puppet-making, Deliciously Nourishing Snacks series and Acroyoga.
- To register, stop by 58 Barre Street, call 223-2518, or visit www.montpelier-vt.org/cs to register online.

Special Events at 58 Barre Street

- **Art Exhibit by Merry Schmidt:** January 2-February 12. Merry Schmidt has hung a beautiful, first-time exhibit of her watercolor paintings at 58 Barre Street, and will donate 15% of sale proceeds to MSAC.
- **The VT Playwrights Circle Presents Staged Readings:** Sunday, January 7, 2-4pm. Join VPC for an afternoon of staged readings. Actors will present rehearsed readings, scripts in-hand, of three short plays by local authors Jeanne Beckwith, Kim Ward and Nan Prince. The audience will have a chance to discuss the plays and the writing process. For more info, visit www.vtplays.com.
- **American Red Cross Blood Drive:** Wed., January 10, 12:30-5:30pm. The Red Cross Donor Coach will be in front of MSAC at 58 Barre Street. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.
- **Save the Date:** State of VT Lieutenant Governor Dave Zuckerman visits FEAST lunch Tuesday, January 16, 11:30-12:30, to talk with the public and help serve lunch!

Fire Department

TOPICS FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS...

Jan. 10	CVPSA presentation Finalize Budget TIF Workshop	Jan. 17	<i>Optional Meeting Date</i>
Jan. 24	Green Mountain Transit Dog Ordinance, 2 nd Reading Sprinkler Ordinance, 1 st Reading Farmers Market – State St. WRRF update Annual City Meeting requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Public Hearing • Warning Public Hearing • Charter Public Hearing • Bond Public Hearing • Bond Necessity Resolution • Consider petitions • Approve Warning 	Feb. 14	Parklet Ordinance, 2 nd Reading Sprinkler Ordinance, 2 nd Reading Review of Council goals City Manager's Review
Feb. 28	Annual City Meeting Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Information meeting • Warning Information meeting • Charter Information meeting 	Mar 6	Annual City Meeting Election
Mar. 14	Elect Officials Ethics Policy Rules of Procedure Goals process & schedule	Mar. 28	Apartment inspections Army Corps update Project Development Plan Crosswalk Safety



William Fraser
City Manager