


**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 08/24/2018

UPCOMING MEETINGS...

Monday, August 27	Planning Commission, 5:30 PM, Memorial Room
Wednesday, August 29	Public Meeting: Main Street & Barre Street Scoping Study, 6 PM, Council Chambers
Wednesday, August 29	Parking Garage Public Information Session with the City Manager, 6:30 PM, Police Department Community Room

ATTACHMENTS...

 Construction Update for the Week of August 27th

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...

1 Taylor Street

Abatement work has wrapped up on the Mowatt properties (Montpelier Beverage and the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired on Main Street), and demolition is expected to start on Aug 27. Construction has gotten underway at the 1 Taylor site. The first step – and it's huge – is driving the 35-foot steel piles that will support the structure into the ground. If you drive by the site, you will see the first several piles sticking out of the group near Taylor Street. They will continue installing more piles in the coming days. This is a noisy, pounding piece of the project, but should be over quickly.

Capitol Plaza Project

We appreciate the time Council took to go over the project at the last meeting, and will ensure there is plenty of opportunity for the public to learn more and weigh in as we move forward.

TIF

We will hold our final meeting with VEPC next Thursday morning, and are hopeful of receiving approval of our district at that time. We will keep Council informed.

Possible Charter Change

As per the Strategic Plan, the Council asked to consider a potential charter change which would provide local authority to address sustainability issues. Attorney Joe McLean from Stitzel, Page & Fletcher has drafted the following for discussion (currently slated for September 12 agenda).

§ 5-301. Powers and duties of City Council

(a) All powers of the City shall be vested in the City Council, except as otherwise provided by law or this chapter, and the Council shall perform all duties and obligations imposed on the City by law.

(b) In addition, the Council shall have general oversight of the affairs and property of the City not committed by law to the care of any particular officer, including the following powers and duties:

(1) Acquire property, real and personal, within or outside its corporate limits for any lawful purpose and by any lawful means, including condemnation, in fee simple, or any lesser interest of estate, by purchase, gift, devise, lease, or other means of transfer. The Council may also sell, lease, mortgage, hold, manage, and control such property as its interest may require, in accordance with State law.

(2) Promote and safeguard the public health, safety, comfort, or general welfare by the adoption, amendment, or repeal of ordinances and regulations, including the following subjects:

(A) Construction of improvements, including curbs, sidewalks, lighting, and storm drains in a manner specified as a condition precedent for, but not limited to, the issuance of a building permit. The City has power to assess part or all of the expenses of such improvements to the property owners benefited thereby in proportion to respective frontage upon highways or respective values of property or by such standard as determined by the Council. The Council has power to provide for violation or nonperformance.

(B) Regulation or prohibition of any condition, activity, enterprise, public nuisance, or matter concerning promotion of public health, safety, and welfare as permitted by the general law of the State within the City, including any condition, activity, enterprise, public nuisance or matter that promotes or results in unreasonable litter or waste, the degradation of the natural environmental, negative impacts to wildlife, or increased costs, whether tangible or intangible, to City taxpayers and residents to clean-up, manage or recycle as a result of such condition, activity, enterprise, public nuisance or matter. In furtherance thereof, the City shall have the power to impose and collect reasonable and related taxes, charges and fees and to adopt ordinances, regulations and policies that protect, promote and encourage natural resources, wildlife, environmental conservation, sustainability, energy conservation and efficiency.

(C) Licensing of any activity or enterprise as permitted by general law of the State.

Confluence Park

The Mayor asked that we share the attached image to clarify which area is under discussion as a possible confluence park.



Emerald Ash Borer

Asst. City Manager Allen and I met with Tree Warden Beyer this week to seek a workable solution to issue. I am optimistic that a proposal that both the Tree Board and I support can be presented on September 12th.

Legal – No Change

In the appeal by Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) of the City's WWTF discharge permit, the matter has now been fully briefed by all parties, including motions for summary judgment, responses thereto and reply filings. In its submissions to the Court, the City supported the legal briefs filed by the State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) and also filed a separate reply memo addressing the issue of whether the discharge permit authorized an increase in phosphorous, as CLF has claimed. CLF has requested that the Court schedule oral argument on the motions. The Court has granted CLF's request for oral argument on the pending motions and has scheduled that oral argument for July 30, 2018 at Costello Courthouse in Burlington. -The State of Vermont, ANR is being represented by the Attorney General's office. The City is being represented by Joseph McLean, Esq., of Stitzel, Page & Fletcher, P.C.

City of Montpelier Help Wanted

View the latest job opportunities at <https://vt-montpelier.civicplus.com/Jobs.aspx>

WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Public Works

Main Street Water Main Reconstruction:

The contractor is in the process of preparing the street & sidewalk for finish paving and concrete restoration. All work is expected to be substantially completed by Tuesday evening to avoid construction conflicts with the school.

Street Paving Projects (Liberty Street, College Street & Sherwood Drive):

The final wearing course of pavement of Liberty Street is being applied today and College Street is scheduled for tomorrow (Saturday). The contractor has also agreed to pave Park Avenue in the area that will be used as a temporary playground which is also scheduled for today. Crosswalk pavement markings are scheduled to be painted on Liberty & College Streets beginning on Tuesday and we'll be using a thermal plastic durable pavement marking for the mid-block crossings to improve longevity. The final wearing course of pavement for Sherwood Drive is scheduled for Monday provided the sub-contractor completes the curbing in time. DPW has begun backfilling the curbing and will continue backfill and other restoration and touch up work over the next couple of weeks.

Sidewalk Projects:

Concrete sidewalk work is now complete with the exception of a couple of small areas on College Street. We are moving forward with finish paving rather than await the completion because of the difficulty with the pavement scheduling which is heavily dependent on weather. We'll patch in these spots when ready.

Lague Drive Project:

The new water main is now complete and the contractor is beginning work on the street reconstruction and slope stabilization aspects of the project. We anticipate being ready for paving in about three weeks.

Union Elementary School:

Work is wrapping up with paving of Park Ave this week and just a couple of sections of sidewalk remaining to finish. Signs for the new parking ordinances have been installed and we'll be assisting with preparing other signs for the street closure.

"Winooski East" Shared Use Path Project:

The first regular construction meeting was held this week. The contractor, J. Hutchins, Inc. will begin "clearing & grubbing" work to prepare for the railroad track relocation near Granite Street and along Old Country Club Road. Note that access to Old Country Club Rd including the informal foot path will be closed between the

Pioneer dam & Route 2 and will remain closed throughout most of the project due to pedestrian safety concerns and to allow the contractor sufficient access within this very narrow corridor. Work on the railroad relocation is tentatively scheduled to begin in mid-September which is being coordinated with the conclusion of the “rock train” for this season. The schedule is still evolving but the contractor anticipates receiving the necessary approvals to begin the box culvert on Old Country Club Road and hopes to work through part of the winter on the slope modifications and retaining walls between Pioneer Street & Route 2. Relatedly, the coordinated ditching and culvert installation on the Caledonia Spirits property (partially funded by the path project) is nearing completion which will serve as the outlet to the new bio-retention system to be constructed for the shared use path. Completion of the Caledonia Spirits culvert also allows for the new sewer main to be installed and connected to the municipal main on Granite Shed Lane.

Northfield Street Project:

See weekly report

Facilities

The Police Station Cooling System Upgrade project contract was awarded to New England Air Systems.

Community Services

Community Services Fall Program Guide and Registration forms now available online and in person. Registration begins at 9 am on Monday, August 27, 2018 and can be done in person at 58 Barre Street or online at: www.montpelier-vt.org/csregister. Over 80 classes offered weekly.

Prevent Healthcare Fraud and Understand Medicare Rights Friday, August 31, 2018 | 1:00 -2:00pm | MSAC
Wendy Gillander from Community of Vermont Elders (COVE) will be leading an informative talk covering the latest information about Medicare-including new cards- and how the Senior Medicare Project can help avoid and address scams, fraudulent practices and other common challenges.

Stay Steady Kick-off for State of Vermont | Thursday, September 6 | 1:00-3:00pm
September is National Falls Prevention Month and we're kicking it off with a Stay Steady Event! Opening remarks begin at 1:30pm and volunteer Physical Therapist will be offering individualized screenings throughout the events. First come, first serve and free!

August Parkapalooza event

This Sunday, we are excited to welcome “The Big Takeover” to our stage in Hubbard Park. “The Big Takeover”, a Hudson valley based reggae band, is said to “heat up its classic reggae and ska stylings with a horn-powered Motown bounce and pop verve straight from the 1960’s and 70’s” by Pulse Magazine. So come on out on Sunday from 3 – 6pm and end your weekend with the jazzy, upbeat sounds from the Big Takeover.

PH International Volunteers lend a helping hand in Community Services Department

This past Wednesday, we had a group of 22 college-aged volunteers through a group called PH International who came and helped us do trail work and invasive removal, along with doing some clean up at the Recreation Pool House. Despite some on and off rain, with the help of these volunteers, significant and key work was accomplished – many swales were made to get water off the trails and hundreds of invasive plants were pulled. We also had some fun cultural and political discussions and so appreciate their efforts to help our parks!

Update on Emerald Ash Borer

Parks and Trees has some done some assessment of ash trees along the bike path, and while some ash trees were found to be in decline, there was no clear or advanced sign of the presence of the ash borer.

FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS...

<p>Aug. 22</p>	<p>Parking Garage Update - CM Recreation Feasibility Study - ACM Emerald Ash Borer recommendation - CM Parklet Ordinance – 1st reading - CM UES ordinances – 1st reading - DPW Committee Appointments: - ATCM -Social & Economic Justice Advisory -Housing Authority</p>	<p>Sept 12</p>	<p>WRRF Update incl, Energy Generation - DPW Charter Changes – Clerk Emerald Ash Borer – Tree Board UES ordinances – 2nd reading - DPW Committee Appointments: - ATCM -Complete Streets Committee -Historic Preservation Commission -Community Fund Board -EC Fiber rep -Investment Committee Discussion of Investment Policy (no action) Manager check in – CM Water-sewer rates – Finance Adopt indicators – CM Wayfinding Plan - MA</p>
<p>Sept 26</p>	<p>Committee Appointments: ATCM -Planning Commission -Design Review Committee Permit Process Report – P&D Parklet Ordinance – 1st reading - CM Communications Strategy – ACM Zoning Fixes – P & D VLCT Policy - CM</p>	<p>Oct 3.</p>	<p>Special Meeting – warn special election CM Bond & Charter change public hearings Necessity resolutions</p>
<p>Oct 10</p>	<p>Housing Authority appointments ATCM Update on Energy Efficiency Efforts - Facilities Parklet Ordinance – 2nd reading - CM Strategic Plan/Envisio Progress report -CM</p>	<p>Oct 24</p>	<p>Art Synergy Master Plan – P&D Rec Center Study – ACM/CS MTIC appointments - ATCM Parking Plan Status Report– P&D Zoning Fixes – P&D Budget workshop w/survey Finance Body Cam Policy (budget) –MPD Stormwater update -- DPW</p>
<p>Oct 31 (btw Oct 27-Nov 5)</p>	<p>Special Meeting – Public Information session for special election items CM</p>	<p>Nov 14</p>	<p>Budget Guidelines Finance Budget Schedule Finance Community Profile ACM CVPSA Board Presentation</p>
<p>Nov 28</p>	<p>Report on PCI Targets DPW Main/Barre Corridor Study DPW Personnel Plan Revision – CM/Finance Master Plan Update – P&D</p>	<p>Dec 12</p>	<p>Budget Finance/CM Plastic Bag Ban charter change CM Official Map P&D Complete Streets Plan DPW</p>
<p>Dec 19</p>	<p>Budget Finance/CM Economic Development Summary P&D MDC goals/measures CM/MDC Housing Strategy (Purchasing land?) P&D Sabins Pasture Plan CM/P&D Tax Stabilization Policy CM/P&D/MDC Storefront Incentives CM/P&D Livable Wage/Min wage ordinances CM</p>	<p>Jan 2</p>	<p>Budget if needed Finance/CM</p>
<p>Jan 9</p>	<p>Budget Finance/CM Voluntary rental inspection program P&D</p>	<p>Jan 16</p>	<p>Budget public hearing CM Warning Public hearing CM</p>

			Riverfront Access plan P&D District heat summer operations plan ACM
Jan 24 (Thurs)	Budget public hearing CM Warning Public hearing CM Charter Public hearing CM Bond public hearing/necessity res. CM Approve warning CM Audit Report - Finance	Feb 13	Restructure revolving loan funds P&D Complete Ordinance review – 1 st reading ATCM Manager Review CM
Feb 27	Main/Barre Implementation Plan DPW Ordinance review – 2 nd reading ATCM		

Not calendared as agenda items:

- Utilize TIF for applicable projects
- Reconstitute council budget survey **CM**
- Implement municipal facility best practices for stormwater **DPW**
- Ensure any new facility or renovation meets net zero goals **Facilities**
- Publish and Post resources for landlords and tenants **ACM/P&D**
- Conduct public outreach about housing rights and issues **ACM/P&D**
- Add public dashboard from Envisio (October) **ATCM**
- Community workshops on social justice if approved by council
- Continue W/S master plan **DPW**
- Continue planning for CSO elimination **DPW**
- Seek grants for EV Charging stations **P&D**
- Employee parking incentive (possibly with Oct 24 parking plan) **ACM/P&D**
- Substance Abuse prevention program with schools **CS**

For Budget:

- Upgrade street lights to LED **DPW**
- Consider Net Zero fund/benefit charge **CM/MEAC**
- Seek funding to expand COSA to work with DCF families **CJC**
- Prioritize non-fossil fuel based vehicles in equipment plan **DPW/Finance**
- One Taylor Street – develop & Fund maintenance plan **DPW**
- Evaluate compatible fuel match **DPW**
- Police staffing and training **MPD**
- Replace aging fire vehicles **MFD**
- Facility Management **CM/Facilities**
- Community Services integration and staffing **ACM/CS**

Pending Meeting items:

- Parks tour and meeting with Parks Commission
- Open Meeting/Public records briefing



William Fraser
City Manager

Construction Update: Montpelier Transportation Projects
Proposed Schedule Week of 8/27/18

Street Paving Projects (Liberty Street, College Street & Sherwood Drive):

The final wearing course of pavement of Liberty Street is being applied today, Friday and College Street is scheduled for tomorrow (Saturday). The contractor has also agreed to pave Park Avenue in the area that will be used as a temporary playground which is also scheduled for today. Crosswalk pavement markings are scheduled to be painted on Liberty & College Streets beginning on Tuesday and we'll be using a thermal plastic durable pavement marking for the mid-block crossings to improve longevity. The final wearing course of pavement for Sherwood Drive is scheduled for Monday provided the sub-contractor completes the curbing in time. DPW has begun backfilling the curbing and will continue backfill and other restoration and touch up work over the next couple of weeks.

***VTrans work: Milling will occur near Independence Drive tomorrow. Please see update below for specifics.**

*****For residents of the Freedom Drive and Independence Green neighborhood who would like a detour pass for the remainder of the project please email gmackey@montpelier-vt.org with following information: *******

- 1) "detour pass" in the subject line
- 2) house address
- 3) license plate number for each vehicle needing a pass

*Driveway Access: Construction activities may block driveway entrances for short periods of time as the operations move through the construction area. If crews are working across your driveway entrance and you need to enter or exit, please ask that your needs be communicated to a project supervisor.

VTRANS PROJECT UPDATE:

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY: Crews will be off of the roadway by noon on Friday, 8/31 in observance of the Labor Day holiday. Work will resume on Tuesday, 9/4/18 at 7:00 AM.

Sidewalk work at the corner of Vine and Elm is scheduled for completion by the end of the day today.

Crews will be working on the curbing along Northfield St. from the intersection of Routes 12 and 2 heading up the hill towards Derby Dr. Preparation for this work is occurring today, and curbing will be done tomorrow. A one-way alternating traffic pattern will be in place around work zones. Flaggers and traffic control personnel will be onsite directing the flow of traffic.

Milling along Northfield St. from Independence Drive to the State Highway limits is scheduled to take place tomorrow (Friday, 8/24). This work will require an alternating one-way traffic pattern within the work zone.

Removal of old cold-patch asphalt along Northfield is scheduled to be replaced and will be paved with base course asphalt. This work will also require alternating one-way traffic.

Miscellaneous work throughout city will be completed throughout the week of 8/27/18 and should have minimal to no effect on traffic.

Please focus on safety when driving through the construction work zone and remember, it is against the law to use a hand held cell phone while driving in Vermont.

Contact Natalie Boyle, Project Outreach Coordinator, EIV Technical Services, with any questions or concerns in regard to this project at 802-855-3893 or nboyle@eivtech.com