

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 9/7/2018

UPCOMING MEETINGS...

Monday, September 10	Recreation Board, 5:30 PM, Barre St. Recreation Center
Monday, September 11	Historic Preservation, 6:30 PM, City Manager's Conference Rm
Wednesday, September 12	City Council, 6:30 PM, City Council Chambers
Thursday, September 13	Conservation Commission, 7 PM, City Council Chambers

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...

1 Taylor Street

Demolition is underway on the Montpelier Beverage and VABVI buildings. Montpelier Beverage building is virtually done; VABVI is next on the list. Construction is underway at the 1 Taylor site.

Public Parking Garage

Several Council members attended the City Manager's public information session on Wednesday, where I presented information about the proposed garage and took questions from the public. The meeting was well attended and people asked good questions. We have added a Proposed City Parking Garage site prominently on the City's Web page which provides basic information and answers some of the questions asked. We'll keep it updated as more information becomes available. I visited the St. Albans public garage this week and learned a great deal about operation, maintenance, funding and more.

We're preparing a decision matrix for some of the key issues and will likely include it as an "add on" item for next week's memo. We getting design analysis on some of the suggestions that have been made.

Possible Charter Change – No 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.

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>

View the latest City committee vacancies at <http://www.montpelier-vt.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?CID=22>

WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Fire Department

Last weekend our EMTs and paramedic responded to a male hockey player in cardiac arrest at the Civic Center. Our EMTs and paramedic successfully revived the patient, transported him to the hospital, and he has since been released from the hospital. This incident is another reminder of the great work done by our experienced Public Safety personnel. Responding to the call was Lt. Leon Eggleston, Firefighter/ EMT Chad Morse, and Firefighter/Paramedic Mark Truedson. (On a personal note, this was a friend of mine, which was a reminder to me that these are our neighbors, friends and family members whose lives are being saved by our EMTs. Thank you Chad, Leon and Mark! Sue)

Police Department

On Thursday, Chief Facos, Colonel Matthew Birmingham VSP, and Chief Brian Kilcullen Rutland City PD, were invited to meet with FBI Director Christopher Wray at the FBI Albany office. The group also included law enforcement leaders from New York and Vermont's US Attorney Kristina Nolan. The focus of the meeting was collaboration and partnerships between the FBI and state and local agencies. Current and emerging criminal threats were also discussed.

Public Works

Northfield St.

Construction is nearing completion with the contractor working on punch list items. On Tuesday, DPW crews will begin installation of the asphalt sidewalk on the upper portion of the project. It is anticipated that the majority of the site work will be complete by the end of next week. State paving has been tentatively scheduled for September 17th. See weekly report for full details.

Lague Drive

A water leak developed on existing valve which DPW crews repaired on 9/7, this leak was unrelated to construction. The new water main installation and slope work have been completed. Connection of water services to the new main is planned to begin next week. Roadway reconstruction is tentatively scheduled to take place from 9/17 to 9/28 with paving to follow. A guardrail will be installed along the stabilized slope once the pavement has been placed.

Crestview Drive

The new culvert has been installed along with the headwalls. Next week the contractor will installing new manhole structures on the existing storm lines and placing stone rip rap along the stream channel.

City Paving & Sidewalks

The majority of this work has been complete. Additional topsoil and seeding will take place on College St. next week. A few small areas of paving on Liberty St. and College St along driveways and curb lines remain and are expected to be completed within the next two weeks.

Winooski East Extension

The clearing of trees throughout the project area will continue next week. Relocation of the railroad tracks adjacent to Barre Street between Granite Street and Caledonia Spirits will begin next week and continue for approximately 4 weeks.

1 Taylor/Winooski West Extension

Demolition of #10 and #12 Main Street will continue next week. Pile driving for 1 Taylor Street will be completed and the contractor will start forming and pouring pile caps.

Community Justice Center

Last winter, the Montpelier Community Justice Center began to operate a domestic violence accountability group called ACTV. The group meets weekly with rolling admission, so that it is ongoing, and completion requires participation in 26 consecutive sessions. The first three people have just completed the program and several others are poised to complete it in the near future. The MCJC is pleased to be able to contribute to community safety in this way.

ACTV is an evidence-based program imported from Iowa by the Vermont Department of Corrections. The program aims to help those who commit acts of domestic abuse to develop the thinking and skills that help them better manage themselves so that they do not hurt others in their efforts to avoid their own discomfort, as they build more positive ways of interacting with their domestic partners and children. Throughout the 26 weekly sessions required for completion, the participants are challenged to 1) differentiate the thoughts and feelings that are related to what really happened (a five-senses experience) from the stories created in their minds; 2) consider whether the behaviors they engage in to relieve stress are “workable” or not in terms of the damage caused; and 3) become more aware of what is important to them and the actions that move them towards those values. Participants are encouraged to devote more time and energy to building a good life while also making the choice to sit with unpleasant internal experiences in lieu of doing things that hurt their partner and relationship.

Community Services

Janna Clar, executive director of the Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC) to represent the Vermont Association of Senior Centers and Meal Providers on new Workgroup.

Janna Clar is representing the Vermont Association of Senior Centers and Meal Providers on the recently established Older Vermonters Act Workgroup that includes legislators, state employees, and representatives from senior service fields of the public and private sectors across the state. This workgroup will be responding to legislation passed earlier this year, and Janna is pleased to be able to help advocate about the increasing value and emerging needs of senior centers across the state, many of which are significantly smaller than ours in Montpelier.

“Nutrition tips to help prevent Type 2 Diabetes” presented by Ilene Siegel and Lisa Champagne from CVMC’s Blueprint for Health | Tuesday, September 25, 12:45-1:45pm

Learn about eating healthy for diabetes prevention, including an overview of healthy food choices, the divided plate and tracking your food intake. Also learn about CVMC’s year-long Prevent T2 program that will be led by a trained lifestyle coach at MSAC beginning October 17. Ilene and Lisa will bring informational brochures, sample materials used in the program, and visual food models. Bring your questions; open discussion welcome. Free and open to the public, no pre-registration necessary.

Room in Two Upcoming Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC) Trips

The 147th Tunbridge World’s Fair begins next week and MSAC will be going – join us! We’ll be leaving from the Department of Labor parking lot at 9:30am on Friday, September 14 and returning around 4:00pm.

On Saturday, September 15 take a ride on down to the Bundy Art Gallery in Waitsfield for a viewing of Field Notes: Painting and Sculptures, a nature-inspired group show featuring work by Monica Carroll, Rebecca Kinhead, Jill Madden and Eben Markowski. For more details or to register for either (or both) trips, please call 802-223-2518.

Youth Soccer Begins and Youth Basketball Registration Open

The Montpelier Recreation Department is super excited that youth soccer begins this Saturday, September 7th. Also, youth basketball registration has begun. Register online at www.montpelierrec.org/2018_Basketball or by stopping by our office at 58 Barre Street. Please note that the deadline to register for Grades 3 – 6 is October 19th!

Parks & Trees

After a substantial amount of preparatory work, the crew has put up the first six trail signs at intersections in Hubbard Park. We welcome feedback before we launch into the next phase.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE!

FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING

Sept 12	<p>WRRF Update incl, Energy Generation - DPW Charter Changes – Clerk Emerald Ash Borer – Tree Board UES ordinances – 2nd reading – DPW Begging ordinance repeal –CM GMP - CM Committee Appointments: - ATCM -Complete Streets Committee -Historic Preservation Commission -Community Fund Board -Social & Economic Justice Advisory Manager check in – CM Wayfinding Plan - MA</p>	Sept 26	<p>Committee Appointments: ATCM -Planning Commission -Design Review Committee -EC Fiber rep -Recreation Board Parklet Ordinance – 1st reading - CM Communications Strategy – ACM VLCT Policy – CM Compost – Mayor Housing Task Force update – P&D</p>
Oct 3	<p>Special Meeting – warn special election CM Bond public hearing: WRRF, Garage Charter public hearing: Sustainability, voting Necessity resolutions</p>	Oct 10	<p>Housing Authority appointments ATCM Community Fund Board appointments ATCM Budget workshop Adopt performance indicators Energy Efficiency Update - Facilities Parklet Ordinance – 2nd reading - CM Strategic Plan/Envisio Progress report -CM</p>
Oct 24	<p>Art Synergy Master Plan – P&D Rec Center Study – ACM/CS MTIC appointments - ATCM Zoning Fixes – P&D Budget workshop w/survey Finance Body Cam Policy (budget) –MPD</p>	Oct 31 (btw Oct 27- Nov 5)	<p>Special Meeting – Public Information session for special election items CM</p>
Nov 14	<p>Budget Guidelines Finance Budget Schedule Finance Community Profile ACM CVPSA Board Presentation</p>	Nov 28	<p>Report on PCI Targets DPW Main/Barre Corridor Study DPW Personnel Plan Revision – CM/Finance Master Plan Update – P&D</p>
Dec 12	<p>Budget Finance/CM Plastic Bag Ban charter change CM Official Map P&D Complete Streets Plan DPW</p>	Dec 19	<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>
Jan 2	<p>Budget if needed Finance/CM</p>	Jan 9	<p>Budget Finance/CM Voluntary rental inspection program P&D</p>
Jan 16	<p>Budget public hearing CM Warning Public hearing CM Riverfront Access plan P&D District heat summer operations plan ACM</p>	Jan 24 (Thurs)	<p>Budget public hearing CM Warning Public hearing CM Charter Public hearing CM Bond public hearing/necessity res. CM Approve warning CM Audit Report - Finance</p>
Feb 13	<p>Restructure revolving loan funds P&D Complete Ordinance review – 1st reading ATCM Manager Review CM</p>	Feb 27	<p>Main/Barre Implementation Plan DPW Ordinance review – 2nd reading ATCM</p>

Not calendared as agenda items:

- Utilize TIF for applicable projects
- Reinstigate 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