

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 10/19/2018

UPCOMING MEETINGS...

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|------------------------------|---|
| Monday, October 22 | Planning Commission, 5:30 PM, Memorial Room |
| Wednesday, October 24 | City Council, 6:30 PM, City Council Chambers |
| Monday, October 29 | City Council: Ballot Items Public Hearing, 6:30 PM, City Council Chambers |
| Tuesday, October 30 | Special Design Review Committee re: Parking Garage, 5:30 PM, City Council Chambers |

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...

1 Taylor Street/Recreation Path

Timeframe for 1 Taylor Street project:

- Weather tight building – March 22, 2019
- Substantial Completion – Aug. 15, 2019
- Project Completion – Aug. 22, 2019

Public Parking Garage

The project goes before the Design Review Committee at a special meeting on Tuesday evening October 30th (5:30 p.m., City Council Chambers). The Committee hopes to complete work on the proposal. The Development Review Board plans to continue work on the proposal at its Nov. 5 meeting. These are opportunities for public feedback, in addition to the Council meetings and hearings also scheduled. Our DPW team spent several hours in St. Albans this week touring that public garage with the St. Albans Facilities Manager. Police Chief Facos is also planning to discuss public safety issues with his St. Albans counterpart, Chief Gary Taylor, shortly. The bulk of the updated application will be submitted today. The architect has added the connecting path from the Heney lot to the bike path. The arch must be removed from the design to accommodate this new access ramp. We are also including a path between the garage and church to the Heney lot. A more detailed follow up traffic study is underway, DPW has resolved on site circulation questions at the intersection of the garage entrance, church parking lot and two roadways through the site.

Scooters

The Birds have launched! We held an event on Thursday at City Hall to provide safety information and free helmets to the public (through the media). We stressed that this is a trial period to allow the City Council to collect information about how the scooters fit into our transportation system. Bird has hired a safety ambassador who will spend every weekday on the streets through October talking to people about the scooters, watching for safety issues, etc.

Recreation Center Feasibility Study

Ken Ballard of Ballard and King, the firm hired to conduct the Rec Center Feasibility Study, will be in Montpelier next Wednesday and Thursday to meet with key parties as he kicks off his work. Mayor Watson is scheduled to meet with Ken, and we're happy to arrange for Council members to either meet or talk with him by phone. **Please let Assistant City Manager Sue Allen know if you'd like to speak with Ken during his visit.** In addition, we are hosting a public hearing next Thursday night from 5:30 to 7:30 at the High School to allow the public to comment.

Act 250 Jurisdictional Question

Resident Alan Goldman filed a request with the Act 250 regional coordinator for a jurisdictional opinion which would tie all the potential projects in the TIF district and/or growth center together and require full Act 250 review of any of them as they arise, including the hotel and garage projects. Attorney David Rugh will be filing comments on behalf of the city.

CVPSA

Reminder that November 14 will be primarily a joint meeting with the Barre City Council to receive a proposed dispatching plan from the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority.

Legal – unchanged

The City's petition to enter the proceedings concerning GMP's re-construction of the Marshfield Dam has been approved. We are now a party to the matter, for the purpose of monitoring the information in case there is anything relevant to the city.

Legal – unchanged

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. A hearing before the Environmental Court was held on July 30th to present oral arguments on the motions. We are now awaiting rulings on the motions and summary judgement.

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

Monday October 22nd the Fire Department will be teaming up with the Division of Fire Safety, Domino's Pizza, and Aubuchon Hardware to deliver fire safety to a couple of homes in Montpelier. From 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm a Montpelier customer who orders take-out may be surprised when their delivery arrives aboard a Montpelier Fire Truck !

If all the smoke and CO detectors in the home are working, their take-out order will be FREE. If detectors are not working, firefighters will replace the batteries, or give the homeowners a new detector donated by the Montpelier Aubuchon Hardware.

Vt. Division of Fire Safety Director Michael Desrochers, and Fire Chief Robert Gowans will be accompanying the firefighters for this event.

Community Justice Center

The Montpelier Community Justice Center (MCJC) is excited to announce additional viewings of "Coming Home." Bess O'Brien's documentary that features Montpelier's COSA program -- which helps reintegrate offenders back into their communities -- **was sold out** at the Savoy Theater last night. But there are still opportunities to see the film!

The Savoy is showing it over the weekend, though admission is charged for these showings. Visit www.savoytheater.com for showtimes.

"Coming Home" will be shown for free (donations accepted) at other nearby locations in the coming weeks as part of its promotional tour: In Barre at 6:30 p.m. on October 25 and November 8 at the Community Room at Downstreet on Keith Avenue; and in Hardwick at Hazen Union High School on October 23 at 7 p.m. The screenings in Barre and Hardwick will include a post-viewing conversation with some of the people in the movie. Bess O'Brien, the movie's producer and director, will join the conversation in Hardwick. For more information about the showing in Barre, please call the Barre Community Justice Center at 476-0276.

Public Works

Shared Use Path Project Granite St – Gallison Hill Road:

Contractor expects to begin work on the bio-retention drainage system on Barre St and other drainage items in the contract next week. However, this will depend on whether their crews are able to finish other projects next week planned so they can be mobilized for this project. Otherwise, the drainage work will begin the week of October 29th. The contractor intends to work as late into the season as possible to include the box culvert on Old Country Club Road and the water main relocation on the side of Barre St near Caledonia Spirits.

First Ave. Sidewalk Reconstruction:

The sidewalk paving was completed this week and the crew will be working on restoration next week.

Lague Drive Reconstruction:

The contractor has paved the new base course and has begun paving in the side-street and driveway transitions. Restoration work will follow which will primarily be accomplished by DPW. The finish wearing surface of pavement will be applied in the spring which is typically done to allow for any settlement or defects that may occur over the winter to be corrected before final paving.

Cummings Street Bridge Project:

The contractor has now mobilized and work is well underway on the temporary bridge. The contractor expects to begin work on the temporary water main within the next week or two. The plan is to have the temporary bridge and water main in place and ready for use in the spring so the contractor can begin dismantling the old bridge without delay in the spring.

One Taylor Street Transit Center:

Work has begun on the new bridge for the shared use path. Work planned for next week consists of sheet pile driving for the abutments and placing rip-rap (stone) along the edge of the river. This activity includes installation of the new drainage culvert that will outlet at the bridge abutment and will eventually be replaced through to Main Street.

Main, State & Elm Street Class One Highway Paving project:

This contract remains open. The contractor continues work on the punch list items. Last week, the contractor applied the Fusion-Crete surface treatment to a few sections of the concrete sidewalks which we'll now monitor over the winter to determine whether this is an effective method to address the sidewalk spalling.

Northfield Street:

The DPW crew will be paving a section of sidewalk near Independence Green now that the special granite curb wall has been installed.

Miscellaneous:

- Our bagged leaf program continues through November 2nd. Please check the schedule for our daily curb side pick-up areas.

- Other customary fall work is also underway including storm system inspection and cleaning, seasonal sign changes, etc.
- Bridge joint repair by Shaw's remains. This work is currently scheduled to be completed next week. This operation is weather and temperature dependent.
- Reconstruction of drain Inlet by the RR tracks on Main St. as well as new paint markings at this location are scheduled for next week.
- Other pavement marking locations include the crosswalk at Barre Street and repairing tape long lines on Elm Street. This is scheduled to occur next week.
- Our bridge maintenance contractor has been authorized to perform routine cleaning, greasing and other preventative maintenance measures for three more bridges this year. We are awaiting notice of the start date.
- Engineering & project management staff travelled to St Albans to visit their 3 year old parking garage and gather maintenance & operating information from their City Manager & Operations Manager. Their Police Chief also participated in the meeting.
- DPW administration & engineering staff has been fully engaged with multiple construction permit applications which is typically busy in the fall as contractors attempt to complete projects before winter. Numerous hours have also been consumed by the proposed garage & hotel project.
- Some river bank erosion has occurred which damaged a short section of sidewalk next to the tennis courts at the Elm Street Recreation Field. Staff conducted a survey and is preparing a site plan for the repair project and a meeting with the ANR stream alteration engineer took place. Work will begin the week of October 29th after the state permit has been issued.
- Annual downtown street light cleaning is underway.

Main Street Sewer Service Replacement:

The owner of the building housing Three Penny & Down Home Kitchen has hired a contractor to replace the sewer service which has been the source of chronic back-up problems. The contractor will begin the work on Monday which consists of excavating across the sidewalk. Pedestrian detour will be in place while the work takes place.

Community Services

Ski & Skate Sale:

Don't forget to check out the Recreation Department's Ski and Skate sale tomorrow, 10/20, at Montpelier High School. Purchase gently used or donated winter sports clothes, gear, and equipment – proceeds from the sale go to supporting the Rec Department's winter programming.

Spooktacular Halloween Party:

Children in grades six and below are invited to join us for a not-so-scary Halloween party with games, prizes, and a magic show! We are seeking a team of volunteers to join us at Montpelier High School on October 27th from 1:00-2:30pm. These volunteers will help decorate the space, organize the games, and hand out prizes. If you're interested in joining us for the party, please call or email Becky at rjohnston@montpelier-vt.org or 802-225-8694.

Parks Resiliency VISTA:

The Montpelier Parks and Trees Department is seeking an AmeriCorps national service volunteer to help build a program that encourages healthy living and promotes a substance free lifestyle to Montpelier's young people. This AmeriCorps volunteer would serve full time; for about forty hours a week and in return would receive a living allowance; rent assistance; student loan forgiveness; and professional development opportunities. This is a great program for an entry level professional seeking to give back and gain experience; or works well as a gap year between undergrad and further education! For more information, please see <https://www.vermontyouthamericorps.org/vyt-join-our-team>.

Montpelier Downsizing Group's Fall 2018 Meeting

Saturday, October 27 | 10:30 am - 12:00 pm | Hayes Room in Kellogg-Hubbard Library

Join the excitement! The next meeting of the popular Montpelier Downsizing Group will be held on Saturday, October 27 from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm in the Hayes Room of the Kellogg-Hubbard Library in downtown Montpelier. The event is free and open to the public.

This meeting will be unique and highly informative, as not only will there be information on how to downsize, but where to downsize to. We'll have experienced speakers talking about topics like buying a smaller housing unit, downsizing in your own home, and building a new community. We'll also update you on new apartment complexes that are becoming available in Montpelier. Downsizing expert, Peter Conlon of Vermont Move Management, will speak to the group about strategies for sorting life's belongings, as well as steps for making you home - or new home- safer for the long term. Yes, things are happening! Be sure to be there to learn more.

Red Scare in the Green Mountains: Vermont in the McCarthy Era 1946 - 1960

Monday, October 29 at 7:00 pm

MSAC Film Appreciation Instructor, Rick Winston, and historian/member Michael Sherman will discuss Rick's new book at MSAC. What happened in Vermont when the anti-Communist fear known as the "Red Scare" swept the country? Quite a bit, as it turns out. Rick Winston explores some forgotten history as we see how a small, rural "rock-ribbed Republican" state with a historically libertarian streak handled the hysteria of the time. Far from the klieg lights of Washington D.C., Hollywood, and New York City, there were several fascinating stories in the Green Mountains: a high-profile academic firing, a conservative senator who helped take down Joseph McCarthy, controversies involving left-leaning summer residents, and some veteran newspaper editors who spoke out against McCarthy's tactics. Copies will be available to purchase and for Rick to sign, with 10% of the purchase going to benefit MSAC.

Enchanted Forest:

The Enchanted Forest last weekend was a great success. The event was sold out ahead of time and the weather, though it threatened to go bad, turned out to be very nice. Approximately 800 people cycled through our "Enchanted Forest" with a hayride, candlelit trails and guided tour with a series of performances.

Parks & Trees:

The Parks division along with the Tree board recently dug out three failing downtown trees and are in the process of getting new ones plants.

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UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS...

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| Oct 24 | Art Synergy Master Plan – P&D Investment Committee appts. - ATCM Energy Advisory Committee appts. – ATCM Design Review Committee appts. - ATCM Body Cam Policy (budget) – MPD DID Budget – MA Energy Efficiency Update – Facilities Central Vermont Internet Rep. – ACM Short Term Parking Update Parklet Ordinance, 2 nd reading | Oct 29 (Mon.) | Special Meeting – Public Information session for special election items CM |
| Nov 14 | Budget Guidelines Finance Budget Schedule Finance Community Profile ACM CVPSA Board Presentation – joint w/Barre CC MTIC appointments – ATCM | Nov 28 | Report on PCI Targets DPW Main/Barre Corridor Study DPW Personnel Plan Revision – CM/Finance Master Plan Update – P&D Zoning Fixes – P&D |
| Dec 12 | Budget Finance/CM Official Map P&D Complete Streets Plan DPW | Dec 19 | 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 Ex-Officio Committee Appts ATCM |
| Jan 2 | Budget if needed Finance/CM | Jan 9 | Budget Finance/CM Voluntary rental inspection program P&D |
| Jan 16 | Budget public hearing CM Warning Public hearing CM 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 |

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Not calendared as agenda items:

- Utilize TIF for applicable projects – *being done with Garage*
- Reinststitute council budget survey **CM done**
- Implement municipal facility best practices for stormwater **DPW - ongoing**
- Ensure any new facility or renovation meets net zero goals **Facilities**
- Publish and Post resources for landlords and tenants **ACM/P&D done**
- Conduct public outreach about housing rights and issues **ACM/P&D done**
- Add public dashboard from Envisio (October) **ATCM**
- Community workshops on social justice if approved by council
- Continue W/S master plan **DPW - ongoing**
- Continue planning for CSO elimination **DPW ongoing**
- Seek grants for EV Charging stations **P&D**
- Employee parking incentive **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 - **done**
- Open Meeting/Public records briefing



William Fraser
City Manager