

Mon., Jan. 6th	Design Review Committee	5:30 PM	Council Chambers, City Hall
Tues., Jan. 7th	Parks Commission	6:00 PM	Police Dept. Community Rm., 1 Pitkin Ct.
Tues., Jan. 7th	Transportation Infrastructure Committee	6:00 PM	Memorial Room, City Hall
Wed., Jan. 8th	Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee	8:30 AM	City Manager's Conference Rm., City Hall
Wed., Jan. 8th	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	Council Chambers, City Hall
Wed., Jan. 8th	City Council	6:30 PM	City Council Chambers, City Hall



Responsive and Responsible Government

Above & Beyond Recipient

December is the first month the City has opened up its internal "Above & Beyond" Employee Recognition Award program, where the City gives a small bonus to an individual City employee for demonstrating exceptional dedication in upholding the City's values and exhibiting exemplary behavior and demonstrating going 'above and beyond' in their position. The Award submissions will be reviewed and awarded to a single employee on a monthly basis.

Our first recipient is Doug Jasman, a Lieutenant at the Montpelier Fire Department. Going "Above & Beyond" in his position, Doug took the initiative to negotiate a very large discount on equipment. Due to Doug's initiative and hard work he saved the City 37% off the purchase of power EMS stretchers with load systems for the City's ambulances. His work saved the City \$34,428.40 on what could have been a \$93k purchase. This type of equipment is vital in preventing injury to the City's Fire Department when moving patients. These specific stretchers will be mandated for use next year and would have forced the City to make the expensive purchase with no money off, as it was time-sensitive to obtain the discount. In order to get the purchase submitted in time to receive the markdown, it required Doug to volunteer his off-duty time to provide information, answer questions, and follow through with the vendor and City Management.

The submission also described Doug as someone who routinely goes above and beyond his everyday tasks and who is always willing to share his vast array of knowledge.

New Faces

We look forward to welcoming Finance Director Kelly Murphy and Assistant to the City Manager Jhasmine Lamb on Monday the 6th. We're anxious to get them started and having the benefit of their many talents.

Congratulations and Goodbye, Geoff Beyer

Last week marked the end of Geoff Beyer's nearly 40 year career at the Montpelier Parks Department. Geoff started as a seasonal staff member back in 1981, and has spent the last few decades as our Parks Director. Geoff has overseen huge improvements to our park system over that time including the addition of the North Branch Park, Mill Pond Park, expansion of Hubbard Park, construction of the State House Path, the National Life Trail, and creation of a publicly accessible ski trail network, just to name a few accomplishments. He also mentored and exposed generations

of young people to the joy of working outdoors in the field of conservation. We will miss his passion and leadership, and we thank him deeply for all his years of service.



Sustainable Infrastructure

DPW Street & Water / Sewer Divisions:

Our Street Division spent the beginning of the week maintaining our city roads and sidewalks due to the winter storm which included freezing rain, snow and sleet. Our crews spent the end of the week preparing for this weekend's storm. Additional work completed this week included:

- Mailbox repairs (from plow damage)
- Street sign repairs as needed
- Filled sand barrels throughout the City
- Early morning snow pickups at bulb outs and Assessable parking areas
- Thursday and Friday morning our sidewalk plows were out early in preparation for school being back in session.
- Installed cold patch in potholes throughout the City
- Conducted a site visit for drainage issues at the top of Scribner Street

Next week our street division will maintain our city streets and sidewalks as the weather approaches, we will continue filling potholes with cold patch as well as continue working on the top of Scribner Street.

Our Water / Sewer Division assisted the Street Division with maintaining roads and sidewalks and with winter storm cleanup. Additional work completed this week included:

- Hydrant maintenance/repaired hydrant on corner of Berlin Street and Phelps Street
- Continued cleanup of soil from bike path construction
- Completed Vactor work at our Water Resource Recovery Facility
- Quarterly water meter readings
- Field checked troubled spots for our mapping updates
- Answered several resident needs for curb stop operations as well noise investigations
- Day to day maintenance with pump stations, dig safes, meter readings and repairs

Next week our water/sewer crew will finish the replacing the ballfield service line, camera pipes that are on our problem list, continue map updates as well as checking hydrant routes and wet hydrants.



Thoughtfully Planned Built Environment

Parking Garage/Hotel Project

Based on a December status conference, we expect a written decision from Judge Walsh in January addressing the various motions which have been filed and defining the scope of the litigation moving forward.

In the meantime, the appellants filed a request with the City for zoning enforcement against the Capitol Plaza in relation to the removal of the red barn behind the hotel. Zoning Administrator Meredith Crandall has responded with a determination that no violation exists.



Community Prosperity

Montpelier’s Common Level of Appraisal

We have received the results of the 2019 Equalization Study from the Property Valuation and Review Division of the Vermont Department of Taxes. Montpelier’s CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) is now 86.86%, down 2.81 % from 89.67% a year ago. Since the Legislature last session raised the CLA threshold that triggers an Order to Reappraise from 80% to 85%, it appears very likely that the City will fall below the threshold next year and be ordered to conduct a City-wide Reappraisal.

The COD (Coefficient of Dispersion) increased from 9.75% last year to 10.05% but remains at a respectable level. The COD is a measure of equity across assessments with a COD of 10% or below indicating reasonable equity. A COD over 20% would also result in an Order to Reappraise from the State.

The Assessor strongly recommends that a Reappraisal of Personal Property be conducted at the same time that Real Estate is reappraised. This is something that has never been done in the past and would level the playing field and bring equity to the taxation of Personal Property.

Given the market for reappraisal firms and workload, the city many want to consider issuing an RFP soon in order to line up the work for, potentially, 2023.



Inclusive, Equitable and Engaged Community

Recreation Center Renovation Public Meeting

Tuesday, January 7 | 6:30-8:00 | MSAC Community Room

A special City Council Meeting/Public Forum will be held to discuss the possible options for the Recreation Center renovations. The project's architects and City leadership will be present to discuss the possible renovations, and to get feedback from the public on potential programming and design features.

Off The Beaten Path Travel Talk Series: "Time Capsule - Velocity of a Changing World"

Monday, January 6 | 6:30 - 8:00 pm | Kellogg-Hubbard Library

The 3rd presentation in the “Off the Beaten Path Travel Talk Series” co-hosted by the Montpelier Senior Activity Center and the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. Join the Turcottes (FEAST Chef Justin and his family), on a family backpack trek through Changing China, the Everest region in Nostalgic Nepal, and a circumnavigation of Amazing Australia. This discussion and slideshow will present the contrast between these ancient and interesting cultures. Come share a deeper understanding of the world we live in.

New Trail Opening for Fat Biking

Next week we'll officially be opening a connection between the North Branch Park and Hubbard Park for people to enjoy on fat bikes. Fat bikes can now bike the loop on the main trail up to the tower, and connect to the North Branch Park through 7 Fireplaces and down the trail that goes along North Park Drive. Look for a winter trails map to come out soon, and enjoy the beautiful snow this weekend!

Rink at State Street

Set up continues for this year’s skating ‘Rink at State Street’. The Rink at State Street is a winter-season, public, outdoor ice rink situated on the State House lawn in downtown Montpelier. We’ve run into some complications in opening the rink, as the weather has not been cooperative. The constant freezing and re-freezing of the rink water

caused damage to the liner, and we need to replace it. The plan is to install the new liner on Tuesday, Jan. 7th, and then we will work to re-flood the rink and allow that to freeze. Weather cooperating, the opening date should be soon, and we will continue to communicate any updates.



William Fraser
City Manager

Upcoming Agenda Items (TENTATIVE)

1/8	Community Fund recommendation Confluence Park presentation Budget Winter Parking Ban, 2 nd PH Dog Ordinance Interim River Hazard Map amendment, PH	1/15	1 st Hearing for warning & Budget Necessity resolution Ordinance amendments Parking Garage update (maybe) Bond PH (?) 5 Home Farm Way report
1/23 (Thurs)	2 nd Hearing for warning & budget Ordinance amendments Petitions WRRF – phase 2 update	2/12	Rental survey Home equity labeling Ordinance amendments

Upcoming Reports (TENTATIVE)

Jan.	Rental properties survey	?	Downtown Master Plan Process for adding new projects/funding
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Budget

ADA projects
Combined Sewer Overflow projects
Equity consultant
Downtown Master Plan Implementation
Emergency Management Operations
Fuel
Parking Garage Operations
Housing Trust Fund

Infrastructure

Downtown LED light conversion

Personnel Plan matters

Police Dept. Social Worker

Recreation Center

Confluence Park/Riverfront efforts

Sabin's Pasture (purchase?)

WiFi