

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
11/30	Police Review Committee	4:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/1	ADA Committee Meeting	10:00 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/2	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/2	City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/3	Complete Streets Committee	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/3	Social and Economic Justice Advisory Committee	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
12/4	LHMP Committee Meeting	9:30 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link □



Public Health and Safety

City of Montpelier Response Update Weekly Report Date November 25, 2020

The Governor took time at his press conference on the 24th to discuss the life of a Vermonter who has passed away within the past week from COVID-19. The people that have died throughout our State are real people, and you never know if you might be the infected domino that starts an outbreak and impacts other people's health and lives. The spread of COVID-19 is so much more significant right now than in the past that even small gatherings aren't safe.

Remember, the virus isn't taking a holiday. If you do choose to travel or gather for Thanksgiving (or at all) remember that you do need to quarantine. The guidelines for quarantine are "do not go to school; do not go to work; do not go run errands; do not recreate". It is important to understand that children who travel for the holidays will also need to quarantine from school.

Building on the State's recommendation to not travel or gather for the Thanksgiving holiday, the [CDC has also released advisory messages urging folks to limit travel and events.](#)

As a reminder to residents: [The Governor has made it mandatory to wear a mask in public starting August 1st](#), and has extended the [State of Emergency through December 15th](#).

State Updates:

- [Make sure to remember the new guidelines that prohibit:](#) Multi-household gatherings, whether inside or out, in public spaces or private.

- Schools Updates:
 - Governor Scott announced that the state is postponing the start of school sports. Sports, which were set to start on November 30th are now paused until further notice. [Guidance can be found here under section 9.1.](#)
- Regional Health Update & VT Case Modeling Response:
 - Cases and Outbreak information can be found on the [VT Health Department dashboard.](#)
 - Vermont Modeling Updates [most recent presentation can be found here.](#)
 - There are now officially 64 deaths in VT attributed to COVID-19.

City Updates:

- To comply with the new State requirements, the City is closing City Hall to the public until further guidance is issued by the State. This includes cancelling in-person Council Meetings. Appointments can still be accommodated with Departments on a case-by-case basis.
- To comply with new State Requirements, the Montpelier Senior Activity Center is suspending in-person classes and the Recreation Department will be suspending Rec Center rentals.

Testing Availability:

- The State is expanding testing capacity to make sure a majority of Vermonters are within a 30 min drive to a testing site, and they are adding new contract tracers- including some Vermont National Guard members
 - New testing locations in: Burlington, Middlebury, Waterbury, Rutland and Brattleboro
- Due to increased COVID-19 activity in central Vermont, further expanded testing has been planned for our region for this and the next several weeks.
If you are symptomatic, please contact your primary care provider. The Central Vermont Medical Center has also expanded testing. To schedule an appointment, call the CVMC COVID Hotline at 802-371-5310.

All testing clinics noted below will be held at the following locations from 9:00am to 3:00pm on the following dates:

- 11/26 CIC Health: 3336 Airport Rd., Barre
- 11/26 CIC Health at Northfield Ambulance Service: 31 Dog River Dr., Northfield
- 11/27 Barre City Auditorium: 16 Auditorium Hill, Barre
- 11/27 CIC Health at Northfield Ambulance Service: 31 Dog River Dr., Northfield
- 11/28 Barre City Auditorium: 16 Auditorium Hill, Barre

Preregister here or call 2-1-1 for registration assistance: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing/where-get-tested#other-testing>

Regional Aid Groups Update:

- Community Meal Information:
 - Weekday dinners, M-F, will be available at Another Way at 125 Barre Street between 5-6 PM.

- Weekday lunches will be available at the current Sunrise Wellness Center at 157 Barre Street between 12:30-2:30.
 - Weekend lunches will be available in front of the soon-to-be-opened Sunrise Wellness Center at 34 Barre Street from 12:30-2:30 PM.
- Another Way, a community drop-in center located at 125 Barre Street, seeks clean camping gear in usable condition for distribution to folks in our community experiencing homelessness.



Sustainable Infrastructure

Alternate Side Parking:

Getting the Message Out! Public Works has been posting messages on social media and on our web page informing residents of key changes, and directing readers to go the City website to look up specifics for where they typically park, whether that be during the daytime, evenings or both.

Please feel free to email any questions or comments to Jasmine Benson @ jbenson@montpelier-vt.org.

DON'T FLUSH THAT:

Due to the public health crisis, not only is our city seeing a shortage on toilet paper, but many communities are as well. ***The Department of Public Works would like to remind everyone about what should NOT be flushed.*** Flushing the items listed below could cause sewer blockages, which could cause plugged and overflowing toilets, poorly draining sinks and showers, raw sewage backing up through floor drains and/or manholes overflowing onto the ground or into nearby surface waters, health hazards and nuisance odors, and this could result in increases in the City's maintenance costs and costly repair bills for involved residents.

The following items should NOT be flushed!

- Paper towels
- Baby wipes
- Moist towelettes
- Cosmetics and cosmetic wipes
- Cloth or paper napkins
- Shop towels
- Condoms
- Tampons and pads
- Diapers
- Cat litter
- Cigarette butts
- Dental floss
- Latex gloves
- Hypodermic needles
- Facial tissues
- Fats, oils or grease
- Clothing or rags
- Medications (pills or liquid)
- Bandages
- Cotton balls

- Food scrapes
- Swiffer pads
- Plastic of any kind



Responsive and Responsible Government

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

To avoid conflicts with holidays, the Council will hold **regular** meetings on the following dates:

- December 2 and 9
- January 13 and 21 (Thursday). The 27th is not yet confirmed.

Additional dates for **budget workshops** may be added including **one between December 9 and 31** and another one on January 6th.

BUDGET New

The leadership team held our annual “Budget Congress” yesterday. With a lot of collaboration, we developed the outline for the City Manager’s recommended budget. The Finance department will be putting the final pieces together. We are on track for formal presentation to you on December 2nd.

The draft was created by starting with the FY21 base general fund budget. Deducted from that was nearly \$1.3 Million in initially projected revenue downgrades. We then had to accommodate for projected FY22 expense growth, primarily in personnel but also other key areas. This created the budget gap that needs to be filled. After close review, we established a gap of \$1.5 Million (10%).

From there we looked at the FY22 expense side. Using departmental budget sheets already prepared, and preliminary work done on Capital and Equipment, we drafted a budget which completely closes the gap.

This proposal will, of course, be subject to the Council’s changes and approval. In large part it builds upon the FY21 budget mitigation plan already in place. With news of a vaccine on the horizon, we opted to emphasize project and equipment reductions rather than ongoing structural service changes.

Positives:

- Closes the budget gap without requiring a property tax increase
- Retains all existing personnel
- Includes funding for some big pending items
- Maintains basic levels of services
- Does not use one-time funding or “gimmicky” financing

Negatives:

- Reduces capital project funding by a substantial amount.
- Reduces equipment funding from our established level.
- Holds 6 full time positions vacant. We are not referring to them as cut since the plan is restore funding as revenues get back to “normal”.
- Operating costs are held at or slightly below FY21 levels.

- Funding for community programs is severely reduced or eliminated.

We would like the CIP committee to review the impact of the Capital and Equipment reductions. The plan is to create a restoration priority which can be implemented as revenues change.

All of this will be explained in detail in the budget materials and the 12/2 presentation.

12 MAIN STREET (former TKS property) update

As we know, the City needs to make a decision about whether to purchase this property for the \$134,000 of federal funding that was spent to acquire it as part of the One Taylor Street/Bike Path project. The original deadline was December 1st. We have received VTrans proposal for this property and will bring it to the Council for consideration and approval on December 2nd.

Assessor's Office

- New GIS map link on Assessor's Page of City website. Entitled "Montpelier GIS Link". It has all of the features of the existing Interactive Parcel Maps, which it will be replacing, and many new features



Inclusive, Equitable and Engaged Community

Police Department Lobby Currently Locked NEW

Due to COVID 19 the Police Department's front lobby is currently locked. We ask that anyone needing police assistance to please contact MPD by telephone at 802-223-3445. If you are in person at the police department, please ring the front intercom and a dispatcher will speak directly to you. If you need an officer, an officer will come to the front of the police department to meet with you and assist you.

Social Worker Available to Residents NEW

The Montpelier Police Department, the Barre City Police Department and Washington County Mental Health have partnered in providing an onsite social worker to help residents in crisis or needing an extra hand during the pandemic. Susan Lemere has been a friendly and effective presence in town for the last several month, but COVID has slowed our outreach efforts down. If you would like to speak to Susan please contact her through email at susan.lemere@wcmhs.org or contact MPD and we can assist with connecting you to Susan.

Sgt Cochran Recognized for Large Drug Bust NEW

Detective Sgt Wade Cochran was recently recognized for his outstanding efforts by United States Attorney Christina Nolan. Detective Sgt Cochran played a key role in United States vs Rodriguez, et al which involved the sale of large quantities of fentanyl laced heroin in Vermont. Detective Sgt Cochran will receive the Outstanding Collaborative Investigation Award for his efforts in a virtual ceremony on December 15, 2020.

Multiple Montpelier Vandalisms Resolved NEW

On November 14, 2020, at approximately 7:00 AM, the Montpelier Police Department received a call reporting a resident claiming her vehicle was vandalized overnight. During the course of the investigation, a second vehicle was found parked nearby with damage to the exterior and the owner was notified. Later that same morning, a report of a third vandalism to a vehicle was reported, which was discovered by the owner who reported a broken windshield. A Facebook post was created requesting any information on the vandalisms which occurred on School Street and Main Street in the city of Montpelier, Vermont.

The investigation revealed four individuals were observed on surveillance cameras and identified. All four were contacted and cooperative. In speaking with Montpelier Police the involved individuals admitted to the vandalism and being party to the incident without preventing it. Underage drinking was involved in the incident. The young adults who took part in the vandalism have agreed to pay for damages and have acknowledged the non-monetary impact their actions caused the victims.

Through the course of the investigation, this vandalism was connected to a larceny on the same night in another area of Montpelier with the stolen property being returned to the rightful owner.

COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATES

FEAST To-Go Updates

Tuesday and Friday FEAST To-Go pickup meals are going curbside! Pick-up will now be through the side vestibule of MSAC, at 58 Barre Street. You can see our menu on our website. Please call to make your reservation: 262-6288

We Give Heartfelt Thanks to MSAC Members, Instructors, FEAST and other Volunteers, Donors, Community Organizational Partners, Staff and Fellow City Employees! - Wishing Our Community A Healthy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving time feels so different for everyone this year. We hope everyone is able to stay safe and healthy as the weather changes and restrictions increase again. We look forward to delivering a delicious hot Thanksgiving meal on Wednesday to the 80 people who signed up in time last week. If you'd like to join in on one of our three Thanksgiving Day calls (by video/phone), look for details below, and help to connect is available!

Thanksgiving Day Phone and Video Gatherings to Share the Day Despite the Pandemic!

Thursday, November 26 | Three times

We know Thanksgiving is going to be challenging this year as gathering in person is not possible for many. Join our group phone and video gatherings with MSAC staff, volunteers and friends to help beat the loneliness of the day that many are anticipating this Thanksgiving. Join any or all of our three options! All ages, all towns welcome! Instructions on how to Zoom via phone can be found here: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/7195/How-to-Zoom-by-Phone>.

- 10:00-10:30 am with Sarah Lipton, FEAST Manager
- 12:30-1:00 pm with Andrew Gribbin, AmeriCorps Member
- 5:00-6:00 pm with Janna Clar, MSAC Director

To get the special call-in phone number or video link, contact us by Wednesday afternoon, 11/25 at 262- 2688 or email feast@montpelier-vt.org.

FEAST Senior Meals To-Go! Served outside Tuesdays and Fridays, 12:00-12:30

Curbside pick-up through MSAC's side vestibule at 58 Barre Street. Requires mask-wearing and six feet distancing in line. **Meals for age 60+**, by suggested donations of \$5 – 10 with completed Annual Nutritional Survey; **Under 60**, fee of \$7-10. Reservations appreciated, and/or request vegetarian by calling **262-6288** by the previous day. All meals include milk. Next week's menu below. Full December menu available on website, beginning Dec. 1.

Tuesday, Dec. 1: Chicken Enchiladas with rice & beans, kale & butternut squash

Friday, Dec. 4: Braised Chicken with Hungarian Mushroom Stew with roasted veggies and brown rice

FEAST Celebrates the Arts

In collaboration with senior artists, we are thrilled to unveil “FEAST Celebration” a series of artistic expressions representing the FEAST. As the weather cools, the pandemic still rules, and we are working hard to support our isolated community members, we wanted to bring a celebration of community, warmth, nourishment, harvest and richness right to you. You may now view the slideshow on our website: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1134/Now-Showing-in-MSACs-Art-Gallery>.

Upcoming WebTrac Training Sessions with Harry Divack

Friday Dec. 4 | 10-11 am

Thursday, Dec. 17 | 10-11 am

Just in time to sign up for Winter classes (Jan.-Mar.) starting on Dec. 7! Would you like to try online class (including adult and youth programs) registration for the first time? Or have you tried and run into problems in the past? Harry Divack, our department’s Administrative Assistant extraordinaire – and an expert of our system – will be hosting two training sessions. Sharing his screen via Zoom, Harry will show you how to log-in, find and select your program(s), register, and process your payment successfully. Please pre-register for this online event by calling 223-2518 or emailing msac@montpelier-vt.org. Recommended: get a user-id and password in advance (available from the office if you’ve lost yours or need one for the first time).

ORCA MEDIA

ORCA Media supports the City of Montpelier by live streaming videos to local TV and on YouTube. Recently, Comcast changed the government channel to 1085.

- Click here to access City Council Meetings: <https://www.orcamedia.net/series/montpelier-city-council>
- Click here for Live Stream Events: <https://www.orcamedia.net/series/live-stream-events>

Thank you,

City Manager



William Fraser

Upcoming Agenda Items (*TENTATIVE*)

12/2	Budget COVID-19 Update GMT – micro transit “My Ride” CFMAS – dispatch project Guertin Park 12 Main Street Confluence Park Grant Application	12/9	Budget COVID-19 Update Housing Initiatives Update
1/6/21	Budget Workshop	1/13/21 Thursday	Budget Public Hearing Strategic Plan Progress Update Review 2 nd quarter budget status COVID-19 Update Announce MEAC Contract Winner
1/21/21 Thursday	Budget Public Hearing Warning Public Hearing Approve Warning Review/Approve Petitions COVID-19 Update	2/10/21	City Manager Review COVID-19 Update
2/24/21	COVID-19 Update	3/2/21	Annual Meeting Election

REPORTS DUE:

Universal Recycling Law – Periodic updates

MDC/MA Partnerships – Periodic updates

Protect, Maintain and Improve Built Infrastructure – Update provided in November

Supporting the Community in Rebound from COVID 19 – Regular updates