

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
1/4/21	Design Review Committee	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Link
1/4/21	Development Reivew Board	7:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Link
1/5/21	Transportation Infrastrucuture Committee	6:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Link
1/6/21	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Link
1/6/21	City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Link
1/7/21	Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Link
1/8/21	Local Hazard Mitigation Committee	9:30 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Link



Public Health and Safety

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Weekly Report

As of December 30, 2020

At the date of writing, there have been 130 total deaths in Vermont from COVID-19. These are real people: our friends, neighbors, and family, their lives mattered and we can't stop trying to stop the spread to prevent more deaths! This week, Health Commissioner Dr. Levine, discussed data about COVID-19 deaths in Vermont, which have been almost exclusively among those age 60 and older. He also noted that 40% of people with COVID-19 have a pre-existing chronic condition, some having two or more such conditions. It's important that we all follow the health and safety guidelines to prevent folks we know from getting ill. Dr. Levine continued to say that folks who are older and have coexisting conditions will be a priority as Vermont rolls out its vaccine plans. He said, "Our guiding North Star in this endeavor is to prevent the most deaths. The complex work of prioritization is essential in these early stages. It must be done with careful consideration to ensure there is equitable and systematic access as the amount of vaccine coming to Vermont increases. With each [vaccine] shot, we are that much closer to reducing the risk of exposure to where we can begin a return to a state closer to normalcy".

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 January 15th](#).

State Updates:

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

- **TEMPORARY CHANGE TO GATHERING GUIDANCE:** On December 22nd, 2020, the State announced temporary modification to restrictions on multi-household gatherings during the holidays. **Between December 23rd and January 2nd**, households may gather with one other trusted household. More information [here](#).
 - Staying home and with people you live with is still the lowest risk.
 - Gathering with people you do not live with is not recommended for people who are at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19 or for the people who care for them.
 - If you do get together with another household, the Health Department strongly encourages getting tested 7 days afterwards.
 - If you gather with anyone from out of state, everyone in both households must quarantine for 14 days, or 7 days with a negative test.
 - The travel policy has not changed. If you travel outside of Vermont, you must follow quarantine requirements.

- Vermonters may resume [outdoor activities](#) with those outside of their household, as long as physical distancing, masking and other precautions are observed.

- Vaccine Updates
 - The State's Vaccine Distribution Plan and further information can be found here: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/vermont-covid-19-vaccine-planning>
 - Human Services Secretary Mike Smith reported this week that about 9,800 Vermonters have been vaccinated so far, including 8,000 health care workers, 900 emergency services personnel and 900 in long-term care facilities.
 - By the end of January, everyone in Phase 1A should have received at least the first dose of the vaccine, with many having received second doses

- Schools Updates:
 - Governor Scott also announced youth sports may resume with no-contact practices.
 - Effective December 26th, school-based and youth recreational programs may begin practices with individual skills, strength and conditioning. [The Agency of Education has released full guidance for school-based sports.](#)

- Mental Health Support & Food Access
 - The State shared some resources to assist folks in seeking help for any mental distress, or in need of mental health care. Resources can be accessed through calling 2-1-1 or via the [State's website for COVID-19 support](#).
 - If you need help accessing food, there are also many resources on the State and Local level. Please call 2-1-1 or access [WIC](#), [Hunger Free Vermont](#), [3SquaresVT](#), or other resources outlined via Hunger Free Vermont [COVID-19 response](#).
 - There are also local agencies hosting food access programs such as: the [Vermont Foodbank](#), [Everyone Eats](#), and the [Montpelier Food Pantry](#).

- VTAlert:
 - VTAlert is now offering COVID-19 updates
 - Folks can sign up at the [VTAlert website](#).

City Updates:

- No changes: the City is still complying with the new State requirements by 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.

Testing Availability:

- **Testing dates/locations and preregistration found here or call 2-1-1 for registration assistance:**
<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing/where-get-tested#other-testing>



Sustainable Infrastructure

Planning & Community Development. In response to some questions presented to Councilors, the Planning & Community Development department wants to remind everyone how to renew permits for projects that may have been delayed due to Covid. Zoning permits are valid two year and are allowed to receive a single 12-month extension. The permit holder has to request the extension, in writing (email preferred), prior to the original expiration date. There is no fee for the extension and requests should be made to Audra Brown (abrown@montpelier-vt.org) or Meredith Crandall (mcrandall@montpelier-vt.org). Building permits are valid for a year and can be renewed multiple times. If they are renewed prior to expiration, there is no fee. After expiration, there is a \$10 fee. If you have a building permit that you need an extension on you should contact Chris Lumbrá (clumbrá@montpelier-vt.org) . As always if you have any questions about projects you are working on or considering, please reach out to the permitting staff above and they can guide you through the process.

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

Montpelier City Council will hold **regular** meetings on the following dates:

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

A **budget workshop** will be held on on January 6th.

Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

The first Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee meeting was held this week to help facilitate the City updating its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The old plan is available here for review:

<https://centralvtplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Montpelier-Mitigation-Plan-Adopted-Dec-2014.pdf>

The process kicks off with reviewing the 2015 plan and updating it to capture what mitigation work has been done. Then the plan will start to look at what hazards still exist in the Montpelier area, and what new hazards may need to be added. The City will be aiming for robust community engagement around this process- so be on the lookout for an upcoming survey to poll residents on what hazards they feel should be a priority for mitigation!

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

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.

Arrest in Montpelier for sex crimes against a child NEW

On Monday, December 21, 2020, the Montpelier Police Department concluded an investigation regarding David C. Darnell Sr. (DOB 12/14/1981) which started in April of 2020. Officers and Detectives of the Montpelier Police Department arrested Darnell for Engaging in Open and Gross Lewdness and Lascivious Behavior, in violation of Title 13 Vermont Statutes Annotated section 2601, Possessing Indecent Material Disseminated by a Minor, in violation of Title 12 Vermont Statutes Annotated section 2802(a) (2), and Disturbing the Peace by Phone, in violation of Title 13 Vermont Statutes Annotated section 1027(a).

Darnell was arraigned at Washington County Court and released on conditions.

Sgt Pearson Awarded Team Two Mental Health Services Award NEW

Congratulations to Sgt. Pearson for winning the Frank Silfies Award! The Award recognizes a First Responder who exemplifies collaborative work in responding to mental Health Crises: creative collaboration that effect a peaceful, safe and effective outcome. Sgt. Pearson was nominated for two cases: one involving a traffic stop where the operator was in a mental health crisis, and the other regarding a domestic incident with a threatening male subject who refused to be arrested.

Vermont Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force The Montpelier Police Department has become an affiliate agency of the Vermont Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (VT-ICAC). VT-ICAC works to prevent the victimization and exploitation of children through the use of computers, technology or the internet.

Community Feedback Wanted MPD is working to implement a trial period of a community feedback system called Officer Survey. For approximately one month, MPD will evaluate the Officer Survey platform which will allow for community members to provide feedback to the department about interactions with officers. Officers will have survey cards that can be provided to individuals after interactions or calls for service. For more information on Officer Survey, please visit <https://www.officersurvey.com/company>.

Social Worker Available to Residents

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.

Montpelier Community Justice Center Report NEW

The Montpelier Community Justice Center, despite seeing fewer referrals for cases resolved in the courts, is receiving a steady flow of pre-charge referrals for a Restorative Justice Panel process

from Montpelier, Northfield and Berlin Police Departments. Additionally, we are receiving a consistent level referrals for our Circles of Support and Accountability and transitional housing programs where we assist people in need extra support who are returning to the community. The Conflict Assistance Program has helped residents settle neighbor disputes throughout this time, restoring relationships and creating more peaceful neighborhoods. As we close out 2020, we would like to express gratitude for the 60+ volunteers who, in FY '20, conducted nearly 2000 hours of service in the implementation of MCJC programs and while serving on the Community Advisory Board. MCJC volunteers exhibited flexibility and commitment through the transition to using an on-line meeting platform. While we continue to conduct our work and operate our programs remotely, we have also seen steady interest from new prospective volunteers. We are amazed and humbled by the generosity and caring of the Montpelier community. Anyone interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities can contact Carol Plante, Director, at 802-522-5566. Montpelier Community Justice Center will continue to follow Department of Health and City of Montpelier safety guidelines in conducting our work and will provide the best service possible to program participants in collaboration with our community partners. Cheers to all for good health and great hope as we move into 2021!

COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATES

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*)

1/6/21	Budget Workshop		
1/13/21	Budget Public Hearing Strategic Plan Progress Update Review 2 nd quarter budget status Award MEAC Contract	1/21/21 Thursday	Audit Report Budget Public Hearing Warning Public Hearing Approve Warning Review/Approve Petitions Review 2 nd quarter strategic plan status

2/10/21	Utility Budgets Zoning Amendments City Manager Review	2/24/21	Utility Budgets
3/2/21	Annual Meeting Election	3/10/21	Organizational Meeting Rules of Procedure Ethics Policy Committee Assignments WRRF presentation

REPORTS DUE:

Universal Recycling Law – Periodic updates

MDC/MA Partnerships – Periodic updates

Supporting the Community in Rebound from COVID 19 – Regular updates