

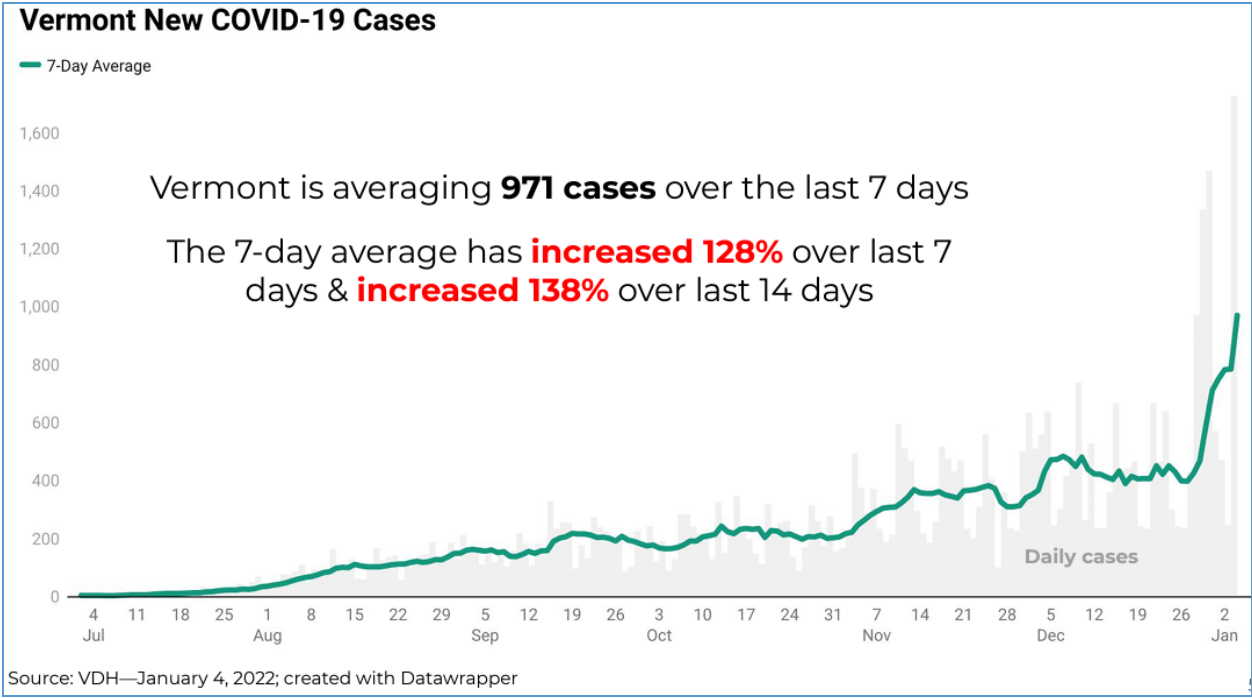
Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
01/10	Cemetery Commission	12:00 PM	City Manager's Conference Room and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
01/10	Lobbying Committee Meeting	3:00 PM	City Manager's Office and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
01/10	Recreation Advisory Board	5:30 PM	Senior Center and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
01/11	Community Advisory Board	5:30 PM	City Manager's Office and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
01/11	Historic Preservation Commission	7:00 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
01/11	Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee	8:00 AM	City Manager's Conference Room	Agenda and Zoom Link
01/12	City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link



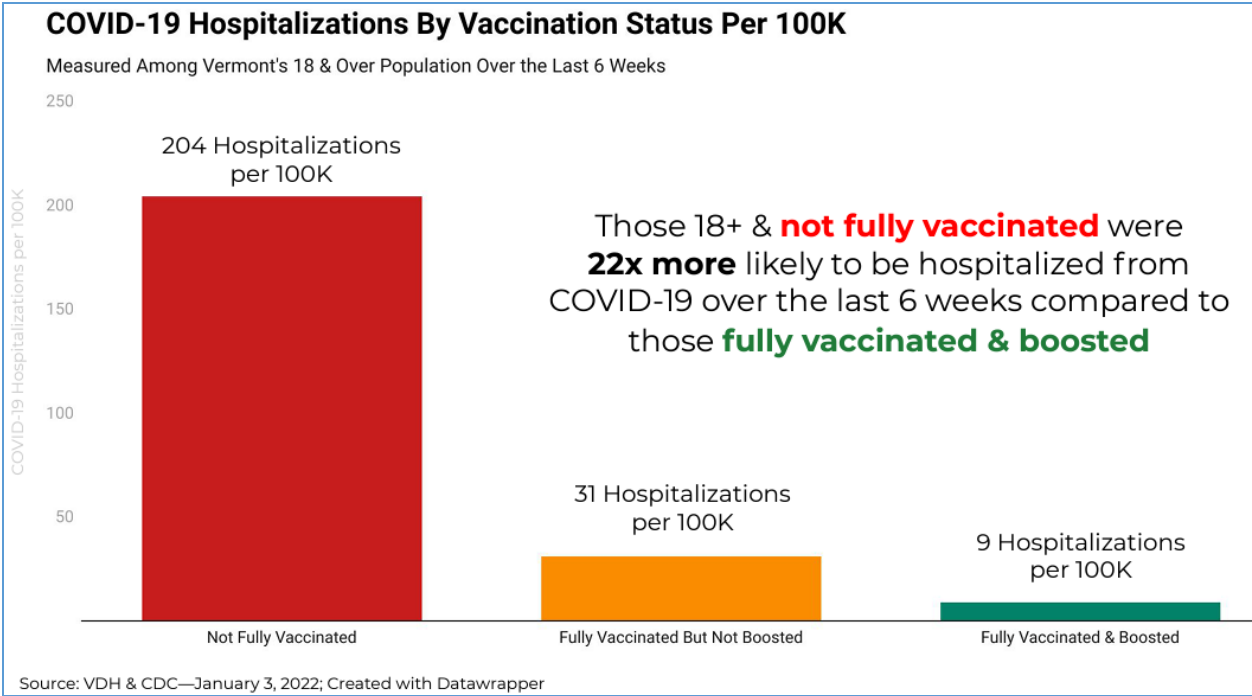
Improve Public Health and Safety

COVID-19 Response- Updated

Update: The State has released their [COVID-19 Modeling report, updated on January 4th, 2022](#). This most recent report shows how quickly cases have been rising in Vermont. The CDC now estimates Omicron is the dominate variant in New England, which is helping fuel an 82% increase in cases over the last 7 days. The report shows that Vermont is seeing the impacts of Omicron and a post-holiday surge with **cases increasing 128% over the last 7 days**, with rates rising in every Vermont County; 11 Counties broke case rate records.



Vermont experienced a rise in hospitalizations this week as cases increased 144% among the 50 to 64 year olds and 156% among 65+ year olds -the age groups most likely to require hospitalization.

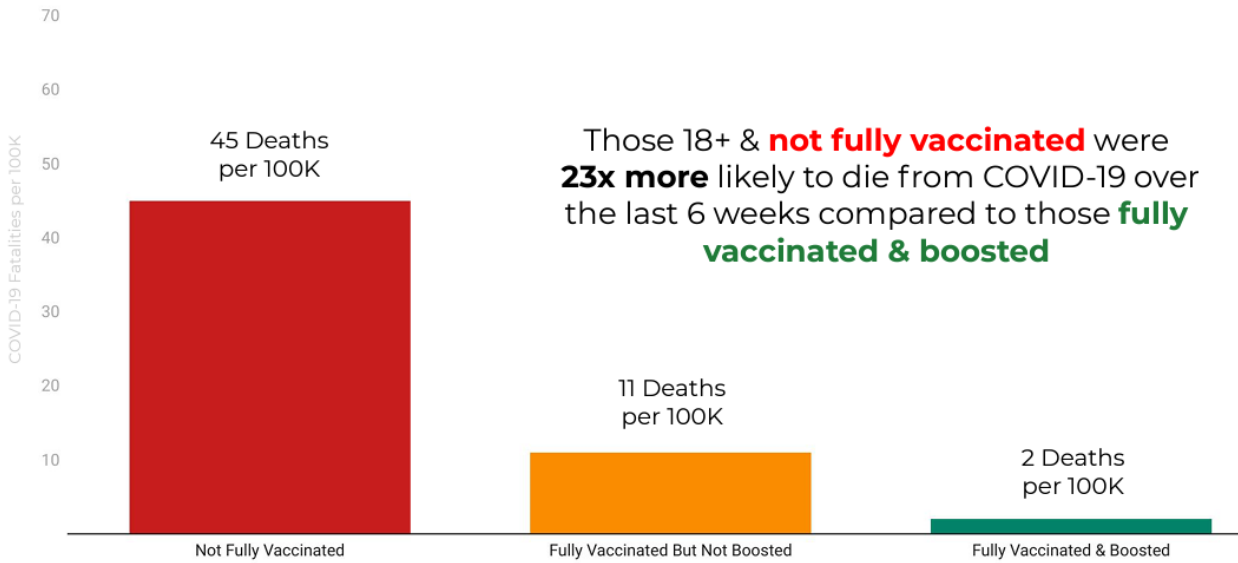


CDC forecast expects cases to rise sharply in the U.S. (52) and Vermont (23) over the next few weeks.

It is very important that all who are eligible get vaccinated- it's never too late! [Find vaccination clinics here](#), or call your preferred pharmacy. As the data from Vermont clearly shows- people are far more likely to die from COVID-19 if they are not fully vaccinated:

COVID-19 Deaths By Vaccination Status Per 100K

Measured Among Vermont's 18 & Over Population Over the Last 6 Weeks



Source: VDH & CDC—January 4, 2022; Created with Datawrapper



Practice Good Environmental Stewardship



Responsible and Engaged Government

Governor's State of the State New

Governor Scott delivered his State of the State address on Wednesday this week. You can [listen/watch it here](#), and then you can [listen/watch the Democratic response here](#). In general, the speech focused on expanding Vermont's workforce. He stated that he is optimistic that Vermont is poised to make a strong economic recovery in the coming years. The Democratic leaders of the state House and Senate, in their address, stated that their legislative agenda largely mirrors the priorities that Governor Scott outlined in his State of the State, while also focusing on housing, and fighting climate change.

Planning Commission deliberations to begin. The Planning Commission will begin its deliberations on the draft zoning amendments on Monday January 10th. The Commission held two public hearings and heard from more than 30 residents about their support or concerns for the various proposals. The Commission will now sift through the comments and amend the proposals, remove some proposals, or vote to forward some of the proposals to Council to consider later this winter. We are not taking further testimony but the deliberations can be viewed starting at 5:30PM (January 10th) at <https://montpeliervt.civicclerk.com/Web/Player.aspx?id=4677&key=-1&mod=-1&mk=-1&nov=0> . If you have any questions please email Mike Miller at mmiller@montpelier-vt.org.

Budget

A summary of the City Manager's proposed budget was included in the 12/15 Montpelier Bridge for all to read. Meeting dates were included. The full budget book can be found at <https://city-montpelier-vt-budget-book.cleargov.com/fy2023-budget-book-v.1/2023/introduction/organization-chart>

The budget book has been updated with City Council formal changes to date. The Council will hold Public Hearings on the Budget and proposed Bonds on January 12th and Thursday, January 20th. Voting on the proposals will be completed by Tuesday, March 1st.

Strategic Plan

The first quarterly report on the new Strategic Plan is scheduled for the January 20th meeting. We plan to have a full calendar for follow up items. This calendar will also be informed by the results of the March 1st voting.

Pending Legal

- *Ferry, et al v. City of Montpelier.* Filing of multiple parties seeking to invalidate the City's non-citizen voting charter amendment. The City is represented by Attorneys Michael Tarrant, Stephen Coteus, and Kimberly Devine. City's motion to dismiss has been filed.
- *Appeal of Zoning Permit.* Neighbors have appealed DRB approval of a permit to move a barn structure. City is represented by Attorney David Rugh. We are monitoring the case. Recent filings by appellants have challenged the validity of sections of the city's zoning ordinance.

General Business Follow Up:

12/22

Allegation that DPW vehicle was involved in an accident and left the scene. This was found to be completely incorrect. Driver of Grader bumped an incorrectly parked car. The driver immediately and properly reported the incident to the Police. The police responded. All involved met with the owner of the car, exchanged information, and proceeded. We have spoken with the car owner who was very pleased and satisfied with the city's actions in this case.

Allegation that Public Records requests are ignored. All requests are responded to. One response was late over the holiday period. This particular requester often alleges that more records exist than actually exist.



Create More Housing



Improve Community Prosperity

Community Services Department Shared Info Updates/Events/Collaborations

Montpelier Community Services Divisions (Parks & Trees, Recreation & Senior Activity Center): To find information about our facilities, services and programs, visit the following linked websites/pages:

Parks & Trees, Recreation, Senior Activity Center (MSAC), News and Announcements, Special Events, Hubbard Park Expansion Project, Capital Kids Afterschool Childcare Program, Facility Rentals, FEAST Senior Meals on Wheels and Curbside Meals, FEAST Farm, MSAC at Home services, Adult/Teen Winter Classes. To subscribe to the MSAC e-letter/newsletter, email a request to msac@montpelier-vt.org. To subscribe to the Parks/Farm Volunteer e-list, email a request to jhuettenmoser@montpelier-vt.org. Facebook pages for the divisions are: Parks & Trees, Recreation, MSAC, (and FEAST Senior Meals).

Montpelier Parks & Trees Division updates/events

Animal Tracking Intro Walk

Sat. Jan. 22 | 10am (rain/snow date, 1/23) | Free | all ages | Join Naturalist Gail Johnson at the New Shelter at Hubbard Park for an easy walk. This is a first of a series about animal tracking. We'll learn the basics of how animals move which determines their track patterns. Every set of tracks reveals a story about the animal. Handouts and props will illustrate track patterns and shapes. Share on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/421648829693632>.

Profile of Park Commissioner, Kassia Randzio

The beauty and sovereignty of nature have always been central to Kassia Radzio's sense of self, and to her calling to serve..... Read the rest of Kassia's profile by Neville Berle that was published in MSAC's January newsletter on page 3 here.

Montpelier Recreation Division updates/events

Ice Rink Status

The Skating Rink on the State House Lawn has opened for 2022. As of January 6, 2022, end of day, the ice was frozen and we are working on the lights set up, but people can now skate on it! Thanks to City staff from Recreation, Parks, Fire Department, Public Works and Green Mount Cemetery who all pitched in to help Rec Director Arne McMullen pull off installing the rink!

Tae Kwon Do for Youth & Adults: spaces still remain and a Winter session just started

Click here to reach Registration forms page for these and other programs!

Montpelier Senior Activity Center Division updates/events

Senior Center Pauses In-person gatherings for two weeks, adds to COVID prevention strategies

On January 3rd, 2022, staff made the decision to pause all in-person gatherings at 58 Barre Street (including groups and classes) until the week of January 17, when we hope post-holiday COVID-19 cases have been identified and safety risks may be lower.

The City helped us purchase kn95 masks for staff use to ensure more safety for staff and members when they come visit, as well as the purchase of other safety equipment/supplies.

New Kitchen Equipment in the FEAST Kitchen, and Energy-Saving Support from Green Mountain Power, as reported by WCAX!

Just before the holidays, this happened in a flash, thanks to collaboration of many people and organizations. We're thrilled with the upgrades AND energy efficiency improvements!

Senior Center's new drinking water fountains are green, up and running!

MSAC now has two modern, ADA accessible drinking water fountains for use by the public. One is near the 1st floor MSAC library in the lobby, and the other is near the elevator on the 2nd floor. You can step up with your water bottle and hold it underneath, saving countless disposable cups and dishwasher runs in MSAC's future. Thanks to the State of VT Building & General Services Facility Grant program for covering part of the cost, and to plumber Johnny Cloutier of BOLT Electric for pro-bono install support!

MSAC Advisory Council Meeting

Tues. Jan. 11 | 1-2:30pm | Online via Teams | Agenda and last month's minutes will be posted on our website [here](#). To receive the Teams link or phone number, contact msac@montpelier-vt.org or call 223-2518.

AARP Tax-Aide Clinic Appointment Sign-ups Start Jan. 14

On Friday, January 14, MSAC staff will begin scheduling appointments which will start in February and continue through mid-April, as long as COVID guidelines allow. Our schedule and protocols are still in the works. Appointment slots are reserved by calling 223-2518. Many of you know exactly what you'll need, but we will mail or email you handouts with this information, along with the required Intake and Interview Forms which you can fill out ahead of time insofar as possible.

FEAST Meals on Wheels & Gift Delivery Hits Cover of Times Argus!

In case you missed it, some lovely coverage made it onto the cover after our December 23rd meal and gift box delivery. Service can be a multi-generational delight!



Build and Maintain Sustainable Infrastructure

Stormwater Utility Committee

The Montpelier City Council and Department of Public Works is looking to appoint members to the newly formed Stormwater Utility Committee. The committee has been tasked with building out/developing a new Stormwater utility and to present to City Council on their findings. The committee will solicit proposals to partner with a consultant to assist with the development of the utility. The Stormwater Utility Committee will work closely with the selected consultant to address the feasibility of the utility, the financial impacts of said utility, and engage the public throughout the development of the utility.

This committee has two Council representatives, Councilmembers Jay Ericson and Lauren Hierl who were appointed on August 25th, 2021. The Committee is looking for additional members as follows: (2) staff liaisons, (1) member of the Friends of the Winooski, (3) members from related city commissions/committees such as the planning commission, conservation commission, development

review board, Montpelier Transportation Infrastructure Committee, or others and (1) member of the public. The ideal member of the public will have at least one of the following: background in finances, experience dealing with Stormwater, or development of other enterprise utilities.

If you are already on a committee and are interested in joining you and your chair should nominate yourself by sending an email to Zach Blodgett at the following email address zblodgett@montpelier-vt.org. If you are a member of the public and interested in joining you will need to fill out a full application using the link below.

<https://www.montpelier-vt.org/formcenter/boards-commissions-12/city-of-montpelier-boards-commissions-ap-60>

All nominations and applications are due by January 6th, 2022. Committee appointments are scheduled to occur at the January 12th council meeting.



Employment and Personnel Announcements

Milestone Work Anniversaries for January New

The following employees have reached a milestone year in working for the City! Thank you so much to Chris, Heather, and Harry for their dedication to working for and improving our community. We appreciate you all very much.

Name	Department	2022 Service Anniversary (Years)
Chris Cox	DPW: Water Resource Recovery Facility	10
Heather Graves	Finance	5
Harry Divack	Community Services: Montpelier Senior Activity Center	5

Municipal Job Openings

Visit the City website for more information: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/Jobs.aspx>

- **Police Department- Patrol Officers:** The Patrol Officer is responsible for the efficient performance of required duties in conformance with the laws and the Department's rules, regulations and policies. Duties shall consist of, but are not necessarily limited to, a number of general police responsibilities necessarily necessary to the stability and safety of the community. For applications and more information, click [here](#) or email recruiting@montpelier-vt.org. We have one more open officer position.

- **Emergency Services Dispatcher/Clerk:** This full-time career position involves the appropriate call handling of both emergency and non-emergency requests for police, fire, and emergency medical services, and determining the nature and urgency of those calls. For more information click [here](#). **There is one vacant position.**
- **City Assessor:** The City of Montpelier, Vermont (population 8,000), seeks qualified candidates for the position of City Assessor. This position directs the operations of the Assessor's Office and the inspection and valuation of 2,900 real and 500 personal property accounts in the City. The Assessor is responsible for all of the assessing functions of the City including appraisal and assessment of all properties, defense of values, maintenance of the City's parcel maps and other lists. The Assessor leads field functions in inspecting and valuing residential, commercial, and industrial properties. Work is performed under the administrative direction of the City Manager and in accordance with state statutes. The Assessor will be responsible for overseeing the contracted city-wide reappraisal in which all property in the City of Montpelier will be reappraised for the 2023 Grand List. Work on this initiative has begun as of October 2021. A minimum of 5 years of experience as a lister/assessor, or equivalent experience and education, is desired as well as a thorough knowledge of appraisal methodology, State laws pertaining to appraisal and assessing of property, the Current Use Program, and rules and procedures regarding maintenance of the City's Grand List. Knowledge of State mapping requirements and updating of the City parcel maps is also required. If interested, please submit your resume and letter of interest to City Manager Bill Fraser at wfraser@montpelier-vt.org or by mail at City of Montpelier, City Hall, 39 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602. **This position is open until filled.**



Reminders

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. 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.

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 see City Council Meetings: <https://www.orcamedia.net/series/montpelier-city-council>
- Click here for Live Stream: <https://www.orcamedia.net/series/live-stream-events>
- Or stream via ORCA's YouTube channel during meetings here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/orcamedia>

City-wide Reappraisal Property Inspections Have Begun!

We have begun the process of a city-wide reappraisal of all real property. Representatives from the New England Municipal Consultants will visit each property in the city to gather data. The inspection process will start in late 2021 and continue through the spring of 2023. NEMC will mail notices to property owners in advance of conducting inspections.

Stump Dump:

Need to get rid of lawn debris, stumps, and branches? The City Stump Dump is open! Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Please call the City Garage at 802-223-9510 before going to dump to approve of your items!

Trash Receptacles:

As a resident of Montpelier, are you wondering about the best area to place a trash receptacle for trash pickup? Please, always, place trash receptacles for pick up at the corner of the driveway, behind the sidewalk. If you do not have a sidewalk on your street, please place receptacles on the corner of the drive, in the street closest to the curb. (Not obstructing traffic). Please do not please receptacles within the sidewalk.

Questions? Please contact Jasmine Benson with DPW at 802-223-9508.

Thank you,



William Fraser, City Manager

Upcoming Agenda Items (TENTATIVE)			
1/12/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First PH on Budget • First PH on Warning • First PH on Bonds • Audit Report • Remote meetings • Stormwater Utility Committee Appointments • Election • Community Fund Awards 	1/20/22 Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd PH/Budget Adoption • 2nd PH on Warning/Adoption • Consideration of Petitions • Bond Necessity Resolutions • Mask Mandate extension • Strategic Plan Update • Review Petitions (if any)
2/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CJC Introduction • Police Committee Follow Up • City Manager Review and Contract • Mask Mandate extension 	2/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd PH on Bonds • Parklet Ordinance
3/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Meeting Election 	3/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizational Meeting • Elect Officers • Rules of Procedure • Ethics Policy • Committee Assignments • Mask Mandate extension • Election results review
3/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning Revisions? 	4/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mask Mandate Update • 3rd Quarter Financials

? = Date is tentative, may shift to a different date

CURRENT PENDING ITEMS

Housing Task Force Report follow up
Zoning revisions –March 23?
City Master Plan – Fall/Winter 2022

12-16 Main St. site planning
Conduit Policy

From Strategic Plan for future agendas:

Economic Development – Strategic Plan, TIF, Tax Stabilization

Workforce Development program

City Committee recruitment/stipends (also with budget)

- ✓ Coordination with CAN –11/17

Equity Action Plan recommendations

Planning Department exercises

- ✓ PFAS Alternatives – 11/17

Stormwater Utility

Homelessness Plan

- ✓ Police Review Committee recommendations - started on 11/10, to be continued on 2/9

Mutual Aid Issues with Middlesex and Berlin

Update Barriers to Housing Study

From Strategic Plan for Budget Discussion:

- ✓ Confluence Park Funding – in proposed bond
- ✓ Dam Removal Study – in Capital Reserve funding
- ✓ Early Childcare Feasibility Study – included with work on new Rec Center
 - Economic Development Funding - \$50,000 in budget, not full \$100,000
- ✓ Website improvement/Communications platforms – upgrade in budget, communications in ARPA2
- ✓ Fund ADA transition plan items – In CIP
- ✓ Fully Staff city departments – in budget
- ✓ Housing Trust Fund – fully funded at \$110,000 in budget
- ✓ Housing and Services Hub – funded in ARPA 2
- ✓ Net Zero Plan recommendations –first project in proposed bond
- ✓ Implementing Green Print – trail project in budge
- ✓ Construct Public Restrooms – funded in ARPA 2
- ✓ Recreation Building – proposed bond to purchase property
 - Fund Capital Plan – funding increased from FY22 but not back to target levels
- ✓ Maintain 70 PCI on streets – target funding included in CIP and Capital Reserve
 - Expand Peer Support and Social Worker capacity – 0.5 FTE expansion proposed, 1.0 FTE left unfunded
- ✓ Implement CIT program – Included in Police budget
- ✓ Implement Police Review recommendations – body worn cameras in CIP, many other recommendations in police budget
 - Implement Televate communications infrastructure plan – Funding approved in FY22 held over for use with potential build out of all or some of this plan

From Strategic Plan for Staff Action:

- ✓ Rec & Parks as Economic Driver – seeking to acquire Elks club, recently purchased new Park land

Expand hours of childcare program

Work with developers for more housing

Support Christ Church housing project

2022 VHCB grant application for housing and services hub

Complete projects included in budget

Expand CJC support to MPD

- ✓ Protect Berlin Pond Watershed – negotiating for land purchase