

CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT

Council Information Report – 11/13/09

UPCOMING MEETINGS ...

- **Development Review Board Meeting:** Monday, November 16th, at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.
- **enVision's Sidewalk Stewards' Meeting:** Tuesday, November 17th, at 7:00 P.M. in the Memorial Room.
- **Department Head Meeting:** Wednesday, November 18th, at 9:00 A.M. in the City Manager's Conference Room.
- **"CAN" Meeting:** Wednesday, November 18th, at 5:30 P.M. in the Memorial Room.
- **City Council Meeting:** Wednesday, November 18th, at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.
- **"Montpelier Alive" Design Review Committee Meeting:** Thursday, November 19th, at 8:00 A.M. in the City Manager's Conference Room.
- **Tree Board Meeting:** Thursday, November 19th, at 5:30 P.M. in the Memorial Room.

FOR YOUR CALENDARS ...

- ❖ **Welcome Legislators Reception:** Thursday, January 28th, **2010**, from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. at the Capitol Plaza.

STATUS REPORTS ...

Enclosures:

List of Parade Permits: Updated 10/29/09
School Board Meeting Minutes: 10/21/09
Memo from Bill Krajewski of New England Municipal Consultants, Ltd.

Public Information:

I have not heard any more from VLCT PACIF (our insurer) with regard to the question of document release.

Council Minutes – Web Casting:

I am meeting with Kenric Kite from ORCA today to see what the status of their project is and whether there is any benefit to matching vendors or not.

Employee Health Insurance:

As a follow up to the big employee meeting, the consultant and committee held separate meetings with four specific employee groups. The committee is meeting with me on Monday morning to report on that process. I have placed the item on the council agenda for an update, discussion and perhaps a decision. I will get you advance information as soon as I am able but it probably won't be until Monday at the earliest.

Financial Review – State Auditor:

As agreed upon, Mr. Salmon will be holding an open meeting at 5:15 on Monday the 16th to begin this process. We have the council chamber reserved and the meeting will be televised.

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Wastewater Treatment Plant:

DPW Director Todd Law, Attorney Stitzel and I are met with ANR officials about this matter on Thursday morning in Waterbury. I raised the list of our concerns and objections to them proceeding with any penalty action. They will take our comments under consideration and speak with us next week. Key points that I raised were that the discharge in question occurred as a result of technical issues with the transition from the dangerous chlorine gas disinfection and implement the safer and more modern ultraviolet disinfection, that the City has had an exemplary record over the years, that the city has been fully cooperative with the review and in seeking corrections to the problem, that there is no need for deterrence since we've already spent \$40,000 and have fixed the problem, that the discharge in question was minimal – particularly compared to other allowed discharges, that any fine or penalty will not result in any different compliance outcome – we've already corrected the problems and that any fine would be borne by local rate payers with with no real public purpose being served. As a proposal for resolution, I suggested that the city would install an additional recirculating pump system (sort of a double prevention system) and the cost of that could be considered in lieu of a penalty. In such a case, money is being spent for a real public benefit. I also told them that any settlement proposal would need to be approved by the council and would be discussed in open session.

Reappraisal:

The Reappraisal Committee met last night to review progress to date and next steps. A copy of a progress report from Bill Krajewski from NEMC is included in the packet. The committee is preparing a letter from them to go to local media urging fellow residents to participate in the inspection process. The committee will meet again in January to begin preparations for the final push to the finish line in June.

Council E-Mail:

Fred Skeels and Nick Daniels are working on the technical problems that you all have experienced and will be issuing a new set of instructions as soon as they can.

National Citizen Survey:

I am looking at a draft of the final report. Depending on questions or problems we should have the official copy very soon. I have tentatively included it on this week's agenda but think its more likely that we'll have it for discussion on December 2nd (assuming that we're meeting that night).

Vendor's Licenses:

Montpelier Alive has volunteered to take a lead role on this discussion and pull interested parties together to craft a recommendation for the City Council.

Farmers' Market:

I will meet with them to discuss potential arrangements and bring a proposal to you in December. For your information, the annual lease for 2009 is \$30,000 which translates to \$82.19 per day. On weekends we do not have any foregone parking revenue.

Budget:

We're moving into high gear internally on the budget next week. I am meeting with all the departments to review their requests and will get my first glimpse at the overall picture. Obviously any progress we make on the health insurance process will make a huge difference in the challenge that lies ahead. We are not certain how, when or if we will be able to have a joint meeting with the School Board. Because of the Scott issue we are running behind schedule in our budget process and will not be ready to present on December 2 as planned.

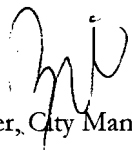
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Upcoming Meetings:

November 16	Financial Review Process with Auditor Thomas Salmon
November 18	Follow up conversation with Auditor Salmon Employee Health Insurance National Citizen Survey Results (hopefully) Request for Water Bill Reduction City Hall Auditorium rental policy Request for reconsideration of rental waiver Other Business Related to Scott Construction
November 25	Thanksgiving Week – No Meeting
December 2	Issues Related to Scott Construction (tentative) Discussion of Council Work Priorities
December 9	Budget
December 12 (Saturday)	Budget Work Session (9:00 AM to 3:00 PM)
December 16	Budget


William Fraser, City Manager

Sandy P.

2009 PARADE PERMITS Updated 10/29/09

Date	Organization	Start	Contact	Added Info
APRIL 2009				
MAY 2009				
JULY 2009				
AUGUST 2009				
SEPTEMBER 2009				
OCTOBER 2009				
NOVEMBER 2009				
Wednesday, Nov 11	Veterans Day Parade	9:30 AM- 11:30 AM	Malcolm MacAskill 229-9028/479-2325	Patrol to direct traffic, control intersections. 801 will lead in marked cruiser
Saturday, Nov 14	Rally for Justice for Calves	10:30AM – 1:30PM	Katherine Collins 476-5302	Sidewalk Rally in front of Statehouse.
DECEMBER 2009				
JANUARY 2010				
Saturday, January 16	Vt Right to Life	10:45am 11:30am	Mary Hahn Beerworth 229- 4885	Cruiser to escort/protect the rear of the parade. Officer to control traffic at State and Main Streets

MEETING OF THE
MONTPELIER BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

October 21, 2009
MINUTES

Minutes Approved: *November 4, 2009*

Present

Board: Sue Aldrich, Carolyn Herz, John Hollar, Steve Robinson, Rick Vanden Bergh, Lowell VanDerlip

Administration: Interim Superintendent Peter Evans, Principal Pam Arnold

Absent: Charlie Phillips

1. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.
2. **Adjust/Review Agenda** An executive session will be added prior to adjournment.
3. **Public Comments** None.
4. **Discussion with MSMS Principal** Principal Arnold explained that the middle school is currently evaluating "who and what we are." Recommendations for what makes a great middle school were discussed, as well as middle school goals. Principal Arnold told the board that MSMS practices are on target with research recommendations.
5. **Superintendent Search Update** Interim Superintendent Evans updated the board on the status of applications to date and the plan for going forward. Mr. Hollar suggested one addition to the applicant rating sheet.
6. **Bond Update** A project spreadsheet was provided.
7. **Policy – Third Reading of Superintendent Limitations Policies**
 - a. **2.1 Treatment of Parents, Guardians, Students, and Citizens**
 - b. **2.2 Treatment of Staff**

Suggested rewording for item #8 of policy 2.1 was provided by Mrs. Herz. There were no objections. The policies will be warned for vote on adoption at the next meeting.
8. **Appoint Board Succession Committee** Mrs. Aldrich and Mr. Hollar volunteered to serve on this committee.
9. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. **Minutes of October 7, 2009**
 - b. **Warrants**
 - c. **Teacher Resignation**
 - i) **Nancy Post**
 - d. **Financial Report**
 - e. **Co-Curricular Contracts**

Mr. Vanden Bergh moved, seconded by Mrs. Aldrich, to approve the consent agenda including minutes of the October 7, 2009 meeting, Warrants 21 and 22 dated October 22, 2009 in the amounts of \$65,138.25 and

Crowl

New England Municipal Consultants, Ltd

Serving New England's Town Government

Tel (603) 475-9991

To: Montpelier Appraisal Committee
From: Bill Krajewski
CC: Rick Favor
Date: November 12, 2009
Re: Meeting Update

First, let me apologize for not being at the meeting. Rick Favor will be there to answer questions or to get the questions to me. Please feel free to pose any questions through Rick or to contact me directly.

As of November 11, 2009, we have measured 1929 residential properties and have inspected the interior of 1093; a 56% entry rate. This is a very good entry rate at this point in the job. There are approximately 500 remaining homes to be visited. The last group of homes (about 350) will be receiving their initial mailer in the next 2 weeks. This will leave with only the commercial/industrial property to measure (353 improved properties).

With great assistance from the Assessors' office, we have continued to fill appointment schedules. Given the pace we are on, I would expect that the entry level will approach 60% after this first go around. Our next step will be to send out letters to the other 40% asking for an inspection appointment. This is an important step as it is our last contact point with homeowners until informal appeals. It is important that in a balanced and careful letter we impress upon the public their need to contact us. It is an important letter that must generate substantial response. Anything the committee can do to get the word out would be greatly appreciated. I would expect these letters to go out after January 1st.

Commercial and industrial property will be secondarily valued by the income approach. In order to process this approach we will need to gather income and expense data. The data refers only to income and expense directly related to real estate and not to the business within. Succinctly, rent and building expenses (heat, insurance, etc.). We will coordinate an information request mailer with the Assessor and expect to mail it in early January. Again, anything the committee can do to get the word out would be greatly appreciated.

The project is on pace at the moment. Data processing is being done remotely and should catch up with the field work by January 1st. We will begin after that date to get building permits entered and to assist with the mapping project. I will need to begin the review process early in March of 2010. This process involves the viewing of every parcel to set final factors and values.

We have some key dates to meet in early January. We are on target to meet those dates and as long as we do, the project will continue to stay on schedule.

NEMC
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Fax 978 363-5216