

**CITY OF MONTPELIER
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

City Manager's Weekly Report – 2/26/2016

UPCOMING MEETINGS ...

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Monday, February 29 | Planning Commission, 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers |
| Tuesday, March 1 | TOWN MEETING DAY ... if you haven't already, please get out and vote!! Polls are open at City Hall from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Bicycle Advisory Committee, 6:00 P.M. in the City Manager's Conference Room |
| Wednesday, March 2 | Montpelier Business Association, 8:30 A.M. in the Memorial Room

Economic Development Strategic Plan, 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers |
| Thursday, March 3 | Economic Development Strategic Plan, 8:00 A.M. in the City Council Chambers |

You can also click on the following link for a listing of the Montpelier Senior Activity Center's upcoming events: <http://www.montpelier-vt.org/calendar.aspx?CID=30,36>

ATTACHMENTS ...

 Press Release: Economic Development – Public Meeting

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT ...

Town Meeting Day

In preparation for Town Meeting Day voting on Tuesday, March 1st, here are some documents that may be useful:

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- [2016 Annual Report](#): This document includes the ballot items you will see on March 1st, summaries of the budget and each City department, and information on City committees, initiatives, and partner organizations.
- [FY17 Budget](#): This document presents the FY17 Municipal Budget.

Economic Development – Public Discussions

Next week the City of Montpelier will hold two public conversations about Montpelier's economic future with the goal of answering the question: How can we encourage private investment in the City to take advantage of the unique opportunities presented in Montpelier? The public meetings will take place on March 2nd at 7:00 PM and March 3rd at 8:00 AM in the City Council Chambers at Montpelier City Hall, 39 Main Street. This is an opportunity for all interested parties to learn more about the Economic Development Strategic Plan and share ideas about Montpelier's economic future. This presentation will also be recorded by ORCA for viewing after the meetings.

Flooding this Week

We were lucky this week to avoid the flooding that some of our neighboring communities experienced. However, early Thursday morning we did have a minor flooding event when the Winooski River crested around 16 feet as a result of ice jamming and heavy rains. Twice between the hours of midnight and 5:00 AM the Winooski flooded lower State Street west of the Bailey Avenue Bridge. The ice jam broke around 5:00 AM, and the water receded. With the levels still high, we will continue to monitor the river but don't anticipate any immediate problems.

Flood Notices and VT Alerts

Were you expecting to get a flood notice from the City this week and didn't? In the fall of 2014, we transitioned to using VT Alerts for our emergency notifications. This is a free service provided in conjunction with the Vermont Department of Public Safety that provides access to Montpelier specific and State-wide alerts. If you haven't signed up for these already, please do so at www.vtalert.gov. And [click here for instructions on how to complete this registration](#). We'd recommend that you sign up for "Meteorological" and "Transportation" alerts for Montpelier. Or, come visit us on Town Meeting Day! We will be set up in the City Hall main corridor to help you sign up for VT Alerts.

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Legal

VCFA vs. City, Tax Appeal. – Oral argument on cross motions for Summary Judgment was held at Washington Superior Court on Tuesday, January 12th. Represented by Robert Fletcher

Illuzzi vs. City, Law, Motyka, Renaud Bros. – Motion for summary judgment was filed this week; discovery continues. Represented by Constance Tryon Bell through VLCT

WEEKLY UPDATES FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...

Public Works

Combined Sewer Overflow

On Thursday the 25th, a VLCT staff person, wastewater treatment facility operators and public works directors, including Tom McArdle, testified on H.674, a bill that would require immediate notification of the public of any overflow event concerning combined sewer overflow systems (CSO). When an overflow occurs, typically caused by extreme rain storm events, an overflow to the rivers may be necessary to prevent the sewer system from backing up into homes, businesses and into the streets. H.674, as redrafted earlier this week, would require that the facility operator “immediately and in no case more than 15 minutes from discovery” post notice of a discharge from a combined sewer overflow or a sanitary system overflow on a Secretary of ANR designated electronic network. As stated in the VLCT newsletter, “The simple truth is that a law requiring a 15-minute notification of an event is not feasible and sets up municipal wastewater treatment operators not only to fail, but also to take precious time out of resolving the situation to post the notification.” An updated CSO draft policy is now in the review process and those testifying encouraged the House Fish, Wildlife, and Water Resources Committee should allow the CSO rulemaking to proceed and set aside H.674. The VLCT also encouraged that the Department of Environmental Conservation “...consider providing general advice to Vermonters to avoid the water after big storm events, when not only CSOs but all kinds of contaminants and sediment are washed into the high flowing waters.” DPW staff will continue to support all efforts to reduce the occurrence of overflows and will do their part in providing notification to the public when and if they do occur.

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Winter Operations

The DPW Streets Division had another busy week beginning with a storm on the weekend of the 20th with a common pattern of snow fall, thawing, rain, and freezing. Consequently, crews of various sizes were out early night and day on 4 of the 7 days in this report period. Also, the department's 3 sidewalk plows which also carry de-icing materials have been running their routes repeatedly every single day. Approximately 60 tons of salt, as well as a sand/salt mixture, have spread over this time period keeping our sidewalks and streets in reasonably safe and passable condition. Furthermore, regular inspection of storm drainage systems has been underway and draining standing water from sidewalks and crosswalks has been a constant effort as a result of these challenging weather patterns. Of particular note was the rainfall yesterday, the 25th, exceeding 2" in less than 12 hours with abnormally high rates of runoff due to the frozen impervious surfaces prevailing throughout the region. As has been the pattern, a severe drop in temperatures followed this rainfall event resulting in additional freezing. This weather pattern is typically more costly in equipment, overtime and fuel usage than normal winter snow fall events.

TOPICS FOR UPCOMING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS ...

March 9th

Organizational Meeting
Orientation
2015-16 Goals Review
Transportation Committee Role
CSO Rule – Policy Position
CDBG Application for French Block

March 23rd

2016-17 Goals/Priorities



Jessie C. Baker
Assistant City Manager



America's Small Town Capital

Mayor John Hollar

William Fraser
City Manager

City Council Members:

Dona Bate
Jessica Edgerly Walsh
Tom Golonka
Jean Olson
Justin Turcotte
Anne Watson

Jessie Baker
Assistant City Manager

PRESS RELEASE

City Announces Public Conversations about Montpelier's Economic Future to be Held on March 2nd and 3rd

February 18, 2016

The City of Montpelier will hold two public conversations about Montpelier's economic future with the goal of answering the question: How can we encourage private investment in the City to take advantage of the unique opportunities presented in Montpelier? Public meetings will take place on March 2nd at 7:00 PM and March 3rd at 8:00 AM in the City Council Chambers at Montpelier City Hall, 39 Main Street. This is an opportunity for all interested parties to learn more about the Economic Development Strategic Plan and share ideas about Montpelier's economic future.

How do we keep Montpelier's economy vibrant and prosperous? That's the question being addressed by Montpelier's Economic Development Strategic Plan (EDSP). The EDSP will create an action plan for preserving and strengthening the vitality of the City's economy. Using the City's community character and quality of life as its foundation, the EDSP will assess the existing economic conditions and seeks to involve local businesses, key stakeholders and the community in the development of an action plan that sets clear priorities for staffing, investment and community activities to promote economic health and vitality in the Montpelier.

The analysis done to date suggests that, while Montpelier's economy is in relatively good shape today, it is coming under increasing competition for businesses and jobs. For example, the table below contains recent jobs data for 2009 to 2014. It shows that Barre and Waterbury added hundreds of private sector jobs over that time, while Montpelier's private sector added only 10 jobs in the same time frame. If this trend

continues, the City could see a long-term loss of jobs, population and businesses to other locations in Central Vermont and beyond.

Employment Trends, 2009-2014			
Employment by Municipality, 2014	Montpelier	Barre	Waterbury
Total Employment	9,539	5,146	3,379
Change in Total Employment from 2009	599	648	(1,209)
Private Employment	5,810	4,146	2,887
Change in Private Sector Employment from 2009	10	394	294
Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages			

Montpelier has its challenges, but there are also lots of opportunities. The good news is Montpelier still has a vital economy and can take action to avoid losing its prosperity. The preliminary analysis for the Economic Development Strategic Plan shows that Montpelier has opportunities in such business sectors as:

- Professional, Business and Not-for-Profit Services
- Finance & Insurance
- Specialty Retail
- Tourism & Hospitality
- Adult Learning
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Entrepreneurism

Join the conversation about Montpelier's economic future on March 2nd and 3rd! For more information on the EDSP please visit: www.montpelierplan.com.