

**CITY OF MONTPELIER  
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

**City Manager's Weekly Report – 08/18/2017**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS...**

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| Monday, August 21 | Design Review Committee Meeting, 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers  |
| Monday, August 21 | Development Review Board Meeting, 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers |

**FOR YOUR CALENDARS...**

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|-------------------|---|
| Monday, August 28 | Planning Commission Meeting, 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers |
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**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...**

**One Taylor Street**

Construction management team met this week to firm up plans for work beginning in December. We are still waiting to hear more about Mowatt. Redstone formally signed over their interests in the Housing Development Agreement to Downstreet.

**Caledonia Spirits**

Tax Stabilization request has been submitted reviewed by staff. It is scheduled for the August 23<sup>rd</sup> and September 13<sup>th</sup> agendas.

**Master Plan & Zoning**

Zoning deliberations will return to the Council agenda on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**TIF**

Stephanie Hainley and Gail Henderson-King from White & Burke will be in Montpelier on Sept. 12 to meet with various groups to outline the TIF program and Montpelier's potential application. The Council and Mayor will be included in that meeting, most likely during the lunch hour. We will keep you updated as the time, location and agenda are finalized. We'd like to add a Council Member to the project team – perhaps we can select someone on Wednesday night.

### **Berlin Pond**

Continued discussion on our end is needed.

### **Organics to Energy Project**

Thanks for all the great questions and issues raised. The agreement is much better because of your participation. Work is already underway.

### **Parking/Transportation Alternatives**

The Subcommittee (Councilors Bate and Watson) will present a proposal for moving forward at a September meeting.

### **Econo Lodge**

They have submitted a mitigation plan. I will recommend your approval --with conditions -- at the Aug. 23 Council meeting.

### **Collective Bargaining**

We reached tentative agreement with the Police Union today. We still need to circulate a draft memo of agreement amongst the bargaining teams (and, of course, you) but it looks good. I think the deal addresses a lot of important issues while recognizing budget constraints.

### **Parklets**

Due to the size of agendas, this ordinance is being moved to October. Positive Pie intends to place their parklet out for the remainder of the season under the previous arrangement.

### **Legal**

*Illuzzi vs City, et al.*: The Court has ruled on the outstanding motions. Trial has been rescheduled to take place September 21-22. The parties are directed to engage in mediation which must be currently scheduled for August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Represented by Constance Tyron Pell, Esq.

## **WEEKLY REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS ...**

### **Montpelier Police Department**

MPD's Parking Division personnel did a great job re-installing the smart meters downtown now that the bulk of the State Street and Main Street construction projects have been completed.

Carbon monoxide concerns with Ford Interceptor SUV police vehicles: There has been considerable media attention around the issue of potentially dangerous CO levels in the occupant compartment of the Ford Interceptors. In the Spring and Summer of this year, MPD acquired two new 2017 Ford Interceptors. Initially, the local dealership declined to perform the CO safety service under warranty (Ford technical service bulletin TSB 17-0044), but they would perform the work for over \$800 per vehicle. As a precaution, the department installed CO detectors in these vehicles as an officer safety measure. The Ford Motor Company has since changed its stance on the CO issue involving Interceptors and last week the local dealership has performed the precautionary service free of charge. This week, an engineer from the Ford Motor Company in Detroit inspected MPD's new Fords at the PD and there were no apparent problems. (It is important to note that the CO concerns are only with the police specialty vehicles and not with the civilian Explorer models.)

MPD Dispatch staffing changes: The department will be losing two full-time dispatchers this fall. One dispatcher, Danielle Frattini, has accepted the position of MPD Police Officer and this transition will occur in December. She will be attending the Vermont Police Academy basic training in February 2018. Dispatcher Harley Pecor will be changing her status from full-time to part-time in September. As a result of these dispatch vacancies, the department will be conducting job interviews both this week and next.

Since the first week in June, the Montpelier Police Department has been meeting with local business and their employees, in an effort to obtain up to date contact information and foster stronger working relationships. As of August 15, approximately 164 businesses have been visited by Montpelier police officers, and of those 164, 119 have completed new Business Contact Information Sheets. The updated information is extremely helpful to the police department in many different situations. While meeting with the businesses, officers discussed any security concerns and or special circumstances that each business faced in their day to day operations. The Montpelier Police Department would like to thank all the local businesses who participated and we encourage all local businesses to keep us informed of changes in ownership, contacts and updated security measures. This initiative was implemented and led by SGT Jeffrey Pearson MPD.

### **Public Works**

Water & Sewer Division:

Harrison Avenue project is progressing better and it currently anticipated that the new water main will be completed, disinfected and tested by the end of next week, 8/25/17. The following week, DPW will begin connecting the water services to the new main. We anticipate having two crews working on the services simultaneously.

Street Division:

Project highlights for the week of August 21st:

- The Sibley Avenue sidewalk project was dealt a slight setback due to a mechanical problem with the curb machine. Work will resume next week provided the equipment is repaired.
- Ditching, shoulder, and driveway culvert work on Gallison Hill Road postponed from previous week
- Work will resume on upper Winter Street reconstruction project with good progress made during this week.

“Makeover Montpelier” Project (State & Main paving & sidewalk reconstruction):

The contractor will be removing cones & barricades in the downtown area although some construction signs will remain because punch list items to be addressed including clean-up & repairing defects such as puddling. The contractor began milling/grinding work on the Elm Street phase of the project which will continue through next week. Expected milling/grinding duration is approximately 8 days and once the 3 mile long main line is complete, the side streets and driveway approaches will be prepared for resurfacing. The shim or leveling course of pavement will follow which will take 2-3 days to complete. While crosswalk curb ramps and structure adjustments are taking place over the next several weeks, parking will be allowed on the street to the extent possible. See the update provided by FRP Enterprises for additional information.

Annual Street Paving & Sidewalk Contracts:

The City's contractor, Engineers Construction has scheduled paving work to begin on Governor Davis Avenue, High School Drive and Winter Street during the week of August 21st. Also planned for next week is replacement of several sidewalk ramps in the vicinity of the Vermont College of Fine Arts which was not begun last week as expected.

Northfield Street Reconstruction:

The contractor has been making much better progress the last couple of weeks as three separate crews are now engaged on the utility work; sewer main & water main pipe layers and a service connection crew. The old concrete roadway is being removed by the sewer crew as they lead the way up the hill. See the update provided by FRP Enterprises for additional information.

Finance Department

We are wrapping up the final processing of the August 15 property tax installment as payments continue to trickle in. I would like to thank everyone that made a timely payment and thank the staff in the Clerk's office for their extra efforts over the last 2 weeks. I would also like to thank everyone that has submitted a completed automatic payment authorization form. Automatic payments really help streamline the payment process for everyone involved.

On another bright note, the city was able to refund two 2013 Series 1 Bonds held by the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank due to a brief but favorable change in market conditions. This refunding into 2017 Series 4 Bonds will save the city approximately \$96,000 in interest costs over the remaining life of the loans.

### **Senior Center**

#### Jazzyoke: Singing to Live Music for All! Friday, August 25, 6:30-9:30 pm

Come to listen, enjoy free refreshments, and optionally, take a turn at the mic, singing jazz standards backed by a live six-piece band. Vermonters have already enjoyed Jazzyoke at Espresso Bueno and other venues, and we are delighted to bring it to MSAC free of charge (tips for the band gratefully accepted). Be prepared for a great time, and bring your friends!

#### Class Registration Begins Monday, August 28

The Montpelier Senior Activity Center will be offering 75 weekly classes this fall, with loads of new offerings including cooking, Mindfit: Activities to Boost Brain Health, guided meditation, and more, and new off-site classes at Down Home Kitchen, Westview Meadows, and Shepherd of the Hills Church in Montpelier, and at the Middlesex Town Hall. Many classes are open to people of all ages. Sign up at the Senior Activity Center, 58 Barre Street, or online at [www.montpelier-vt.org/msac](http://www.montpelier-vt.org/msac).

### **TOPICS FOR UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS...**

September 13

Zoning  
Dog Ordinance 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading  
Caledonia Spirits Tax Stabilization 2<sup>nd</sup> Hearing  
Parking/Team Bridges  
Sprinkler Ordinance discussion  
DID Budget  
Water/Sewer Rates  
Historic District

September 27

Zoning  
Budget Process  
Asset Management update  
Economic Development Goal

October 11

Zoning  
Parklet Ordinance 1<sup>st</sup> Reading  
Five Year Budget projection  
Local Options Tax discussion  
Wayfinding Signs Presentation  
Central VT Public Safety Authority update  
ADA Committee update

October 25

Zoning  
Parklet Ordinance 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading  
TIF Update  
Quality of Life Goal  
Aging in Place  
Fees



William Fraser  
City Manager