

**CITY OF MONTPELIER  
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

**City Manager's Weekly Report – 01/26/2018**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS...**

Thursday, February 1	Tree Board Meeting, 5:30 P.M., Memorial Room
Monday, February 5	Design Review Committee Meeting, 5:30 P.M., City Council Chambers
Monday, February 5	Development Review Board Meeting, 7:00 P.M., City Council Chambers
Tuesday, February 6	Transportation Infrastructure Committee Meeting, 6:00 P.M., City Manager's Conference Room

**FOR YOUR CALENDARS...**

Wednesday, February 14	City Council Meeting, 6:30 P.M., City Council Chambers
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**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...**

**One Taylor Street/Mowatt Project**

Remains on schedule; still planning for a mid-May groundbreaking. Permits being submitted today for the Mowatt project.

**Berlin Pond**

Awaiting response from Agency of Natural Resources to our letter of last week asking to create an isolation zone around the City's water intake system. We will keep Council updated.

**Fire Fighters Union Negotiations**

Talks continue. Most major issues resolved, but still working on language and a few outstanding issues.

**TIF**

We continue to meet with developers about potential projects, and mapping out infrastructure projects required to support economic growth.

**Drug Forum**

The City Council should have received an invitation to attend the Times Argus's opiate forum on Feb. 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Montpelier High School Auditorium. Among the panel of speakers are Health Commissioner Dr. Mark Levin, officials from the police departments in Barre, Montpelier and Burlington; acting Washington County State's Attorney Rory Thibault; Dr. Joshua

Plavin of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont, as well as the director of Central Vermont Medical Center. Barre City Council was also invited to attend.

### **Amanda Pelkey Event**

We are working with Amanda's parents, John and Ann, to coordinate a public event most likely late next week to publicly recognize Amanda's participation in the 2018 Olympics, and fly an Olympic flag outside City Hall. We will keep Council posted.

### **City Manager's Review**

We will be sending out the forms today or Monday with a return date of February 9<sup>th</sup>. The responses will be compiled and shared in advance of the February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Capital Plan and Bonds**

In response to issues raised at this week's meeting, the CIP plan is a living document with flexibility enabling staff & City Council to financially respond to both planned and unplanned infrastructure needs to include cash & debt service for project funding. The complimentary water & sewer master plans should also be viewed similarly. Near and long term infrastructure investments are projected based on actual known needs and timelines established in consideration of affordability, available resources to develop & manage projects as well as seasonal and other constraints.

Cost estimates are based on average unit pricing using size and anticipated scope of work but without benefit of the important estimating information generated as a result of design to include a detailed review of actual needs and true quantities. As such, they remain estimates until such time as preliminary engineering can be accomplished. Actual costs can vary significantly (high and low) causing the need to reconsider the scope of work, priorities, sequencing, etc.

If there are questions about the process concerning project estimating, implementation of the CIP short & long term project planning and the ultimate development of projects for construction, or other topics of concern, we would welcome the opportunity to review.

The Water/Sewer master plan included the bond money in FY 19 (it's noted at the top \$750k for other streets in the water plan.) We took what was not used for Northfield St. and added it to this amount.

The general fund portion of Northfield St. came in higher than the engineer's estimate. Sewer came in under and we took the difference and added it to this bond.

Therefore the bonding amount is exactly consistent with the w/s master plan. The WRRF plant upgrade will be different, but we are working with ESG on minimizing impacts to rate payers. We have not pushed that project forward sooner because we are not yet satisfied with the full picture.

## **Finance**

Budget season is finally complete. Staff are currently preparing the W-2's and 1099's for mailing. Employees and contractors can expect to receive their documents in the mail next week.

The final budget was approved by City Council at their January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. A copy of the Annual City Meeting Warning is available on the website at <http://www.montpelier-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/4848>

Water and Sewer bills will be mailed by Wednesday, January 31. The bills will include an insert from Net Zero Montpelier regarding a new home weatherization initiative available to Montpelier residents. This program will assist residents in continuing the community goal of becoming the first state capital in the nation to produce or offset all of its energy needs from renewable energy sources by 2030.

## **Facilities**

Ceiling repair and repainting work in the City of Montpelier Arts Center (Lost Nation Theater) in City Hall was completed this week.

## **Department of Public Works**

As a result of repeated freeze and thaw conditions, together with two very rainy periods, pot holes have developed on many of our streets and highways. In response, DPW deployed two patch crews to contend with the problem. The issue is most common on streets and highways where pavement is older and already distressed with cracks allowing water to penetrate and traffic loads then dislodge the loosened pavement.

Ice control has been a common theme in the weeks following the rain events. The sun is also gaining in intensity resulting in some day time melting followed by re-freezing at night. Crews are patrolling the streets and sidewalks looking for and addressing the problem areas. Sand is being used for traction and to enhance melting. We encourage people to contact DPW when an ice problem is observed so that we can address it.

Over the last week, DPW has been using a demonstration sidewalk plow which is noticeably different than our current fleet of sidewalk tractors. In addition to being less costly, the new plow and material spreader is a more versatile piece of equipment, having the capability of handling a front end bucket attachment, lending itself usable in 4 seasons instead of the single purpose sidewalk tractor. DPW is also excited about the improved maneuverability, slimmer width for the narrower sidewalks and the ability to apply increased down pressure on the blade to better scrape the sidewalk clear of ice & snow build-up.

In spite of the harsh conditions and nearly constant use of our snow plowing and removal equipment, our down time as a result of equipment failure has been minimal again this season. This is the result of the quality of equipment provided by the City and, most importantly, the excellent preventative maintenance and service performed by the skilled and knowledgeable mechanics.

If the weather holds, we will be removing more snowbanks over the next week to restore snow

storage capacity and for drainage control.

The Barre Street water main project at the site of the future Caledonia Spirits is still active but temporarily shut down awaiting a tapping sleeve part. Work will continue as conditions allow until completed.

## **Community Services**

### Ice on Fire, the Central Vermont Winter Festival | Sunday, February 4, 2-5pm | North Branch Nature Center, 713 Elm Street

Come one, come all to this wonderful festival, celebrating the warmth of community in the depths of winter. Dance, theater, music, storytelling and poetry performed by local artists and community members, winter games, kids activities and hot food and drink to warm the soul. Co-presented by AllTogether Now and Montpelier Parks. Opening parade starts at 2pm, and the closing ceremony and bonfire is at 4:30pm. Suggested donation: \$1 kids, \$3 adults, \$5 family.

### Parent-Child Valentines Dance | Monday, February 12, 6:30-8:30pm | Capitol Plaza

Tickets at the Recreation Office, 58 Barre Street, Before Friday, February 9 at 4pm: \$20/couple plus \$5 per additional guest

At the door: \$25/couple plus \$7 per additional guest

Bring your child for a special evening of dancing and fun at the Capitol Plaza for our 22nd Annual Parent-Child Dance! Light refreshments are provided. Tickets are limited, so be sure to purchase in advance at the Recreation Office at 58 Barre Street. Thank you to Vermont Mutual Insurance Group, Capitol Plaza, and Union Mutual for sponsoring this event.

### Death Café at MSAC | Friday, February 2, 12:30-2:00pm

Death Cafe is part of an international movement to “increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives.” Death Cafe provides a forum for you to share your thoughts about death, dying, and anything related in a safe, community environment. You can learn more at [deathcafe.com](http://deathcafe.com) or email [montpelierdeathcafe@gmail.com](mailto:montpelierdeathcafe@gmail.com). All are welcome as long as you come with an open mind. Ellen Fein will facilitate discussion. Pre-registration required in MSAC office, 223-2518. Free and open to the public.

### End of Life Choice: Options & Autonomy | Saturday, February 17, 9-3

The Montpelier Senior Activity Center will host a free educational symposium. Highlights will include stories from family members, the history of autonomy at end of life in VT and information from medical and other experts. Learn and ask questions about hospice care, medical aid in dying (VT Act 39), voluntary cessation of eating and drinking, and palliative sedation. Dive deeper into understanding advance directives, Act 39, palliative and comfort care. Co-presented by Patient Choices Vermont. Free and open to the public. Afternoon optional; lunch available for purchase. To learn more, call us at 223-2518.

### Help MSAC Strategize!

A Strategic Planning Committee for MSAC is recruiting volunteers (of any age) from the public who have skills and knowledge in such areas as data analysis, market research, event planning and meeting facilitation. Further, if you have time to share, and a background in such fields as

economics, health care, education, nutrition, transportation, housing, planning or others of potential relevance, we'd love to hear from you! This is a great opportunity to serve the community and help ensure MSAC's strength and relevance moving forward. Please contact Janna at [jclar@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:jclar@montpelier-vt.org) or 262-6283 for more info.

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

<b>Feb. 14</b>	Dog Ordinance, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Sprinkler Ordinance, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading City Manager's Review Conservation Commission Appts. Planning Commission Appts. Request Master Plan Regional approval Taylor Street Art	<b>Feb. 28</b>	Pump Track Parklet Ordinance, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Annual City Meeting Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget Information meeting</li> <li>• Warning Information meeting</li> <li>• Charter Information meeting</li> </ul>
<b>Mar 6</b>	Annual City Meeting Election	<b>Mar. 14</b>	Elect Officials Ethics Policy Rules of Procedure Goals process & schedule
<b>Mar. 28</b>	Apartment inspections Army Corps update Project Development Plan		



William Fraser  
 City Manager