

**CITY OF MONTPELIER  
CAPITAL CITY OF VERMONT**

**City Manager's Weekly Report – 02/23/2018**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS...**

Monday, February 26	Planning Commission, 5:00 P.M., Memorial Room
Wednesday, February 28	City Council, 6:30 P.M., City Council Chambers
Thursday, March 1	Tree Board, 5:30 P.M., Memorial Room

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT...**

**One Taylor Street/Mowatt Project**

Remains on schedule. Demolition of the Association for the Blind Building and Montpelier Beverage, as well as the overall site plan for the Mowatt lot, was reviewed by the Development Review Board on Monday night. Although the Board appeared comfortable with the proposal, we will appear before the Board again on March 19 to answer some remaining questions. Montpelier's 1 Taylor Street oversight team met this week to review the budget, and will begin meeting every two weeks as this project heads into the home stretch toward groundbreaking in the coming months.

**Capitol Plaza Project**

The Capitol Plaza met with the Design Review Committee and Development Review Board on Tuesday night. They are meeting again with both boards in March. It appears that they have done a lot of work with Christ Church to facilitate a successful housing project along with hotel & parking structure.

**TIF**

We continue to work closely with White and Burke to determine what infrastructure projects would be required to spark growth – housing and economic development – in the City's growth district (specifically downtown and along Barre Street, and the intersection of Barre and Main Streets); as well as the value to the grand list of that development to ensure taxpayers are protected if the Council moves forward with a Tax Increment Financing District.

**Amanda Pelkey**

It's probably not news to anyone, but Amanda Pelkey and the U.S. Women's Ice Hockey Team won the gold medal at the Olympics this week. We have reached out to Amanda's parents about holding a City celebration when she returns to Montpelier (the Pelkeys believe it will be mid-March). We will keep the Council informed!

**Fire Fighters Union Negotiations**

The formal council ratification vote is on the consent agenda.

**City Manager's Review**

Thank you all for the participation and discussion. I look forward to wrapping up any potential contract adjustments next week.

## **Legal**

Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) appeal of the discharge permit renewal for the Montpelier Water Resource Recovery Facility (one of eight permits under appeal) as issued by the VT Agency of Natural Resources. Parties have exchanged discovery requests (interrogatories) and engaging in settlement discussions. City represented by Joseph McLean, Esq., Stitzel, Page & Fletcher, P.C.

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

### **Public Works**

The winter weather extremes persist in consuming the attention of the DPW Street, Equipment & Water/Sewer divisions. Thus far this season, crews have responded to 69 weather related events ranging from a full deployment of all street division personnel, supplemented by other divisions, to the smaller 6 person crew. A mix of heavy snow to sleet & freezing rain coupled with extreme fluctuations of temperatures have provided all the ingredients to make this one of the most challenging winters to contend with in quite some time. The winter rain has been particularly challenging, frequently arriving after roadside snow banks have accumulated freezing them into immovable windrows making removal especially difficult. Rain washes the de-icing agents away and since the pavement temperature is well below the freezing point, re-application of deicing agents is required to prevent ice formation. Consequently, we expect to exceed the salt, sand and overtime budgets by 20% or more this fiscal year, and we still have at least 6 weeks of potential winter conditions ahead of us.

The temperature extremes and multiple rain events cause a great deal of stress on paved surfaces resulting in higher than normal amounts of pot holes this season. Water enters the cracks in distressed pavement surfaces or newly developed thermal cracks. The freezing temperatures weaken the pavement making it unable to withstand wheel loading resulting in failure and the dreaded pot holes. At times, we've had two pot hole crews deployed trying to keep up with the holes. The winter cold mix asphalt, while very expensive, is notoriously unreliable often demanding repeated re-patching of holes.

We will continue to do our best to meet the challenges of the ever changing winter weather and we welcome all reports of hazardous or unsatisfactory conditions so we can address them in a timely manner.

### **Community Services**

#### **February Break Day Camp**

Looking for a child-care option during the upcoming February school break? Montpelier Recreation offers a great day camp each day from 7:45am-4:45pm. The Day Camps provide youngsters with a well-balanced selection of activities and is staffed by a Director and qualified counselors. We are a licensed childcare program and can accept state subsidy for eligible children. On Thursday, we'll take a fun field trip to the Upper Valley Aquatics Center. Register by February 16. Visit [www.montpelierrec.org/camps](http://www.montpelierrec.org/camps) or call 225-8699 to learn more. You must register in person at 58 Barre Street in Montpelier.

#### **Palestine and Israel in Film** Mondays, February 12-March 19, 6:30-9pm

Local activists with the Vermonters for Justice in Palestine, Kathy Shapiro and Mark Hage screen six films dealing with Palestine and Israel. Hosting this series does not imply endorsement of any

particular position on the part of MSAC or the City of Montpelier. For a full introduction to the series, visit [www.montpelier-vt.org/msacfilms](http://www.montpelier-vt.org/msacfilms). For more information on specific films, call 223-2518.

**Jazzyoke: Sing to Live Music! | Friday, February 23, 6:30-9:30pm | Montpelier Senior Activity Center, 58 Barre Street**

Back by popular demand! Come to listen, enjoy free refreshments, and optionally, take a turn at the mic, singing jazz standards backed by a live six-piece band with lyrics provided. Free of charge (tips for the band gratefully accepted). Be prepared for a great time, and bring your friends!

**Hiring Summer Staff**

We have summer pool and camp positions available. Applications can be picked up at the Montpelier Recreation Department (58 Barre Street) between 9am-4pm or on our website. For more information please contact our office at 225-8699 or visit [www.montpelierrec.org/jobs](http://www.montpelierrec.org/jobs). Montpelier Recreation is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Apply by March 31!

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

<b>Feb. 28</b>	Annual City Meeting Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget Information meeting</li> <li>• Bond Information meeting</li> <li>• Warning Information meeting</li> <li>• Charter Information meeting</li> </ul> Mountaineers update and requests Parklet Ordinance, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading Pump Track City Manager's Contract Fire Union Contract	<b>Mar 6</b>	Annual City Meeting Election
<b>Mar. 14</b>	Elect Officers Ethics Policy Rules of Procedure Goals process & schedule D2 Council Seat Calendar Orientation/Information Audit CVSWMD appointments	<b>Mar. 28</b>	Apartment inspections Army Corps update Project Development Plan
<b>April 11</b>	Water Resource Recovery Facility	<b>April 25</b>	



William Fraser  
 City Manager