

Tues., July 21 st	Parks Commission	6:00 PM	Click HERE to view Agenda and Zoom Access
Tues., July 21 st	Energy Advisory Committee Meeting	7:00 PM	Click HERE to view Agenda and Zoom Access
Wed., July 22 nd	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	Click HERE to view Agenda and Zoom Access
Wed., July 22 nd	Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee	8:30 PM	Click HERE to view Agenda and Zoom Access



Public Health and Safety

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) CITY OF MONTPELIER RESPONSE UPDATE

The beginning of July has shown rapidly increasing case numbers of COVID-19 in other parts of the United States. While Vermont's mitigation efforts have been critical to slowing the virus' spread, the national trend shows that our progress can slide backwards at any time. The State wants to make sure we all do our part in keeping Vermont healthy and open, and for that to happen we need everyone to continue to take prevention seriously.

So, please remember that the Coronavirus is still a very present health threat as you get out and enjoy the summer weather. We want to remind residents to continue practicing 6 ft. physical distancing, wearing masks when they go outside, and to choose activities that keep them away from others.

We want to share updates on the City's actions to keep residents and employees safe and healthy:

State Updates:

- **July 6th, 2020:** ACCD and the Department of Taxes announced that the application window for the Economic Recovery Grants opened on Monday, July 6th.
 - Businesses who have been harmed by the COVID-19 pandemic will be eligible for recovery grants through ACCD or Department of Taxes if they pay Rooms & Meals Tax or Sales & Use Tax. These grants are intended for businesses who can demonstrate revenue loss in any one-month period from March 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020, when compared with the same month in 2019.
 - [The Economy Recovery Grant page](#) has full details, including requirements, document preparation needs, and application process.
- **July 7th, 2020:** The Governor held a press conference where he discussed the following updates:
 - ACCD released new [additional guidance for College and University Campuses](#) to help them plan for reopening and for students to return in person.
 - The guidance will require all students be tested upon arrival and sign a code of conduct agreement as well as require colleges to reduce density in classrooms and dining halls to keep students and faculty safe

- **July 13th, 2020:** There are now some State resources for funding to help renters, homeowners, and landlords make up lost payments in face of COVID19
 - The state is allocating Federal CARES Act funding to support a \$30million dollar housing assistance program. This program supports Vermonters that are unable to pay their rent, landlords that are suffering from a loss of rent payments, and those lower income homeowners needing assistance in paying their mortgages, all due to COVID19 related reasons.
 - These [programs](#) will be available starting July 13th through two different programs.
 - Technical assistance for these programs is being provided by Vermont Legal Aid to help tenants and homeowners;
 - Technical assistance has been made available through the Vermont Landlord Association to help landlords access these programs.

- **July 14th 2020: The Governor held a press conference where he discussed the following updates:**
 - [The Governor announced the extension of Vermont's State of Emergency until August 15.](#)
 - [Extended UI Benefits Available to Vermonters](#) Up to 20 weeks of extended unemployment insurance benefits are now available to Vermonters who exhausted all other available benefits. Regular unemployment insurance benefits provide a maximum of 26 weeks benefits, while Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), which was a component of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, provides an additional 13 weeks.

- **July 17th, 2020: The Governor held a press conference where he discussed the following updates:**
 - School Reopening Plans and the Public Health Considerations for those Plans
 - The State is placing limits on class sizes, cafeteria capacity, and gym capacity
 - Highlighted that performance gaps can be exasperated by online only instruction
 - Many doctors and epidemiologists discussed their involvement in creating the plans for schools to restart
 - More information can be found here through the Agency of Education: <https://education.vermont.gov/>
 - Travel Policy Updates: the state made some updates to the [travel map](#) for those who can come to Vermont, or for places Vermonters can travel to without quarantining.

General City Updates:

- Community Services Updates:
 - Parkapalooza: Despite early thoughts that the events could move forward in a limited fashion, after further discussion within the Parks team and with the impacted musicians, the Parkapalooza dates will be fully cancelled for this year. We believe that the potential risks to the community outweigh the rewards.
 - City owned playgrounds (next to the Pool house and behind the Senior Center) are now open for folks to use 'at their own risk'- sanitizer stations are being put in place to use before and after play.
- City Hall Reopening:
 - The City Hall building is open 8:00am-4:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Appointments are highly suggested, masks and physical distancing are required.

- The porta-johns behind City Hall and the Senior Center will remain until we are able to open City Hall full-time.

City Council's Mask Ordinance:

- UPDATES: City Council adopted an [Emergency Order](#) requiring the wearing of masks inside public Montpelier business establishments that went into effect Thursday June 4th.
 - This Order shall remain in effect until the Montpelier City Council amends, rescinds, or suspends this Order or until the Governor declares an end to the COVID-19 State of Emergency in Vermont, whichever occurs first, which is currently **AUGUST 15th**, unless the Governor amends that order.
- Masks have been donated for businesses and the general public and are currently being stored at Splash Naturals, 68 Main St, Montpelier, VT 05602.

Regional Aid Groups Update:

- The City is maintaining a list of situational updates and regional resources for those who may need them on the COVID-19 Response page on the website here: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1155/Coronavirus-Response>
- The Community Call Center is still functioning:
 - Community Call Center hours will be 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, open weekdays. You may call or text (802) 636-2025.
- The Capital Area Neighborhoods (CAN) contact information:
 - MontpelierCAN@gmail.com and (802) 828-7375
- Open Meal Sites and their locations are being tracked and posted on the Montpelier Mutual Aid website: www.MontpelierMutualAid.org



Responsive and Responsible Government

PARKING

We are currently aiming for a return to metered parking on or around August 1st. We have not made final decisions/recommendations but we are considering a two week re-education period (warnings not tickets), waiving any fees for parklets this year, possibly creating a few more strategically placed 15 minute spaces for take out services and, maybe, having free or reduced prices in the parking lots for long term parkers. This is consistent with most other Vermont communities who have metered parking.

TEMPORARY PARKLET APPROVALS

City Council has enacted a temporary parklet ordinance for the purpose of providing additional business expansion opportunities during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.

- [Temporary Parklet Application](#) (All applications will be submitted to the City Manager's Office at jlamb@montpelier-vt.org)
- [Temporary Parklet Ordinance](#)

This temporary ordinance is in place through October 25, 2020.

Approved Temporary Parklets:

- The North Branch Café (currently opting not to use it)
- Three Penny Taproom
- Julio's Cantina

FLAG POLICY

At their regular meeting on July 8th, 2020, City Council approved a Flag Display Policy, that governs how “Special Flags or Banners” should be displayed, in addition to the Federal and State of Vermont Flag Code and Protocol governing the display and care of flags, including the United States flag, the State flag, the City flag, and the POW/MIA flag. The policy does describe the standard length of time special flags will be flown, and gives new guidance on when the City flag can be flown at half mast. [View the Flag Policy online, click here.](#)

TAX RATE

On Tuesday, July 14th, at noon, the City Council held a special meeting and voted to set the FY21 municipal tax rate at \$1.1780. This is an increase of 4.9 cents or 4.4% over FY20’s tax rate. The municipal rate impact for residential property owners with a home valued at \$228,000 equates to an increase of \$111.72 annually.

This rate is derived from the voter approved budget which yields funding for the City’s General Fund, Outside Agencies (Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Central Vermont Public Safety Authority, and Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice), forgone education taxes related to the local agreement Veterans’ exemption, as well as Washington County Taxes. Additionally, the Water/Sewer and Sewer separation Benefit Charges were set at \$.02 and \$.07 respectively.



Inclusive, Equitable and Engaged Community

MONTPELIER SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER REPORT

FEAST Senior Meals To Go Is Back from Kitchen Deep Clean! Served outside Tuesdays and Fridays, 12:00-12:30

- Served in our beautifully landscaped courtyard in front of 58 Barre Street. Requires mask-wearing and six feet distancing in line. **Meals for Over 60**, by suggested donation of \$5 – 10 with completed Annual Nutritional Survey; **Under 60, fee of \$7-10**. Reservations appreciated, and/or request vegetarian by calling **262-6288** by the previous day. All meals include milk. Next week’s menu below; July month menu [here](#).
 - **Tuesday, July 21:** Beef Lasagna, Garlic Bread, Broccoli & Dessert
 - **Friday, July 24:** TACO DAY! Beef or Bean, Soft or Crunchy, Salsa, Guacamole, Spanish Rice & Dessert

Free Online Nutritional Education Class with Lisa Mase: Cooking and Baking with Sugar Alternatives

Friday, July 24 | 1 - 2:30 pm | Zoom

Processed sugar is toxic and addictive. Today’s diet-related diseases trace their roots back to processed beet and cane sugar. Learn how to cook and bake with sugar alternatives and understand ways to enjoy the sweet flavor without the addiction and resulting blood sugar imbalance. Questions? Email Lisa@harmonizedcooking.com. Pre-registration required : email MSAC@montpelier-vt.org or call 223-2518. This is a Zoom event and will be recorded. A pre-event and post-event survey will be distributed. Free RD consultation with CVCOA for eligible participants.

Senior Activity Center is Hiring! New Americorps position to start in September: Aging in Place Coordinator!

This Americorps member has the opportunity to support our thriving FEAST meal program, plus develop and

implement exciting new offerings that will take MSAC's programs beyond the brick walls of our building to build volunteerism with the Village and other partners to support Aging in Place. Aging services experience is not required, only the motivation to learn and a passion to serve others. View [position description here](#), and [apply or get more information about the VHCB Americorps benefits and program here](#). We are offering a rental subsidy, too.

Community Services Department is Hiring! New VISTA position to start August 31

The VISTA member will develop resources and systems to make our department more effective, efficient, and able to engage and serve more people. This VISTA member will be expected to build our capacity in the following ways:

1. Research and develop a plan for the feasibility of universal child care in Montpelier, a goal of City Council.
2. Develop expanded programming to fill the spaces made available when we renovate our downtown recreation building.
3. Expand our inter-generational programming offerings for all three divisions of the City's Community Services Department (Parks & Trees, Recreation, and Senior Activity Center).
4. Support fundraising and volunteer efforts around these initiatives, as well as special fundraising events.

This full-time position is part of Washington County Youth Service Bureau's "[Vermont Youth Tomorrow](#)" VISTA Program and has great benefits, including a rental subsidy. To apply, [click here](#).

LANGDON STREET

Plans for creating an outdoor restaurant space using a portion of Langdon Street are underway! Steel barricades will be placed along the upper half of the street this Friday. It's important to note that traffic will be able to enter Langdon Street from Main Street and exit onto Elm Street, as usual. The only difference will be **where** the travel lane for cars will occur.

Restaurants will set up on the right side of the street in the road, beginning near Onion River Outdoors and extending towards Elm Street through to the end of the bridge abutment. The barricades will be set 10 feet out from the curb, giving restaurants the ability to set up tables for social distancing within this closed off area. Parking on the left side of the road (from the same starting point as noted above) will be eliminated through to Elm Street. This will provide for a 12', clear travel lane to the left of the steel barricades for vehicular traffic.

Signage will be installed to assist drivers in understanding the new traffic pattern. Loading areas are being maintained.

Conversations have occurred with business owners along the entire street and a handout describing the specifics was distributed to all. It is likely that the restaurant area will be larger than is found to be necessary, but the design being used is able to be adapted so that restaurants can adjust and modify their seating and use to find the best option for them and diners.

If the restaurants require less space, Public Works can remove the fencing and allow some parking spaces to return on the right side of the street. We'll monitor and work with businesses to test and adapt so that we maintain safety and explore opportunities for local businesses.



CONSTRUCTION ON TAYLOR STREET BEGAN 7/13/2020

The City of Montpelier began construction on Taylor Street on 7/13/20. This project will result in new curb and sidewalks, street lights, green stormwater infrastructure, and pavement on Taylor Street. Traffic flow on Taylor Street will be modified to allow for southbound movement only (from State Street to Memorial Drive). All driveways will remain accessible but vehicles entering Taylor Street will do so from State Street and vehicles exiting Taylor Street will do so by traveling southbound to Memorial Drive. The City is very excited to see this project move forward and eagerly anticipates an improved Taylor Street featuring the amenities that are consistent throughout the remainder of our downtown.

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The Planning Commission held its public hearing on Monday regarding two potential zoning changes. The first was about the long awaited revision to the design review rules. This includes a complete rewrite of section 2201 to update the rules to make them clearer and more predictable which will also make decisions more defensible in court. Some procedural changes will exempt certain projects from review all together as well as making other projects administrative permits (not requiring a hearing but still needing to meet some rules). Earlier this year the Planning Commission reviewed the boundary of the design review district and made some changes to better follow neighborhood boundaries so that it was less arbitrary than the one we currently use. The amendment was prepared by the Historic Preservation Commission and revised through severable public hearing before the Covid-19 shutdown. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the changes and send them to City Council for consideration.

The second hearing topic was a zoning change proposed for some properties bounded by Pioneer Street, River Street and the Winooski River. This is where the Lazerwash car wash and self-store units are found. A few options were discussed but ultimately the Commission deadlocked on two alternatives; each with a 3-3 vote when 4 votes are needed to pass. They continued the hearing to July 27th where the votes of two Commission members who were not present can be considered.

DON'T FLUSH THAT

Due to the public health crisis, not only is our city seeing a shortage on toilet paper, but many communities are as well. Department of Public Works would like to remind everyone what should NOT be flushed. Flushing items listed below could cause sewer blockages, in which could cause plugged and overflowing toilets, poorly draining sinks and showers, raw sewage backing up through floor drains, manholes overflowing onto the ground or into nearby surface waters, health hazards and nuisance odors, increases in the City's maintenance costs and costly maintenance and repair bills for YOU.

- Paper towels
- Baby wipes
- Moist towelettes
- Cosmetics and cosmetic wipes
- Cloth or paper napkins
- Shop towels
- Condoms
- Tampons and pads
- Diapers
- Cat litter
- Cigarette butts
- Dental floss
- Latex gloves
- Hypodermic needles
- Facial tissues
- Fats, oils or grease
- Clothing or rags
- Medications (pills or liquid)
- Bandages
- Cotton balls
- Food scraps
- Swiffer pads
- Plastic of any kind



Cameron Niedermayer
Assistant City Manager

Upcoming Agenda Items (TENTATIVE)

7/22	No meeting	8/12	Equity Action Plan implementation Stormwater Master Plan Personnel Plan Parking Fees Design Review COVID-19 Update Ellison Project/TIF (tentative) Withdraw from EC Fiber Personnel Plan
8/26	Community Policing Discussion COVID-19 Update	9/9	Net Zero 2030 Plan Public restrooms COVID-19 Update
9/23	New Budget Process Special Election Warning (if needed) COVID-19	10/14	Strategic Plan Progress Update Review 1 st quarter Budget status
10/28	Legislative Priorities 2021	11/11	(Veteran's Day – may need to change date) Childcare Option Study
11/25	(Thanksgiving Eve – may need to change date)	12/9	Implement Housing Initiatives Budget
12/23	(near Christmas, may need to change date) Budget	1/13/21	Budget Public Hearing Strategic Plan Progress Update Review 2 nd quarter budget status
1/27/21	Budget Public Hearing Warning Public Hearing	2/10/21	City Manager Review
2/24/21		3/2/21	Annual Meeting Election

REPORTS DUE:

Universal Recycling Law – Periodic updates

MDC/MA Partnerships – Periodic updates

Protect, Maintain and Improve Built Infrastructure – Update in October

Supporting the Community in Rebound from COVID 19 – Regular updates