

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
5/10	Montpelier Senior Activity Center Advisory Council Meeting	12:00-1:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
5/10	Cemetery Commission	12:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
5/10	Planning Commission Meeting	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
5/10	Recreation Advisory Board Meeting	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
5/11	Parks Commission	6:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
5/11	Historic Preservation Commission	7:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
5/12	Social and Economic Justice Advisory Committee	8:30 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
5/12	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
5/12	City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link



Public Health and Safety

- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates**

Special Speedway, Drive-through and Mobile Clinic Events

Get Vaccinated at Special Speedway, Drive-through and Mobile Clinic Events Vermont is offering special COVID-19 vaccination opportunities starting

- Friday, May 7, with a drive-through clinic at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This clinic will have the one dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

You can register through the Health Department website at healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine, or just “drive in,” no appointment necessary.

- On Saturday, May 8, clinics will also be held at the Bear Ridge and Devils Bowl Speedways, with no appointment needed. These walk-in only clinics, held in partnership with the speedways and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) teams, will also have Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The Bear Ridge Speedway event, at 1058 Kidder Road in Bradford (Orange County), will run from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. with the Newport/Glover EMS. There will be 150 slots available.
- The Devils Bowl Speedway event, at 2743 VT-22A in West Haven (Rutland County), will be held from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with Rescue Inc. There will be 180 slots available. Eight mobile clinics in Essex County and one in Caledonia County this weekend will also offer Johnson & Johnson vaccine. You can make an appointment for the events through our website at healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine. They will also have some walk-in slots available. Read the press release.
- Additional walk-in clinic opportunities below:
 - EVERY WEEKDAY ESSEX JUNCTION Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Essex Fairgrounds, 105 Pearl Street, Essex Junction Pfizer vaccine, 150 doses each day
 - FRIDAY, MAY 7 WATERBURY 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Waterbury Municipal Building 28 North Main St., Waterbury Moderna vaccine, 30 doses
 - Abenaki Nation, Missisquoi Leadership shares vaccine clinic experience The Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi Leadership shared a reflection on a COVID-19 vaccine clinic held April 25 at the Abenaki Tribal Office: “It was the best possible turn out, we were able to vaccinate 130 people. We had worried people would not attend the clinic because there is so much distrust in the Abenaki community when it comes to the State. Once Missisquoi leadership explained this to the representatives from the Department of Health, they spent an unbelievable number of hours providing appropriate materials and messaging for the community which seems to have made a difference. Our only difficulty on the day was the lack of connectivity, which is a struggle for everyone in the remote areas of Vermont. We had an opportunity to express our concerns about this issue with Dr. Levine when he stopped by to see how the clinic was going.” As Vermont Abenaki Recognition & Heritage Week draws to a close, we will continue to honor our Abenaki neighbors and reflect on the struggle to achieve state recognition, the wisdom to connect with each other through storytelling and tradition, and the importance of protecting the land and its resources.

Whether you traveled or have symptoms, COVID-19 testing is available. Remember, if you are unvaccinated (including children) and traveled outside the state, you must have a COVID-19 test within 3 days of returning to Vermont. And if you have any symptom, no matter how mild, such as a headache, cough, fatigue or a runny nose, it's best to get tested. It's also important to avoid going to work, school or other places until you receive a negative result. COVID-19 is a highly transmissible virus, and this is how we can each protect our loved ones and our communities. If you have symptoms, talk to your health care provider. They can refer you for testing. Even if you don't have symptoms, you can still have COVID-19 and not feel sick. If you don't have symptoms and want to get tested, there are many test sites now available around the state. It's free and easy!

- Description Number Total people who have received least one dose of vaccine 357,375 (65.4% of 16+ population) Total people who have completed vaccination 252,881 (46.3% of 16+ population) Find more vaccine data on the COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard: healthvermont.gov/covid19-vaccine-data. Additional Resources About Vaccination and More • Find answers to your questions about the COVID-19 vaccine from the CDC: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/faq.html.

COVID-19 Reminders:

- Reminder: Mental Health Support & Food Access
 - The State shared some resources to assist folks in seeking help for any mental distress, or in need of mental health care. Resources can be accessed through calling 2-1-1 or via the [State's website for COVID-19 support](#).
 - If you or someone you know is in crisis or needs emotional support, help is available 24/7:
 - Call your [local mental health crisis line](#).
 - Text VT to 741741 to talk with someone at the [Crisis Text Line](#).
 - Call the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) at 1-800-273-8255. For more info, visit healthvermont.gov/suicide.
 - Get connected to Alcohol and Drug Support Services at [VT Helplink](#).
 - Get self-help tips and connect to mental health services at [COVID SupportVT](#).
- If you need help accessing food, there are also many resources on the State and Local level. Please call 2-1-1 or access [WIC](#), [Hunger Free Vermont](#), [3SquaresVT](#), or other resources outlined via Hunger Free Vermont [COVID-19 response](#).
 - There are also local agencies hosting food access programs such as: the [Vermont Foodbank](#), [Everyone Eats](#), and the [Montpelier Food Pantry](#).



Environmental Stewardship

GREEN UP DAY:

Last Saturday was Green-Up Day in Vermont! Over 200 volunteers participated in cleaning up our Capital City, and Montpelier Public Works collected all the full bags of litter left curbside while the Fire Department offered services to deal with hazards. This type of community based support whether by citizens or employees is what makes our community special. Thanks to everyone who had a part in this year's efforts.

Tree Work on Statehouse Trail to Hubbard Park:

Work will begin in the next few weeks on removing some of the dead and hazardous trees—mostly Red Pine—along the Statehouse Trail that leads to the Hubbard Park tower. Buildings and General Services (BGS) is in charge of the project which will be completed by a contractor they are selecting. The Tree Board, Parks and Trees and the Vermont Forests and Recreation Agency have worked closely with BGS to develop the project over the past two years. We expect the work may take place over several weeks during which time access to the trail will be monitored and, as needed, controlled by flaggers. All cut material will remain on the forest floor. We will be making a more widely dispersed public announcement shortly when we have final details but I wanted the Council to know this is coming soon.



Responsive and Responsible Government

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK - new

I sent the following to all city employees this week and felt it was worth sharing with you.

“This week (May 2-8) is public service recognition week. I'd like to acknowledge all of you for the work you do for the public.

As we get caught up in our day to day activities, it's easy to forget the huge range of services and programs our small city provides. All of us are part of something much bigger than our particular job.

Think about it – public safety like police response, emergency dispatching, preventive patrols, and investigations. Fire and EMS responses to people in peril. Fire prevention programs, building visits. Building code inspections and permitting.

Infrastructure and maintenance work – road maintenance, snow plowing and removal, street sweeping, line painting, delivering clean water (both from a very sophisticated plant and through aging high pressure transmission lines), collecting and treating wastewater and stormwater (also through a high tech plant and old collection lines). Overseeing or building new projects. Maintaining bike paths, sidewalks, street lights, road signs, and much more.

Offering programs and facilities to improve people's quality of life – senior center & rec center and all of their offerings, a fabulous park system, rec fields, a public pool, summer day camps, child care programs.

Building community through efforts like the community justice center. Creating and administering local zoning which implements local standards and priorities. Planning for the future both in projects and policies.

Developing new housing and economic development opportunities so that more residents and businesses can thrive in our city. Working on social justice issues so that all people feel welcome. Addressing homelessness to protect our most vulnerable population.

Taking steps to protect the environment as with our award winning Wastewater Plant renovations. Improving energy efficiency in our buildings and vehicles. Developing regulations which encourage long term sustainability.

Keeping track of vital records so that our residents can find important information in a timely and organized manner. Assessing properties to assure fairness among our taxpayers. Managing the nearly \$20 million that flows through the City annually, making sure we can account for it all and use it wisely.

Providing excellent response to concerns and complaints. Being transparent with public records and public meetings. Creating a safe and productive place for people to debate matters of public interest. Offering timely information to the public so that they know what their local government is doing.

Taking care of you, our 106 employees who do all of this great work all the time. Making sure payroll is done on time, benefits are in place, personnel problems addressed, good hiring practices are followed, and workplaces are safe and welcoming for all.

Each one of you are important parts of an organization that does all of the above and more. We are all working toward the best interest of Montpelier residents, businesses, visitors, and taxpayers. I know it can get messy, stressful and frustrating some times. But when you consider all that is going on all of the time and how well most of it goes, we are doing just fine.

Thank you for your public service.”

FEDERAL FUNDING

Summer Matters Funding

In the pool opening conversation at the April 14th Council Meeting, the Summer Matters grant program was discussed as a funding opportunity for the pool. To make sure there is clarity on the amount of funding that the City's summer programs can receive, note that the State is directing around \$1.5 million of the Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds to support programs that are not directly connected with a local school or school districts to increase program capacity in Summer 2021. The City will be participating in a seminar to learn more about this funding opportunity on April 20th.

More information can be found here: <https://www.vermontafterschool.org/summermatters/>

MORE FEDERAL FUNDING - Updated

We have not yet received any detailed guidance about the use of new federal funding. We will delay this as an agenda item until we can provide you more specific information about eligible uses. We are sending you, today, a list of projects that staff has prepared so that you can be thinking about these in advance.

City staff is creating a summary of potential uses for the incoming \$2.158M in federal funds. Reminder that we will receive \$1.079M this year and another \$1.079M next year. Items fall into certain categories:

- Projects and equipment which were deferred as a result of the FY20 and FY21 budget mitigation plans to address the sudden revenue losses. This will exceed the \$1.079M for this year. About \$400K worth will need to go into the 2022 funding.
- Projects and equipment which were not funded in the FY22 budget due to projected revenue shortfalls. These would come from the 2022 funding after the \$400k already deferred.

The remaining categories will be subject to funding eligibility.

- Major projects in development which exceed the annual capital plan and would normally require bonding and/or multiple funding sources.
- Current projects facing budget constraints.
- New projects and economic initiatives which have been proposed in the last year or less.

Today we submitted applications for earmarked funds to Senator Sanders for the following:

1. East State St.: preliminary and final design
2. WRRF Phase 2 Construction
3. Rec Center Renovations
4. Confluence Park
5. Public Access Restrooms
6. Cemetery Chapel Building Repairs
7. Senior and Multi Use Van

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING - Updated

After delaying negotiations with two unions for a year due to COVID, we will be undertaking bargaining with all four units (Fire/EMS, DPW, Police Patrol/Dispatch, Police Supervisors) this spring with the goal of having agreements ready for July 1 or as close to that as possible. I'll brief the Council this week and periodically through the process.

In reviewing the language that was discussed at the last meeting, it seems clear that it is not intended to allow the police or any other group to override city ordinances. It only refers to areas where a contract may conflict with an ordinance. The City is a party to those contracts. Just the opposite, the clause is designed to prevent the City from imposing working conditions via ordinance. Collective bargaining regulations include mandatory subjects of negotiations. The City can't supersede that process by unilaterally enacting such items via ordinance.

I suggested a clarifying wording change to the Police Supervisor's Union. They politely declined to make the change now since this transition contract was not intended to address content amendments. I will propose the change to all unions with this contractual language during this year's negotiations.



More Housing

Possible Projects - updated

The City Manager's office and Planning & Development Department continue to work regularly on two potential private housing projects in Montpelier. One may require use of TIF for infrastructure. The other has recently sent a notice to neighbors about a housing initiative on Northfield Street.



Inclusive, Equitable and Engaged Community

Summer Farmer's Market

The first of the Summer Farmers Market will be held this Saturday at 133 State Street from 9-1 with over 40 vendors. We were delighted with the support folks gave the winter market—in all kinds of weather—and look forward to that same support every week this summer season.

Spring Birding Walk

Saturday, May 8 | 8:00 am | meet at North Branch Nature Center parking lot

Join Ethan Borland, student at Montpelier High School, and Spencer Hardy, biologist at the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, in a gentle walk into North Branch River Park. Ethan and Spencer will help point out the diverse birds that pass through central Vermont this time of year. No birding experience necessary! Bring binoculars if you have them, but we will have some to lend out. Free, no registration required, masks and social distancing required. More Spring walks to come, stay tuned!

MSAC Advisory Council

Monday, May 10 | 12:00 — 1:30pm | Zoom

Agenda items will include: Approval of 3/8 and 4/1 minutes, Re-opening planning update, MSAC van discussion, Program committee report, Annual survey report, Annual meeting report, and Supporting town funding situation. To receive the Zoom link or phone number, contact msac@montpelier-vt.org or call 223-2518 well in advance of the meeting.

Zoom Training 101

Tuesday, May 11 | 12:30—1:30pm | Free

Join MSAC's AmeriCorps member Andrew Gribbin to learn the fundamentals of Zoom. Topics will include an overview of Zoom functions, including using the mute/unmute buttons, turning your video on/off, using the chat function, and more. Whether you've never been on Zoom or would like a chance to practice the fundamentals, this training is for you! Contact Andrew at 262-6287 or email msac-ameri-corps@montpelier-vt.org to register.

"Elders Together" Drop-in Support Group Resumes Outdoors, in-person after 1.25 year hiatus!

Thursday, May 13 (rain date 5/20) | Free | 1:00-2:30pm | State House Lawn, SW corner (correction from newsletter)

Were you born during the Great Depression or World War II? Do you have personal memories of happenings during the first half of the Twentieth Century? If so, you are cordially invited to attend this informal discussion! We started meeting in late 2019 and discussed various topics of interest including Medicare and health benefits, transportation, and housing options as we age. What is available and what can we afford? We reminisced and laughed a lot, also. For more information about the group and to RSVP, call Mary Alice at 223-8140. You don't have to be a member of MSAC or pay any fee, although donations to MSAC are welcome if you wish. Bring your lawn chair and mask, and a snack or sandwich if you wish, and plan to social distance outside. Let us know if you'd like us to provide you a folding chair. Please RSVP as soon as possible.

Remembering our Veterans, Curbside Luncheon

Friday, May 28th | 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

FEAST is delighted to bring back an annual tradition of celebrating and remembering our Veterans with a Curbside Luncheon on May 28th. Though we will not be able to gather inside together, we will be bringing much of the cheer to our Veterans at the curb as they drive around MSAC to pick up a celebratory lunch. Expect to see flags waving, posters displayed, and even a special guest appearance or two, thanking Veterans. Menu: BBQ Chicken, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw and Brownies. Call us to register to pick up your meal: 802-262-6288.

MSAC Book Group Update

Members of MSAC met online in April to discuss Isabel Wilkerson's book, *Caste*. The Discussion group meets on the second Thursday of each month, online, though there is some discussion about eventually transitioning to in-person. They will discuss *Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown on Thursday, May 13, from 5:00 to 6:00 pm, and the June book is *Landmarks* by Robert Macfarlane. If you are interested in joining the discussion, please call Barbara Dall at 229-4870.

FEAST Curbside TO-GO: Tuesdays & Fridays, 12-12:30 pm, served at 58 Barre St.

Seniors 60+, drive up to the side door of MSAC every Tuesday and Friday to receive your delicious, hot FEAST To-Go takeout meal. We have shifted to Curbside Pickup for your safety and ease. We'll have signs to remind you where to go. You can see our menu on our website. Please call to make your reservation: 262-6288 or email us at: feast@montpelier-vt.org.

To view the **FEAST To Go March Menu** for Tuesdays/Fridays, [click here](#).

FEAST at Home (Meals on Wheels): Do you have an older adult in your life who needs more access to delicious, healthy food? Is there someone in your life who is struggling to eat more nutritionally? Let us know because we can help! Have them call the office to be connected to our robust (and yummy!) program. Call 262-6288 or email feast@montpelier-vt.org.

Volunteer Announcement

Help empower older adults in our community age in place by volunteering with the Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC)! MSAC has launched a new line of services – MSAC at Home – that includes assisting older adults with outdoor spring clean-up. If you have the capacity to help with light garden and yard work (raking, lawn debris clean-up, removing winter coverings from garden beds, etc.), MSAC could use your help! Whether it's a one-time donation of a couple hours of your time or a more recurring schedule, any and all help is appreciated. Contact MSAC's Aging in Place Coordinator Andrew Gribbin at msac-amicorps@montpelier-vt.org or 262-6287 to learn more or sign up.

Everyone Eats Spotlight

Good Taste Catering, producers of FEAST's delicious Senior Meals, is part of the robust Everyone Eats program in Vermont (learn more here: <https://vteveryoneeats.org/>). Everyone Eats got started in the wake of the pandemic in 2020, and has been serving more than 30,000 meals across the state.

Capstone Community Action has recently been producing little video spotlights about the program as well, so click here to learn even more: <https://tinyurl.com/EEPartnerSpotlights>



Sustainable Infrastructure

STREET DIVISION & WATER/SEWER:

Our Street Division and Water/Sewer Division completed several tasks throughout the week. Our crews completed the following.

- Vactor Work; cleaning Catch basin's and storm lines at DPW Garage
- Re-established a ditch at the DPW Garage
- Hauled material for various projects
- Hydrant flushing and repairs of hydrants
- Meter repairs
- CDL training for several employees
- Stone lined the ditch on Corry Road
- Repaired residents lawns from winter operations

STUMP DUMP:

Need to get rid of lawn debris, stumps and branches? City of Montpelier Stump Dump is open!! Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Please call the City Garage at 802-223-9510 before going to dump to approve of your items!



Thoughtfully Planned Built Environment

What's going on in-between the Drawing Board and Shaw's? - new

I began walking around Montpelier (before Covid-19), taking in the beauty of the City, and found myself wondering "when was the Department of Public Works (DPW) going to have the lot beside Shaw's Grocery (also known as the lot beside the Drawing Board) finished and what exactly is going to happen with the area"? Lucky for me, I know the right people to give me those answers! Corey Line (City Engineer), was the man with the answers. During Covid, contractors were few and far between with the guidelines put out by the State. Fortunately for us at DPW, when restrictions on contractors were lifted, Corey was able to hire Dirt Tech the contractor currently working on site. The lot will be completed with a 10 foot recreational path, which will be 5 feet wider than what currently exists. How exciting, right?

Dirt Tech will complete this project in approximately 4 weeks, estimated completion date June 8th, as long as no unforeseen challenges arise. Sometimes challenges can arise with projects that have to be worked out before our contractors can continue.

What is currently happening and what will this project continue to look like till completion?

Dirt Tech will complete several steps. City residents will be able to see the progress through each step. Starting off, a granite curbing will be installed and the road base will be prepared. The existing pavement on the recreation path will be removed to prepare for the new path.

Are you wondering if this path will stay in the existing spot or will the path be in a different location?

I did! The new path will be in the general location of the current path. Once the path is prepared for

new pavement, Dirt Tech will place soils, seed, and mulch for greenspace. And, because this is going to be such a beautiful area of the recreation path, you may be wondering if there'll be a sitting area in this greenspace... Currently there are no benches or any other amenities planned for this work. But, who knows what could happen in the future! Two of the contractor's final steps will be grading and paving of the road, parking lot and recreation path as well as installation of signs and pavement markings. – Jasmine Benson, DPW Administrative Assistant


12-16 Main Street Long Term Use - new

Speaking of this location, we have recently received a couple of inquiries about the area facing Main Street for possible private development. This raises the question of the future use of the property. Some of you may recall that a prior Council had expressed a preference for green or open space there but deferred a decision until after completion of the downtown Master Plan. That plan indicated that private development was well suited for that location. This item will be on a future agenda.

Parklets

You can find the parklet application on the city's website [here](#).


Permits have been granted to Three Penny Taproom, Positive Pie, Julio's, Oaks & Evelyn and J. Morgan's.



Employment and Personnel Announcements

Municipal Job Openings:

- Afterschool Age Childcare Director. More information can be [here](#).
- Water/Sewer Mechanic Truck Driver, Level 1. More information can be [here](#).



Reminders

DON'T FLUSH THAT

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

Social Worker Available to Residents

The Montpelier Police Department, the Barre City Police Department and Washington County Mental Health have partnered in providing an onsite social worker to help residents in crisis or needing an extra hand during the pandemic. Susan Lemere has been a friendly and effective presence in town for the last several month, but COVID has slowed our outreach efforts down. If you would like to speak to Susan please contact her through email at: susan.lemere@wcmhs.org or contact MPD and we can assist with connecting you to Susan.

Leadership Team Agenda:

The City's Leadership Team, which consists of Department Heads and some other key staff, conduct a monthly meeting to address issues or topics which are too complex to be handled in regular staff meetings. This past week the team selected the topics for this coming year, I thought you might be interested in knowing what the group has chosen.

2021	May	Outdoor Recreation as an Economic Destination
	June	Outdoor Activity
	July	20-21 Strategic Plan Updates
	August	Leadership Philosophy
	September	Equity Plan from Creative Discourse & Work
	October	2022-2023 Strategic Planning
	November	Budget Congress
	December	COOP Plans/Hazardous Mitigation Planning
2022	January	Strategic Plan & Budget Updates
	February	Aging-friendly Communities
	March	Choosing Leadership Meeting Topics

ORCA MEDIA

ORCA Media supports the City of Montpelier by live streaming videos to local TV and on YouTube. Recently, Comcast changed the government channel to 1085.

- Click here to access City Council Meetings: <https://www.orcamedia.net/series/montpelier-city-council>
- Click here for Live Stream Events: <https://www.orcamedia.net/series/live-stream-events>

Thank you,



William Fraser, City Manager

Upcoming Agenda Items (*TENTATIVE*)

5/12	Home Energy Labeling 3 rd Reading Conservation Fund Award Collective Bargaining – Exec Session	5/26	Local Hazardous Mitigation Plan approval FY23 Budget Process MEAC Energy Use update Housing Task Force Economic Development? Federal Funds Plan? 12-16 Main St. Plan?
6/9	Utility Rates Stormwater Utility Water/Sewer Master Plan District Heat Rates Stormwater Master Plan update?	6/23* (6/16)	Tax Rate Fund Reserves MEAC/VEIC Net Zero Plan update
7/14* (7/7)	Police Committee Report? 4 th Quarter Financials	7/28* (7/21)	Social Economic Justice Committee Report? 4 th Quarter Strat Plan
8/11* (8/18)		8/25*	

? = Date is tentative, may shift to a different date

*= Summer meeting dates not set (*italics* = possible alternate dates)

PENDING ITEMS

CVPSA Report
Park Land Purchase
MAPA for zoning

2021 CITY OF MONTPELIER LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA GUIDING PRINCIPLES

On the whole, the City of Montpelier requests that policymakers:

- Support legislation that grants cities and towns greater flexibility.
- Support legislation that provides funding to cities and towns.
- Oppose legislation that removes authority from cities and towns.
- Oppose legislation that creates unfunded mandates or directly or indirectly shifts costs to cities and towns.

In order to help fulfill its commitments to its residents, the City of Montpelier calls on the legislative delegation to support the following policies:

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- ☐ Advocate for the safe return to work of State employees in local office buildings
- ☐ Advocate and support direct municipal funding that protects Cities and Towns from financial disaster during the COVID crisis
- ☐ Allow a delay in reappraisal requirements or a return to the 80% threshold

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>H.48</u></p>	<p>The General Assembly finds that the continued spread of COVID-19 in the State of Vermont has the potential to jeopardize the health, safety, and welfare of Vermonters voting in their 2021 annual municipal meetings. These meetings include annual town meetings, which are required by general law to be held on the first Tuesday of March; annual school district meetings, which are generally required to be held between the months of February and June; and other municipal annual meetings with meeting dates controlled by</p>
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	charter
<u>S.9</u>	An act relating to extending certain workers' compensation amendments related to COVID-19

COMMUNITY PROSPERITY

- ☐ Support the general statutory authority to adopt local option taxes
- ☐ Support programs and initiatives that spur locally driven, right-sized economic growth, especially programs like TIF, that provide infrastructure improvements to support that growth

<u>H.152</u>	Would establish an education property tax yield for homesteads and the non-homestead property tax rate
<u>H.159</u>	Would create a Better Places Program to support projects that create, activate, or revitalize communities and public spaces.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

- ☐ Continue funding Microtransit opportunities
- ☐ Advocate for global warming solutions and for any opportunities that support ecological protection, the reduction of PFAS, net zero goals, and conservation of our natural resources
- ☐ Support expanding the Net Metering limit for municipalities or Montpelier specifically

<u>H.100</u>	An act relating to electric bicycles
<u>H.123</u>	Would create a vehicle miles traveled tax applicable plug-in electric Vehicles
<u>H.144</u>	An Act relating to requiring inspection of wastewater systems
<u>H.94</u>	An act relating to transportation initiatives to reduce carbon emissions
<u>S.44</u>	Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a Vermont Green New Deal to invest in actions that curb climate change. The Vermont Climate Council would implement and oversee the Vermont Green New Deal to fund energy conservation programs, prioritizing weatherization, renewable energy, regenerative agriculture,

	and the use of electric vehicles. This bill would also create a new income tax surcharge on high incomes that would be deposited into a Vermont Green New Deal Fund to be administered by the State Treasurer
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INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE, & WELCOMING CITY

- ☐ Advocate for any opportunity for additional Human Services funding for supporting those experiencing homelessness
- ☐ Support funding for public restrooms to serve all people using State and City facilities

<u>H.134</u>	An act relating to paid family and medical leave insurance
<u>H.139</u>	Would include employer contributions to health insurance in the amount of wages used to determine an injured worker's weekly benefit and to prohibit an employer from terminating an employee because the employee is absent from work while the employee is receiving temporary total disability benefits
<u>S.55</u>	An Act relating to paid vacation leave
<u>H.93</u>	An act relating to establishing a homeless bill of rights and prohibiting discrimination against people without homes

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

- ☐ Continue funding for a Social Worker to support Barre City and Montpelier's Police Departments
- ☐ Focus on moving towards a regional public safety model and look critically at public safety cellular provider coverage

<u>H.1</u>	An act relating to mental health insurance benefits
<u>H. 109</u>	An act relating to parking ticket enforcement
<u>H.126</u>	Would establish a pedestrian safety pilot program, allow municipalities to seasonally install pedestrian crossing signs in crosswalks, allow municipalities to lower certain speed limits on state highways, and express the intent that the Traffic Committee should not increase the speed limit on a state highway in response to a municipality's request that it be lowered
<u>H.145</u>	Would amend the standards for law enforcement use of force to make clarifying changes and prevent the use of hindsight in evaluating law enforcement conduct and narrow the definition of prohibited restraints
<u>S.19</u>	An act relating to a climate change response plan and regional planning commission involvement in identifying health care-related needs
<u>S.30</u>	An act relating to prohibiting possession of firearms at childcare facilities, hospitals, and certain public buildings
<u>S.40</u>	An act relating to the use of colored signal lamps on fire department and emergency medical service vehicles
<u>EO-01-21</u>	<p>This Executive Order creates the Agency of Public Safety, effective April 15, 2021. The executive order cites the Department of Public Safety's ten-point strategy, which includes accelerating the organization of state law enforcement operations, modernizing data collection, expanding crisis response, enhancing the development of model policies and community oversight models, and addressing issues in training and dispatch. The new agency, headed by a secretary and deputy secretary, would include a Department of Fire Safety and Emergency Management, a Department of Law Enforcement, and a Division of Support Services. The Criminal Justice Council, Motor Vehicle Enforcement Division, and the Vermont Enhanced 911 Board would be added to the agency in July.</p> <p>VLCT fully supports EO-01-21, an order that will affect local governments and law enforcement agencies. Last November, the VLCT Board of Directors voted unanimously to support the proposal to move the Vermont Police Academy to the Department of Public Safety.</p>

RESPONSIVE & RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

- ☐ Support decision-making at the local level that recognizes the capacity of local officials and voters to govern themselves on issues of local import, including streamlined adoption and full implementation of municipal charters
- ☐ Approve any pending and future recommended charter changes
- ☐ Support legislation allowing removal of "red line" deed restrictions
- ☐ Support legislation consistent with the City's Adopted Strategic Plan

<u>H.82</u>	An act relating to allowing municipal and cooperative utilities to offer innovative rates and services
<u>H.154</u>	Would deem a municipal office vacant whenever a municipal officer fails to take a required oath of office within one week of election or appointment.
<u>H.164</u>	Would require a town to vote to allow the operation of any type of licensed cannabis establishment prior to such an establishment operating within the town.
<u>S.14</u>	An act relating to deed restrictions and housing density
<u>S.15</u>	An act relating to correcting defective ballots
<u>S.25</u>	An act relating to miscellaneous cannabis regulation procedures
<u>S.50</u>	An act relating to ranked choice voting

STAFF LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Police Department:

- ☐ Monitor the implementation of S. 124 and S. 119 to ensure any mandates are implemented in ways that do not adversely affect MPD policies. MPD policies based on National, evidence-based best practices, and 21st Century Policing recommendations.
- ☐ Monitor amendments made to H.133 An act relating to emergency relief from abuse orders and relinquishment of 11 firearms
- ☐ Work with the Vermont Police Association and Vermont Chiefs of Police to represent the Montpelier Police Department interests. These interests include advocating for policies that reflect community partnerships, accountability and transparency, officer safety and wellness. It also includes expressing concern for policies and procedures that may compromise officer safety.

Montpelier Senior Activity Center:

- ☐ Support legislation promoting investment in technology and broadband equity and

access for all Vermonters, especially Older Vermonters, during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, with the goal of encouraging Telehealth and Social Connection.

- ☐ Support legislation consistent with priorities and principles of the Older Vermonters Act: Act 156 (passed in 2020)
- ☐ Support legislation that provides direct and robust funding to senior centers and senior meal sites as they fulfill important state and federal priorities and goals for increasing socialization, reducing isolation, providing evidence-based exercise and Fall Prevention programs, and more.
- ☐ Support legislation that allocates part of VT's federal Older Americans Act funding (especially Title 3B funds) directly to senior centers and community organizations who provide services such as wellness programs, exercise classes, tax clinics, foot care clinics and more.
- ☐ Support legislation for Long Term Care Medicaid Waiver coverage for meals on wheels funding
- ☐ Support legislation advancing affordable housing for older adults and people with disabilities
- ☐ Support legislation protecting and promoting renters' rights
- ☐ Attend the Older Vermonters Caucus when scheduled again
- ☐ Enhance communication with advocates representing organizations that support older adults, including VT Association for Senior Centers and Meal Providers, Community of VT Elders, and VT Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Planning & Development:

- ☐ Track Act 250 exemptions for designated areas and tracking any proposed housing bills.

Community Justice Center:

- ☐ The Justice Reinvestment II (S.338, Act 148) may result in increased referrals without increased funding.
- ☐ Update statutory language so it reflects the reality of the programs and services CJs provide.

Clerk: Continue to participate in the process of developing and supporting a broad election procedures bill (no bill number yet available)