

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
01/24	Montpelier Public Art Commission	5:00 PM	Zoom Only	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
01/24	Planning Commission Meeting	5:30 PM	City Council Chambers and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
01/26	Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee	8:00 AM	Zoom Only	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>



## Improve Public Health and Safety

### **COVID-19 Response- Updated**

**NEW:** This week, the State gave us a grim update- more than 500 Vermonters have lost their lives to COVID-19. There have been over 25 deaths this month so far. The more contagious Omicron variant may be to blame, and it is stressing our already over-worked hospitals, schools, and care facilities. We will continue to encourage our community to fully vaccinate, get a booster shot, and wear a mask to protect yourself and others from getting sick!

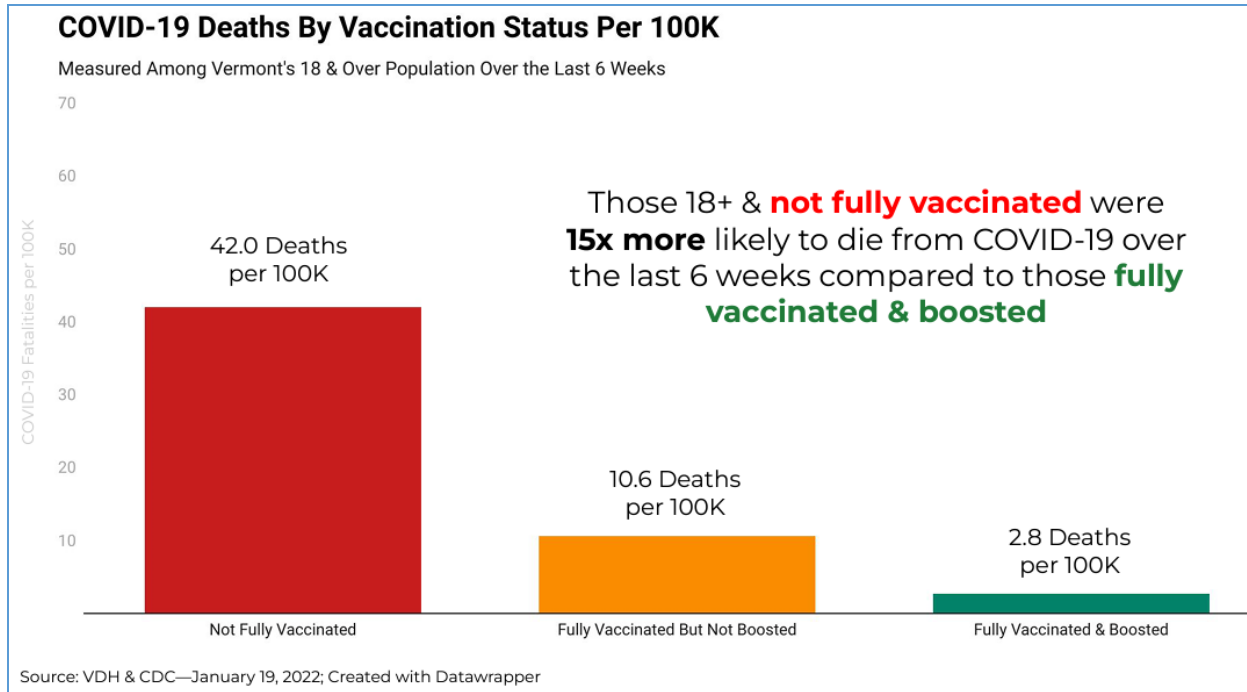
**NEW:** At home Rapid Tests Available! Vermonters are strongly encouraged to order at-home, rapid COVID-19 tests at <https://www.covidtests.gov/>. Through this new federal program, each household is eligible to receive four tests, which are expected to ship within 7-12 days of ordering. Supplies are limited. Any Vermonter without internet access can call the Governor's Constituent Services Office at (802) 828-3333 to get assistance ordering tests.

**Update:** The Montpelier City Council has extended their mask mandate, which is available to read [here](#). It is now in effect until Monday, February 21, 2022 unless the Montpelier City Council extends, amends, rescinds, or suspends the mandate.

**Update:** The State has released their [Covid-19 Modeling report for this week](#), updated on January 19<sup>th</sup>. The report continues to expand on the grim realities of this pandemic, discussing that COVID-19 hospitalizations have reached a new high, with hospitalizations increasing 18% over the last week and ICU numbers have climbed 34%. **A majority of those in both the hospital and ICU are not fully vaccinated.**

The State also reported that those 'Not Fully Vaccinated' were 15x more likely to die from COVID-19

over the last 6 weeks compared to those who are 'Fully Vaccinated & Boosted'. It is very important that all who are eligible get vaccinated- it's never too late!




**COVID-19 Reminders:**

- COVID-19 vaccination appointments are open for children ages 5 to 11! Appointments for school-based and state-run clinics can be made at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/vaccines-children> or by calling 855-722-7878.



**Practice Good Environmental Stewardship**



**Responsible and Engaged Government**

**February City Council Meetings:** City Council, in a reaction to the increase in community transition of COVID-19 and per the authority in the Vermont S.222 Act, will move both of their February Council Meetings to remote only. Council meetings in February will only be held via Zoom.

**March 1 Election**

The deadline for candidate filing is Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Positions up for election include Mayor (2 years) Council Members Districts 1, 2, & 3 (2 years), Council Member District 3 (1 year), Green Mount Cemetery Commissioner (5 years), Green Mount Cemetery Commissioner (3 years), Green Mount Cemetery Commissioner (2 years), and Park Commissioner (5 years).

## **Afghan Residents**

City officials have communicated with the Central Vermont Refugee Action Network (CVRAN) who is coordinating this relocation. They have provided information about needs and our team is working to provide resources accordingly. Potential projects being discussed include the following, and we encourage our community to reach out to CVRAN to find out more!

- Plan a City Hall event for the families to meet City Leadership, potentially in February
  - o Getting a translator in Pashto (all Afghani families in Montpelier speak Pashto as their primary language) to assist with the event.
- Create a welcome packet for each family containing the following:
  - o A welcome letter from City Manager (with Pashto translation).
  - o A care package with fruits, nuts and spices for cooking (cumin, coriander, turmeric, ginger, fennel, chilis).
  - o Welcome materials showcasing what Montpelier has to offer; including introductions to the culture and community events and activities in English but also Pashto translation.
- Library tour with Pashto translation
- Possible State House visit
- Giving residents resources to learn about Afghan culture and norms. The City is considering ways to assist with this community learning process.
- Helping find food assistance: the City will ask whether Hunger Mountain Coop could offer memberships to the families so that they could receive the member discounts on purchasing.
- The City is connecting with contacts at Downstreet, Montpelier Housing Authority, and some other rental agencies in town to assist with housing needs

### **CVRAN Identified Resources Needed:**

- Housing: the families tend to be large and they need 2-3 bedroom places to live. Please connect with CVRAN if you would be able to accommodate these housing needs.
- Driver's License Support: all the men of the families are going to need to obtain drivers licenses and so CVRAN is looking for people who would be willing to be drivers along with the learners. These need to be drivers who are patient, skilled at teaching, and available for many practice driving lessons.
- Sewing Teachers: a number of the women have access to sewing machines, but don't know how to use them, so we're looking for some patient teachers who could help with this. It would be wonderful to start having "sewing buddies" for these mothers who are otherwise very busy and isolated with so many children to look after.

More information on CVRAN can be found at their website: <https://cvran.org/> and they can be contacted at [cvran910@gmail.com](mailto:cvran910@gmail.com) or (802) 522-3011.

## **Pending Legal**

- *Ferry, et al v. City of Montpelier.* Filing of multiple parties seeking to invalidate the City's non-citizen voting charter amendment. The City is represented by Attorneys Michael Tarrant, Stephen Coteus, and Kimberly Devine. City's motion to dismiss has been filed.
- *Appeal of Zoning Permit.* Neighbors have appealed DRB approval of a permit to move a barn structure. City is represented by Attorney David Rugh. We are monitoring the case. Recent filings by appellants have challenged the validity of sections of the city's zoning ordinance.
- *IUOE Local 98 v. City of Montpelier.* DPW filing to Labor Board objection to the re-

classification of one employee. City is represented by Attorney John Klesch.

### **General Business Follow Up:**

1/12

- *Greyhound*. The City is meeting with Greyhound next week to review use of the Transit Center.



## **Create More Housing**



## **Improve Community Prosperity**

### **Community Services Department Shared Info Updates/Events/Collaborations**

#### **Montpelier Senior Activity Center Updates**

- **FEAST Kitchen garners more community support:** Green Mountain Power and Efficiency Vermont have both bestowed significant rebates for the new electric oven that was purchased during the winter holidays when the old gas oven broke. Red Hen Bakery in Middlesex has a tip jar out to collect funds to support FEAST. More than fifty volunteers from the community roll in throughout the week to support all the meals going out to seniors in need of delicious, nutritious meals.
- **Plans to Source a New Van:** MSAC is working together with the larger Community Services department to write a grant request to the National Life Foundation to help us jointly purchase a new van. The “Do Good Van” would enable all three divisions of the CS Dept to offer much-needed rides and services to the large cross-section of the Montpelier community served by all three.
- **Drop-in Groups & Classes:** Drop-in groups and classes are running along at MSAC, despite many having moved online. Check out our updated list of groups to see what’s going on: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1250/11583/Drop-in-Groups>

**Recreation:** The Recreation Department has been very busy with snow clean up after this weekend’s storm. The cleanup of the Senior Center required many cars to be moved so the snow could be plowed to the back of the lot out of the way. The Ice Rink has required a lot of attention to get the snow removed and working on getting the surface smooth and ready for this weekend’s frigid temperatures.

Open gym basketball and the afterschool program are going well. We had a DCF Licensure visit our site yesterday and they were very impressed with our program and set up. The youth basketball has been going very well and we are currently following the school’s guidelines

of no spectators at this time. This is week to week and could change in the near future.



## Build and Maintain Sustainable Infrastructure

### **Stormwater Utility Committee**

The Montpelier City Council and Department of Public Works is looking to appoint members to the newly formed Stormwater Utility Committee. The committee has been tasked with building out/developing a new Stormwater utility and to present to City Council on their findings. The committee will solicit proposals to partner with a consultant to assist with the development of the utility. The Stormwater Utility Committee will work closely with the selected consultant to address the feasibility of the utility, the financial impacts of said utility, and engage the public throughout the development of the utility.

This committee has two Council representatives, Councilmembers Jay Ericson and Lauren Hierl who were appointed on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The Committee is looking for additional members as follows: (2) staff liaisons, (1) member of the Friends of the Winooski, (3) members from related city commissions/committees such as the planning commission, conservation commission, development review board, Montpelier Transportation Infrastructure Committee, or others and (1) member of the public. The ideal member of the public will have at least one of the following: background in finances, experience dealing with Stormwater, or development of other enterprise utilities.

If you are already on a committee and are interested in joining you and your chair should nominate yourself by sending an email to Zach Blodgett at the following email address [zblodgett@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:zblodgett@montpelier-vt.org). If you are a member of the public and interested in joining you will need to fill out a full application using the link below.

<https://www.montpelier-vt.org/formcenter/boards-commissions-12/city-of-montpelier-boards-commissions-ap-60>

All nominations and applications are still open. Committee appointments will occur at an upcoming council meeting.



## Employment and Personnel Announcements

### **Municipal Job Openings**

Visit the City website for more information: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/Jobs.aspx>

- **Police Department- Patrol Officers:** The Patrol Officer is responsible for the efficient performance of required duties in conformance with the laws and the Department's rules,

regulations and policies. Duties shall consist of, but are not necessarily limited to, a number of general police responsibilities necessarily necessary to the stability and safety of the community. For applications and more information, click [here](#) or email [recruiting@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:recruiting@montpelier-vt.org). We have one more open officer position.

- **City Assessor:** The City of Montpelier, Vermont (population 8,000), seeks qualified candidates for the position of City Assessor. This position directs the operations of the Assessor's Office and the inspection and valuation of 2,900 real and 500 personal property accounts in the City. The Assessor is responsible for all of the assessing functions of the City including appraisal and assessment of all properties, defense of values, maintenance of the City's parcel maps and other lists. The Assessor leads field functions in inspecting and valuing residential, commercial, and industrial properties. Work is performed under the administrative direction of the City Manager and in accordance with state statutes. The Assessor will be responsible for overseeing the contracted city-wide reappraisal in which all property in the City of Montpelier will be reappraised for the 2023 Grand List. Work on this initiative has begun as of October 2021. A minimum of 5 years of experience as a lister/assessor, or equivalent experience and education, is desired as well as a thorough knowledge of appraisal methodology, State laws pertaining to appraisal and assessing of property, the Current Use Program, and rules and procedures regarding maintenance of the City's Grand List. Knowledge of State mapping requirements and updating of the City parcel maps is also required. If interested, please submit your resume and letter of interest to City Manager Bill Fraser at [wfraser@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:wfraser@montpelier-vt.org) or by mail at City of Montpelier, City Hall, 39 Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602. This position is open until filled.



## Reminders

### **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. If you would like to speak to Susan please contact her through email at: [susan.lemere@wcmhs.org](mailto:susan.lemere@wcmhs.org) or contact MPD and we can assist with connecting you to Susan.

### **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 see City Council Meetings: <https://www.orcamedia.net/series/montpelier-city-council>
- Click here for Live Stream: <https://www.orcamedia.net/series/live-stream-events>
- Or stream via ORCA's YouTube channel during meetings here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/orcamedia>

### **City-wide Reappraisal Property Inspections Have Begun!**

We have begun the process of a city-wide reappraisal of all real property. Representatives from the New England Municipal Consultants will visit each property in the city to gather data. The inspection process will start in late 2021 and continue through the spring of 2023. NEMC will mail notices to property owners in advance of conducting inspections.

**Stump Dump:**

Need to get rid of lawn debris, stumps, and branches? The City 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!

**Trash Receptacles:**

As a resident of Montpelier, are you wondering about the best area to place a trash receptacle for trash pickup? Please, always, place trash receptacles for pick up at the corner of the driveway, behind the sidewalk. If you do not have a sidewalk on your street, please place receptacles on the corner of the drive, in the street closest to the curb. (Not obstructing traffic). Please do not please receptacles within the sidewalk.

Questions? Please contact Jasmine Benson with DPW at 802-223-9508.

Thank you,



William Fraser, City Manager

Upcoming Agenda Items ( <i>TENTATIVE</i> )			
2/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CJC Introduction</li> <li>• Police Committee Follow Up</li> <li>• City Manager Review and Contract</li> <li>• Public Records Fees?</li> <li>• Mask Mandate extension</li> </ul>	2/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> PH on Bonds</li> <li>• Budget information meeting</li> <li>• Parklet Ordinance</li> </ul>
3/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Meeting Election</li> </ul>	3/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizational Meeting</li> <li>• Elect Officers</li> <li>• Rules of Procedure</li> <li>• Ethics Policy</li> <li>• Committee Assignments</li> <li>• Mask Mandate extension</li> <li>• Election results review</li> </ul>
3/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zoning Revisions?</li> <li>• Reaffirm Strategic Plan</li> <li>• VRC Confluence Park</li> </ul>	4/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mask Mandate Update</li> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financials</li> <li>• Rec Center update</li> </ul>
4/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Plan Update</li> </ul>	5/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District Heat</li> <li>• Public Bathrooms</li> </ul>

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

**CURRENT PENDING STRATEGIC ITEMS**

**Topics from the FY22-23 City Council Strategic Plan for Future Council Agendas:**



Month	Tentative Topic(s)
February	CJC Introduction and Grant Updates / PRC Recommendations (tentative)
March	Zoning Changes and Housing Project Updates/ VRC Confluence Park Presentation
April	Rec Center Updates
May	Public Restrooms/ District Heat (end of heating-season wrap up)
June	Economic Development – Strategic Plan, TIF, Tax Stabilization Updates/ Workforce Development program
July	Stipend Implementation Plan Recommendation (from SEJAC)
August	Website Updates / Capital Area Neighborhoods Presentation/ Stormwater Utility Updates (tentative)
September	Economic Development Strategic Plan Contract (Launch) / Strat Planning/ Accomplishments and Future Plans for Outdoor Recreation and Economic Development
October	Creative Discourse Recommendations Status Update/ Strat Planning
November	ADA Transition Projects/ Net Zero Projects Update/ FEAST Program Updates/ <b>**BUDGET**</b> / PFAS Updates
December	<b>**BUDGET**</b> / Community Survey Results?

**Topics Pending Scheduling:**

Homelessness Plan

- Mutual Aid Issues with Middlesex and Berlin
- Update Barriers to Housing Study
- City Master Plan – Fall/Winter 2022
- 12-16 Main St. site planning
- Conduit Policy
- Televate communications infrastructure plan