

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
8/14	Recreation Advisory Board	5:30 PM	Senior Center and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
8/15	Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee	7:00 PM	Zoom Only	Agenda and Zoom Link
8/16	Homelessness Task Force	11:30 AM	Zoom Only	Agenda and Zoom Link
8/16	Conservation Commission	5:30 PM	Zoom Only	Agenda and Zoom Link

Improve Public Health and Safety

Shelter

We are in active negotiations with Good Samaritan Haven to provide winter shelter (and perhaps longer) at the former Elk's building for 15-20 beds starting in November. While this location isn't ideal, most downtown alternatives are not available right now due to flood damage.

Commercial Debris Pick up **New**:

The FEMA funded pickup of commercial debris has concluded. The City will pick up the remaining commercial debris until August 18th. After that normal trash and debris rules will be in place and businesses and property owners will be responsible for managing their garbage.

City Hall **update**:

People may be curious why City Hall is still closed. The building will probably be largely out of commission for months. The City Clerk and City Manager/Assessor's office were basically untouched. Some of us are working in those spaces.

The basement area – which housed the Planning & Development Offices, the Public Works Administration and Engineering offices, the Community Justice Center offices, the Custodial Offices, and the Basement Teen Center – was completely flooded and is gutted to the studs. Also in the basement are the mechanical systems for the elevator, the emergency generator, the heating systems, and electrical systems, It also stored many files, some of which were saved and preserved but many which were lost.

The first floor (other than the Clerk and Manager) took on a great deal of water from backed up drains which shot water out of the water fountain. This led to floor and wall damage in the Finance Department, Human Resource Department, and Montpelier Alive area. All of the carpet has been ripped out and some sheet rock removed. All offices in that area have been completely emptied and air quality is bad. The Assistant City Manager and Communications Coordinator offices did not get much damage but also have poor air quality.

Air quality and moisture testing indicate that there is still a lot of moisture in our walls, particularly the basement plaster and the wall between the first floor hallway and the Finance area. We will likely need to do additional work to open those areas up for drying and possible mold detection,

DPW has moved their offices to the Public Works Garage on Dog River Road. Finance, Planning, HR, some of the Clerk's functions, Asst City Manager, Communications, and Montpelier Alive have all temporarily moved to the second floor of the Senior Center at 58 Barre St where they are fully accessible.

The City Council Chambers and Memorial room were unscathed by flooding but are now filled with furniture, equipment, and files which were salvaged from other offices.

The elevator is out of service so the building is not fully accessible. With no accessibility and no meeting space, all city meetings are being held virtually as was done during the height of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Fortunately, computer servers and IT infrastructure had been raised to the first floor several years ago so they remain functional.

The first priority in restoring the building to use is getting essential systems running and relocated to safer locations. This will involve taking more first floor space. The next priority is to redesign the uses of space so that the basement no longer houses offices with files, computers, and other essential equipment. This means repurposing first floor space and possible relocating some offices on a permanent basis. The basement area would be converted to meeting space, including possibly the Council Chambers.

We are working diligently to understand FEMA and insurance funding for these losses. The financial information will help us with planning for the re-opening of our historic City Hall.

Provide Responsible and Engaged Government

Community Discussion update: Thanks to the many, many people who participated in the Community forum. The entire City leadership team was in attendance to hear concerns and suggestions first hand. We're preparing responses to some of the questions raised.

Where Can I Get More Updates from the City? The City of Montpelier is expanding the ways we share information and keep our community informed. You can now sign up for general updates from the City of Montpelier using the "Notify Me" feature on the City's website.

How to sign up: Go to <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/> and click on the "Notify Me" tile in the popular links, fill in the subscription box with your email, then check the box next to the "City of Montpelier" list name. You'll receive an email with a link asking you to confirm your subscription. Once your email is confirmed, you'll start receiving updates.

Public Engagement Platform New:

The City has launched a new digital community engagement site to inform and engage residents about upcoming plans and projects.

Through Zencity Engage, the City will create engagement sites for local projects, upload supporting information, and invite residents to give input using interactive participatory tools. Zencity works with hundreds of municipalities across the U.S. including Chicago, Phoenix, Seattle, and San Diego on issues ranging from public safety to implementation of the American Rescue Plan Act.

The Community Project Portal will enable the City to more easily incorporate more resident voices in the planning and implementation of priority initiatives to improve local services and the overall quality of life. The portal will inform and gather feedback in up to 27 languages and make it easier for residents to participate—on their own time, from wherever is convenient.

The project platform comes at an opportune time in the aftermath of the July flood and will serve as a helpful resource to support the community's flood recovery efforts. Visit the Community Project Portal through the link on the City's website at www.Montpelier-VT.org

Will the due date for property taxes change? At this time, the City is still undergoing the reappraisal process. Due to the flood, reappraisal grievance hearings will be delayed. Tax bills have not yet gone out. The first quarter installment date will be later than normal but has not yet been set because the reappraisal is not yet complete. The City will make an announcement as soon as the tax bill due date is set.

Budget: The flood will have a major impact on the city's budget. We will not collect rooms/meals/alcohol taxes to the extent projected, parking revenues have gone away, and we will likely have many tax abatements due to damages which will reduce our property tax revenue.

In addition, we will have reconstruction expenses which will probably exceed reimbursements from FEMA and insurance, especially as we seek to make improvements.

As a result, we have placed ALL projects not already under contract on hold, we are delaying ALL equipment purchases, and imposing a partial hiring freeze until we get a better handle on our financial outlook

Pending Legal

Moody vs. City of Montpelier. Insurance case filed regarding a pot hole. Costs handled by VLCT PACIF, City represented by Attorney Brian Monaghan

Create More Housing

Country Club Road: Following on the Council approval of the Actionable Plan, staff will lay out the decision matrix and time for the various steps needed to move forward. Due to the disruption from the flood, the City Council Workshop on this topic will be moved back to at least September 13, 2023.

Planning Commission Listening Session Rescheduled

The Planning Commission is rescheduling the listening session on housing to take place at the Planning Commission meeting on September 11th. This listening session was previously scheduled for July 24th and August 14th.

The Commission encourages the public to engage in the upcoming discussion on August 10th about "Recovery and the Future of Montpelier". This discussion is being convened by Montpelier Strong in partnership with the City of Montpelier.

The Planning Commission believes this is a timely and necessary conversation about how our community will be moving forward after the flooding events of July 10th to 11th.

If you have questions or comments on the future Housing Listening Session, please forward them to Mike Miller, Planning Director at mmiller@montpelier-vt.org. Questions about the upcoming Recovery and the Future of Montpelier meeting should reach out to Paul Costello at pcostello802@gmail.com.

Improve Community Prosperity

****The Community Services Department weekly newsletter can be found at the end of the this report, beginning after strategic plan items.****

Build and Maintain Sustainable Infrastructure

****The Department of Public Works weekly newsletter can be found on the City's Department of Public Works webpage.****

Employment and Personnel Announcements

Municipal Job Openings

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

Mental Health Clinician: Montpelier Police, Barre City Police and Washington County Mental Health are still looking for a police mental health clinician to work with our agencies. If you have any interest either call Chief Nordenson at 802-223-3445 or apply directly at

: <https://wcmhs.applytojob.com/apply/rZGj0OPhbn/Police-Mental-Health-Clinician>

Reminders

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 Meeting:
- Click here for Live Stream:

Thank you,



William Fraser, City Manager

Council Meeting Agenda Schedule and Strategic Planning Items on following pages

Upcoming Agenda Items (<i>TENTATIVE</i>)			
8/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan 2023 report • Outside Agency Follow up? • Year End Financials? • Post Flood Updates 	9/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Plan draft • CCR Workshop • Vendor Ordinance?
9/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Strategic Planning 	10/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Preview • Strategic Planning • Winter Schedule
10/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	11/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

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

Reminder that there is no meeting on August 9th.

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

Month	Tentative Topic(s)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater Utility – delayed due to DPW staffing

Community Services Department Report, Week in Review: **August 7th – 11th**

Community Services Department Updates

- **The volunteer hub continues!** We want the public to know that this crisis isn't over. While the City of Montpelier is slowly opening again, please understand that there is active recovery going on throughout the city, so please be safe and stay updated through our online channels listed below. **The volunteer hub is still active at Barre & Main Streets until further notice!**
 - If you'd like to stay informed on all the hub activities, subscribe to our email list found on the Resource Log page, linked below
 - **Check out the Resource Log** on the City website for all resources related to flooding event in Downtown Montpelier: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=467>
- **For more updates and resources**, follow the City of Montpelier's Facebook page: [@MontpelierVT](#) and our new Volunteers pages: [@MontpelierVolunteers](#) on Facebook and Instagram. You can also follow our Community Services Departments pages: [@MontpelierSeniorActivityCenter](#), [@MontpelierRec](#), and [@MontpelierParks](#).

Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC)

- **Read the August Newsletter and Summer Program Guide here:** <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/304/Newsletter>
- **Dine with us at our congregate lunch on Thursday, August 17th!**
 - Our next lunch will be Thursday, August 17th at Noon. No need to RSVP, but if you have any questions, please call the FEAST office: 802-262-6288.
 - Lunches will be on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at FEAST Senior Meals inside the Montpelier Senior Activity Center. Recommended donation is \$10, although no one will be turned away from being unable to pay.
- **Sprouting Change: A FEAST Senior Meals Fundraiser**
 - *Can you be a champion for local food and nutrition?*



- After the July 2023 flood, FEAST Senior Meals is looking to our community to support us and sprout change from now until September 30th. The floodwaters devastated our farm, which provided vital produce for our Meals on Wheels program. We're asking you to support local food and nutrition through this small dollar donation drive.



- By going to our website, www.montpelier-vt.org/FEAST, you can donate \$15, which is the average cost of a meal for client, then ask a friend to do the same. Together, we can regrow our local food system and sustain our operations during this critical time of year for our older adult neighbors in Central Vermont.
- **FEAST Farmstand is returning soon!** Although we lost almost all our annual crops at the FEAST Farm, the FEAST Farmstand will be returning in September with donated produce and other goodies to sell. We have not set a return date yet, but we will have an announcement in the next couple of weeks. Thank you for your support of FEAST during this tumultuous time!
- **Seeking Some Fun?** Join our wide variety of drop-in groups, most open to all ages. Hankingering for music? Poetry? Drumming? Dancing? Community service? Games? Coffee & Conversation? Book discussions? Meals? Drag Bingo? We've got it all!

Montpelier Recreation News

The Montpelier Recreation Gym has now reopened for programming!

- **Program Registration** – You can deliver registration forms either:
 - In person at the Recreation Center
 - By mailing forms and payment to 58 Barre Street, or
 - Using [our online registration platform](#) (**ONLY IF YOU HAVE A USER ACCOUNT ALREADY! Please call 802-225-8699 for setup assistance**)

Extra registration forms and a locked drop box are in the side vestibule of 58 Barre Street (the Senior Activity Center) for after-hours use.

- **Fall Youth Soccer Registration is Now Open!**
 - Fall is only a few months away, and Montpelier Recreation will be opening up Fall Youth Soccer for registration starting July 1st. Our fall youth soccer program covers grades K-6 and all skill levels. Sign up information to come soon, so learn more on our website (www.montpelier-vt.org/838/Recreation), social media pages, or by stopping into our office at 55 Barre Street.
 - **Coaches & Referees Needed!** Parents and guardians are needed to help coach and referee this fall. Please mark your calendars for our organizational meeting in early

September! Meeting info TBA later in the summer; follow our newsletter, website, and social media pages for the latest updates.

- **Montpelier Public Pool**

- The Montpelier Pool is open to the public with full regular hours: 1-7pm from Monday to Friday, and 1-5:30pm on the weekends. Please check our website or Facebook page for the latest updates on closures and event announcements. We're excited for a long summer of fun activities there!

- **2022-23 Pickleball Open Gym**

- The Montpelier Recreation Center offers two indoor courts. There is a 12-player maximum per session. Open gym is for adults (18+). Please bring your own paddles. The Recreation Department will supply balls to play on open gym days. All levels are welcome. See below for days and times.

- Find us on playerlineup.com. Search: "Montpelier Rec Center PB"

- **Open Gym Schedule (based on skill level)**

- **Beginner:** Mondays → 1:30 – 3:00 pm | Wednesdays → 9 – 10:30 am
- **Beginner/Intermediate:** Thursdays → 1:30 – 3 pm
- **Intermediate:** Mondays → 9 – 10:30 am | Wednesdays → 1:30 – 3 pm | Thursdays → 1:30 – 3 pm
- **Intermediate/Advanced:** Fridays → 9 – 10:30 am
- **Advanced:** Tuesdays → 9 – 11 am

- **Open Gym Fees:**

- **Walk-Ins:** Montpelier Residents: \$4; Non-Montpelier Residents: \$6
- **Punch Cards (22 visits, pickleball only):** Montpelier Residents: \$45; Non-Montpelier Residents: \$60

- **2023 Summer Noontime Basketball**

- 2023 Summer Noontime Basketball takes place in the Recreation Department gym at 55 Barre Street on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 11:45am – 1:15pm.

- **Capital Kids Summer Day Camp (June 26th – August 18th)**

- The Capital Kids Summer Day Camp is starting soon! Learn more: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/843/Capital-Kids-Day-Camp>

- **Weekly Themes:**

- **Week 8:** Aug 14 - 18; Best of the Summer Finale; Field Trip: Lake Groton

Montpelier Parks

- **Parkapalooza 2023! Cancelled for August 10th.**

WE WILL RETURN on August 17th for Kerubo!

- Montpelier's summer concert series has another exciting concert in store for next week! Kerubo comes to the Tuning Forks Soundstage on Thursday, August 17th at 5:30pm. Arrive early, and plan for fun times throughout the summer. Each family friendly event will feature live music, our giant slip 'n slide, and a huge open space for people to gather and listen to live music. We have a great lineup of local and regional bands. Now in its sixth year, Parkapalooza celebrates all that we love about Central Vermont— family time outside, community and the arts.

