

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
9/11	Recreation Advisory Board	5:30 PM	Senior Center and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
9/11	Planning Commission	5:30 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
9/12	Senior Activity Center Advisory Council	2:30 PM	Senior Center and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
9/12	Historic Preservation Commission	7:00 PM	Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link
9/13	City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	High School and Zoom	Agenda and Zoom Link

Improve Public Health and Safety

Shelter update:

We have an agreement with Good Samaritan Haven to provide winter shelter (and perhaps longer) at the former Elk's building for 15-20 beds starting in November. The state has approved this proposal, permit applications are in and we are moving forward with preparing for this use.

City Hall update:

We have re-opened the front of City Hall (Clerk, Manager, Assessor) to the public with the proviso that we will need to make reasonable accommodations for people who are differently abled. The rest of the building is closed to the public.

With regard to City facilities – The City team met with FEMA representatives to get a better understanding of how to move forward addressing issues. We have created groups of “projects” (repairs or upgrades to buildings, facilities and infrastructure) which will go through the FEMA process.

The biggest “project” is restoration of City Hall, Police Station, and Fire Station. We have the go ahead to seek consulting services (architect, engineering, hydro engineering) to review the needs in these buildings, explore mitigation options which may include major internal building changes and/or external dry flood proofing, and designing the final choices for construction.

We are looking at a schedule something like this:

- Issue Request for Proposals (RFP) and receive proposals. Award contract to winning bidder at 10/25 Council meeting.
- Evaluations and design work completed by end of July 2024 (assuming 9 months for this)
- Construction bids and completion of work completed by April of 2025 (assuming 9 months for this, will vary depending on choice of work)
- Fully reoccupy City Hall in May of 2025.

We'll advance the work at the Fire and Police stations, as well as relocating utilities and getting the elevator and generator functioning at City Hall as soon as possible. Obviously if we can expedite other things we will.

This means that current office relocations may remain for close to two years. It doesn't make sense to bring people back to city hall temporarily only to have them move out again while construction is happening.

Flood Follow Up

As discussed, this week, City staff is performing an after-action review of flood response and lessons learned. Our goal is to create a written summary for future use if needed.

Provide Responsible and Engaged Government

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.

City Council Meeting Location. MRPS Superintendent Libby Bonesteel approved our request to use the High School Library for Council meetings for the foreseeable future. In the event of meeting conflicts, we will either change our date or hold that meeting virtually. This location is accessible and is all set up for ORCA and remote connection. This will start with the September 9th meeting.

City Council Strategic Planning new: After flood related delays, the Council will hold the annual strategic planning workshop on October 18th. Paul Costello will be the facilitator. The Council will identify priority policy goals and key initiatives to accomplish those goals.

Community Meetings about Flood Recovery update: At the final part of the city-wide dialogue on "recovery, resilience and the future of Montpelier," on Thursday, September 7th at Montpelier High School the Montpelier Foundation, Montpelier Alive and the City of Montpelier announced plans to convene the Montpelier Commission for Recovery and Resilience.

Public forums in the series have pointed to the fact that Montpelier's recovery and renewal will take years, and resilience efforts should be instituted and grow with time under consistent, dynamic and unifying leadership. City government cannot carry the costs or leadership of the whole recovery effort, or the long-term efforts to expand the resilience of the city in the face of future floods and other climate change impacts.

At the recent flood recovery forums, community members have consistently called for the establishment of a new leadership structure to coordinate and drive forward recovery and resilience work. In response to this feedback, the Montpelier Commission for Recovery and Resilience will be formed to serve as a convening and resource partner for the City and all working groups advancing recovery and resilience projects in the City.

Chaired by a private sector member, the Commission will provide leadership to coordinate recovery and resilience strategies, advocate for the community, oversee staff, and support the progress of initiatives throughout the community.

The founding partners will work to raise funds to hire a Montpelier Recovery and Resilience Director answerable to the members of the commission. Under the oversight of the Commission and with support of staff of the City of Montpelier, the Director will:

- Provide support and coordination to recovery and resilience working groups in the city;
- Convene leadership around key aspect of recovery, from best practices for hardening buildings, to developing collective inventory space and other practical recovery projects;
- Convene public dialogues as needed;
- Bring together engineers and architects to envision and develop projects to advance the downtown and its resilience;
- Convene regional governments, planners, business leaders, engineers, architects, hydrologists and environmental scientists to evaluate opportunities, then plan and implement mitigation strategies to slow and hold water to minimize the impact of future flooding events.

Commissioners will be selected by a committee of Montpelier Alive, the Montpelier Foundation and the City of Montpelier which will each have equal weight in appointing members from the public. The City Manager, the Executive Director of Montpelier Alive, and the President of the Montpelier Foundation (or their designees) will be founding members.

Commissioners will be certified, and the authority established for two years, at which time the efficiency of the effort and implementation results will be evaluated toward a decision on continuing or reforming the initiative. The three organizing entities will work to raise funds toward a two-year budget for the Commission.

The Commission must represent the community and have needed expertise to be effective. Applicants to participate on the Commission should describe skills related to the following categories: Architecture; Hydrology/Engineering, Environmental Science; Downtown Development; Fundraising (especially related to state and federal resources); Land Use Planning; Property Ownership; Business; Low Income Issues; Non-Profit Management; Financing; Clean Energy Development; Housing; Public Health; Resilience Planning and Other pertinent skills. Applicants will be also be reviewed with a lens to youth and diversity.

To apply or to nominate someone to the commission, email contact information and a one-paragraph description of qualifications to: msmith@montpelier-vt.org by the end of the day on September 14 with the Subject Line "Montpelier Commission for Recovery and Resilience."

Pending Legal

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

Create More Housing

FEMA Housing update:

We are still in discussion with FEMA about placing "FEMA Trailers" in Montpelier at Country Club Road. We anticipate that this installation will result in construction of some infrastructure that can be used for future housing development. They would like to begin construction soon and expect these units could be in place for 18-24 months. An update will be provided at the Council meeting next week.

Improve Community Prosperity

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

Benefit Concert for Flood Relief:

Montpelier Alive, Barre Area Development, the City of Montpelier and others are partnering to hold a benefit concert on Saturday, September 9th from 3 to 7 on the State House Lawn (pending approval from BGS), Scheduled performers are Guagua, Rey Vega, Dwight & Nicole and the Dave Keller Band. This event had been considered for the Country Club Road location but is moving to the State House Lawn to create a better and safer experience for all involved. Performances and support are being donated so that all proceeds can go to the Montpelier and Barre flood relief funds.

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

Staff Development & Promotions

After several years of being understaffed and not filling promotional vacancies the Montpelier Police Department is pleased to announce we are fulling staffed and the following promotions took effect on September 5, 2023, as follows:

- Deputy Chief Kevin Moulton
- Detective Sergeant Jeff Pearson
- Sergeant Michael Philbrick
- Corporal Jon Bullard

Effective September 19, 2023:

- Sergeant Ben Michaud

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Fraser', written in a cursive style.

William Fraser, City Manager

Council Meeting Agenda Schedule and Strategic Planning Items on following pages

Upcoming Agenda Items (*TENTATIVE*)

9/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCR Workshop • 	9/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year End financials • Winter Schedule • Outside Agency Policy • 2023 Strategic Plan wrap up • Staff Appreciation • CCR Recreation PI
10/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be determined whether a meeting will be held 	10/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Strategic Planning •
10/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Plan Draft • Budget Preview • Award RFP for City Hall design? 	11/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
11/15?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget 	12/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget

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

11/15 and 12/20 dates are possible conflicts with School Board

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 Updates

- **The volunteer hub is now a remote operation** Due to a lower volume of requests, **the physical volunteer hub at Barre & Main Streets has now closed.** If you need help or wish to volunteer, please find all hub information on their website: www.montpelierhub.com.
 - If you'd like to stay informed on all volunteer and hub activities, subscribe to our email list found on **the City of Montpelier's Resource Log**, which has 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](https://www.facebook.com/MontpelierVT) and our new Volunteers pages: [@MontpelierVolunteers](https://www.facebook.com/MontpelierVolunteers) on Facebook and Instagram. You can also follow our Community Services Departments pages: [@MontpelierSeniorActivityCenter](https://www.facebook.com/MontpelierSeniorActivityCenter), [@MontpelierRec](https://www.facebook.com/MontpelierRec), and [@MontpelierParks](https://www.facebook.com/MontpelierParks).

Montpelier Senior Activity Center (MSAC)

- Read the September Newsletter and Fall Program Guide here: <https://www.montpelier-vt.org/304/Newsletter>
- **MSAC Fall Class Registration ends on Friday, September 22nd** [See the full fall lineup of classes at: https://www.montpelier-vt.org/751/Classes](https://www.montpelier-vt.org/751/Classes). Most classes begin the first week of October.
- **Next FEAST congregate lunch is Thursday, September 21st at noon inside MSAC.**
- **OLLI Lecture Series returning to MSAC this Fall!** The OLLI lecture series begins on Wednesday, September 20th with Singer and Historian Linda Radtke for ***From Parlors to Polls: Vermont Suffragettes***. Go to learn.uvm.edu/olli/centralvt and register online, or pick up a brochure in our office for other registration options.

- **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 support us and sprout change from now until September floodwaters devastated our farm, which provided vital our Meals on Wheels program. We're asking you to food and nutrition through this small dollar donation drive.
- By going to our website, www.montpelier-vt.org/FEAST, donate \$15, which is the average cost of a meal for client, 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.



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you can then ask a

- **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

- **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.

- **Capital Kids Afterschool Program suspended until January** Due to low staffing, the Capital Kids Afterschool Program will be suspended for the fall semester.
- **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.

Montpelier Parks

- **Enchanted Forest will be returning to Hubbard Park soon!**
 - We will have an announcement to share about Enchanted Forest within the next week or two, so stay tuned. We hope you're excited for fun fall festivities with the Parks Department!