

Date	Committee	Time	Location	Links
11/6	Design Review Committee	5:30 PM	Zoom Only	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
11/6	Development Review Board	7:00 PM	Zoom Only	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
11/7	Housing Committee	6:00 PM	Zoom Only	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
11/8	Social & Economic Justice Advisory Committee	8:00 AM	Zoom Only	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>
11/8	City Council Meeting	6:30 PM	Montpelier High School and Zoom	<a href="#">Agenda and Zoom Link</a>

## Improve Public Health and Safety

### Recent Events **New:**

Within a seven day stretch, we have had a shooting incident and two serious structure fires. All this in the midst of recovery from a devastating flood. Once again, I am in awe of our staff's ability to jump into action in service of our City. Often it takes a tragedy to remind us of what we're thankful for, but I am reminded every day when I see the faces of our amazing staff.

I wanted to take a moment and point out the incredible collaboration and teamwork of City employees during last night's fire and all these events. Firefighters – Police – Public Works – our Mayor – communicators in all departments = all working together in real-time to respond to these emergencies, share information, and keep our community safe.

Our emergency responders, along with the teams from our neighboring communities, have done outstanding jobs in containing danger and keeping the public safe. It is because of their efforts no people were harmed in any of these incidents including the flood.

This week's fire was another devastating tragedy on top of a very trying year, and yet City staff keep showing up unwavering in the face of adversity to serve our community. We have been through so much, and unfortunately, disasters like this show us the true value of a City team that's capable and ready to respond to whatever life throws at us.

Thank you to all our staff and to all the community members who have stepped forward to help.

### Public Safety Report **New:**

At 1813 hours on November 1st, 2023, Capitol Dispatch initiated a 1st alarm assignment (mutual aid from 5 area departments) for a reported structure fire with an employee trapped inside, at 707 Stone Cutters Way, Montpelier. This is the location of R.K. Miles, formerly Allen Lumber.

The initial crew members responded and upgraded to a 2nd alarm (mutual aid from the initial 5, plus 5 more area departments ) prior to arriving, due to the amount of smoke and flames seen from Barre Street, and arrived on scene in exactly 3 minutes.

An initial fire attack was initiated from within the lumber yard, and the employee who was reported as being trapped was located outside, safe. They were transported to the emergency room for smoke inhalation and released.

Unfortunately, within minutes there was a sudden and strong shift and increase in wind and the firefighters were forced to pull back and abandon the fire engine. Sadly, the truck is a total loss.

The blaze was battled until around midnight when the bulk of the fire was knocked down and deemed under control. Crews were on scene throughout the night overhauling and extinguishing hot spots. There were no reported injuries to fire personnel.

Vermont Department of Public Safety Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit, with assistance from the Montpelier Police Department, responded to help determine the origin and cause of the fire. Although there is no indication the fire is suspicious, the investigation is ongoing at this time.

Anyone who has photos, video or information about this fire is asked to contact Vermont State Police Detective Sgt. Christopher Blais at the Royalton Barracks at 802-234-9933 or [christopher.blais@vermont.gov](mailto:christopher.blais@vermont.gov), or Montpelier Police Detective Sgt. Jeff Pearson at 802-223-3445 or [jpearson@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:jpearson@montpelier-vt.org).

People with information also may contact the Vermont Arson Tip Award Program at 800-32-ARSON. The Arson Tip Award Program is a separate entity from the Vermont State Police, and through funding from insurance companies offers a reward of up to \$5,000 for information that leads to an arrest.

Further questions about the fire may be directed to Chief Gowans of the Montpelier Fire Department.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all of the mutual aid departments that helped us fight our second structure fire in the past 4 days. As well as the [Montpelier Police Department](#), Green Mountain Power, Kirk Fenoff & sons excavation, [Barre City Fire Department](#), [Barre Town Fire Department](#) [Barre Town EMS](#), [East Montpelier Fire Department](#), Berlin Fire, Middlesex Fire, Worcester Fire, [Waterbury Vermont Fire Department](#), [Plainfield Fire & Rescue](#)., Northfield Fire, and [Department of Public Works- City of Montpelier](#).

We've received multiple offers of a loaner vehicle from stations all across New England and two fire truck vendors. We are evaluating all the offers and will make announce a decision next week.

Mutual aid plans are in place with our neighboring communities to ensure Montpelier has full fire protection services until a replacement vehicle is secured.

### **Virus Sampling Study**

The Montpelier Water Resource Recovery Facility is now participating in a nationwide wastewater sampling program through **Verily (life science branch of Alphabet, Inc)**. As of now, 183 wastewater facilities are participating with 37 states represented and 42,726,910 people covered through the sampling efforts. Starting March 6<sup>th</sup>, wastewater samples from the WRRF were sent out 3 times a week to San Francisco, CA to be tested for Sars-CoV-2 (Covid-19), Influenza, RSV, Human Metapneumovirus, Mpox, and Norovirus.

“The goal is to monitor diseases through municipal wastewater sampling and establish a framework for early warning platforms (Verily – 2023).” Updated results can be found

here: <https://data.wastewaterscan.org/?plantId=98a28d70-f8f5-414f-bd0b-874772fb498c>.

This sampling regime will continue for the next 1-3 years. One additional benefit of this program is the City of Montpelier is being paid for the samples we collect (\$175/sample - \$27,300/year). Town of Berlin officials have

been notified of this sampling program because their wastewater is treated at the City's WRRF.

## Provide Responsible and Engaged Government

### **Pending Legal**

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

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## Create More Housing

### **FEMA Housing:**

We are working with FEMA to finalize the layout for their project. We have settled on the boundaries of the temporary housing which are consistent with the outline shown to the Council. We are completing the remainder of the lease and infrastructure agreements.

## Improve Community Prosperity

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

### **MSAC Updates New:**

The City announced on Wednesday that we will be hiring a new Program and Membership Director for the Montpelier Senior Activity Center. The Program and Membership Director is responsible for the management of MSAC programs, membership benefits, volunteers, staff, and instructors, and for consulting with the Advisory Council. The Director builds and maintains community partnerships to help MSAC fulfill its mission and is responsible for promoting membership, maintaining benefits, and communicating with members in person and through various media. This position will report to the Director of Recreation and Senior Services.

Concurrent with this hiring process is the ongoing MSAC Programmatic Performance Assessment. The goal of the assessment is to ensure the future success of MSAC and the new Director of Programming and Membership, as well as to provide members with the services that both meet their needs and desires. The MSAC Advisory Committee is actively meeting and making steady progress toward this goal. To that end, the Advisory Committee is working to finalize the Assessment, develop a community survey, and solicit applicants for the new position. The Committee will be releasing its report for consideration in a community presentation in early December 2023.



### **MYCC Receives Award**

The Montpelier Youth Conservation Corps (MYCC), a program of the City of Montpelier, was recognized by the Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation (CVEDC) at their annual gala as a "Flood Recovery Hero" for their response to the impacts of the July flooding in our community. Congratulations to all the MYCC members who so richly deserve this award.

### **NCCC Americorps Team leaves Montpelier**

We're sad to say goodbye to "Hackberry 3," the NCCC Americorps team that has been serving with the City of Montpelier for the last 3 weeks. They've been a huge help with repairing trails, installing benches and kiosks, removing elevated risk trees, and assisting with Enchanted Forest. This is the end of their 10-month service term, during which they served in 5 sites around the Eastern United States. We say thank you and best wishes to the whole team.



### **Cemetery Best Practices Presentation by Director Patrick Healy**

Green Mount Cemetery Director Patrick Healy presented a program entitled "Cemetery Best Practices" to the Vermont Municipal Clerks Association on Oct 13 at Lake Morey to a group of 88 attendees. This program then was repeated at the Pawlet Town Hall on Oct 30 and the Natural Burial portion was given at the Milton Town Clerk's office on Nov 2.

## **Build and Maintain Sustainable Infrastructure**

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

### **Sustainability and Facilities Coordinator Update**

11/3/2023

Sustainability and Facilities Coordinator Update

#### **Sustainability:**

*Citywide LED building lighting changeover.* This project has been delayed by emergency flood related work, but lamps have been purchased with a \$23,620 grant from Efficiency VT. A portion of the installation work has been completed and will continue as manpower becomes available. The lamps in the basement of MFD that were flood damaged were replaced and offices and storage areas at the DPW Garage/Shop have been replaced. Estimated installation labor cost of \$21,258 is being paid using the Net Zero Revolving Loan Fund. Annual savings of \$15,928 yield a simple payback of 1.3 years and the estimated average lifetime of the efficiency improvements is 17 years.

A Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) grant of \$4,000 has been awarded and was applied toward the engineering for the WRRF Phase 2 Solids Drying Project. The city has applied for and been awarded MERP no-cost level 2 energy assessments for 3 city buildings: Barre St Rec Center, DPW Garage/Shop, and DPW

Equipment Barn. These are the first 2 steps in a 3-step application process that makes the city to be eligible for a \$250,000 MERP grant.

We are currently working on a Thermal Energy Storage Grant sponsored by U.S. DOE for the Barre St Rec Center. The grant is up to \$1.5 million and requires a 20% City match. It will provide air to water heat pump heating with thermal storage to provide the utility with flexible load management. The required Electrical upgrades will also be covered by the grant.

### **Facilities:**

- Feasibility study for the Barre St Rec Center has been presented to Council and we have been asked to continue pursuing redevelopment options to provide services for people lacking permanent housing. The option presented by gbArcitecture showing ramped access to the basement with new public bathrooms as well as the possibility of developing a permanent basement shelter will be explored in greater detail in hopes of pursuing funding partnerships to help this become a reality.
- Support for staff office relocations and temporary winter fit-up at MFD has been ongoing and is nearing completion.
- Support for the GSH temporary winter shelter at 203 Country Club Rd is ongoing. Fire alarm upgrades are being performed this week.
- City Hall generator repairs were completed last week, with reconnection and rental generator removal being performed this week.
- Flood damaged air compressors for City Hall and MFD dry-pipe sprinkler systems have been replaced.
- Support is being provided to DPW for sprinkler pipe repair at Garage/Shop.
- Bids have been solicited for the construction of elevated shelving in the basement vault to store City Clerks' vital records above base flood elevation.

Other: Support provided to MFD and Building Dept. during and in the aftermath of the 2 structure fires.

### **Stump Dump Temporarily Closed**

The Montpelier Stump Dump is currently closed to the public while we work to ensure permit compliance. The City of Montpelier was recently notified by the State of Vermont about a permit compliance issue with Montpelier's Stump Dump located off Finch Road. The City was notified that fill material was encroaching on two Class 2 wetlands. The facility is required to obtain a solid waste utility permit to comply.

#### **➤ Where Can I Bring Yard Waste While the Stump Dump is Closed?**

While the Stump Dump is closed, those looking to dispose of yard waste can use the Casella Transfer Station at 378 East Montpelier Rd., or any other transfer station listed on the Central Vermont Solid Waste District website. Learn more about where to dispose of lawn and yard waste on the CVCSWD website here:

<https://www.cvswwd.org/leaf-and-yard-waste.html>

Questions? Please contact the [Department of Public Works](#) at 802-223-9508.

### **Winter Operations: Clearing Rights-of-Way for Snow Removal**

Winter is coming! With snow on the way, DPW is reminding businesses and residents to make a plan to relocate dumpsters, storage units, and any other items in the public right-of-way so our crews can safely remove snow on streets and sidewalks. Public rights-of-way are streets, sidewalks, and City-owned parking spaces.

Please make sure large items are clear from the right-of-way by the start of Winter Operations on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Clearing these items will help DPW safely plow the streets and sidewalks without damaging private property and City equipment. If you have any questions about the best location for your items, please call the [Department of Public Works](#) at 802-223-9508.

Thank you for your help keeping our City thriving throughout the winter!

### **MSK Water Service Line Inventory**

The City of Montpelier has contracted with MSK Engineers to complete an inventory of water service lines in the municipal water system. Service lines are the pipes that connect individual buildings to drinking water distribution mains. This effort is following new regulations that require every community water system in the country to prepare a service line inventory.

These inventories must classify pipe materials for every service line connected to the water system. Specifically, this inventory is looking to identify whether pipes are made of lead or galvanized service materials.

In the coming weeks, residents will receive a letter from MSK and DPW with more information and next steps.

- **How is this Project Funded?** This project is funded by the State of Vermont and the water system operating budget. All work is provided at no cost to you. You will not receive a bill for this work, and you do not need to provide any financial information. Water services that are found to contain lead will be eligible for grant funded replacement under a subsequent project.
- **Local Water Service Questions:** If you have any questions specific to your water service, please contact the Montpelier Department of Public Works at 802-223-9508, or email Jasmine Benson at [jbenson@montpelier-vt.org](mailto:jbenson@montpelier-vt.org)
- **Water Line Inventory Project Inquiries:** If you have any questions about this project, please reach out to MSK Engineers Cameron Sundstrom at (802) 373-7854, or email [csundstrom@mskeng.com](mailto:csundstrom@mskeng.com), and Patrick Smart at (802) 447-1402 ext. 127, or email [psmart@mskeng.com](mailto:psmart@mskeng.com)

## Employment and Personnel Announcements

**NOTE – the City is currently in a hiring freeze due to financial circumstances.**

### **Municipal Job Openings**

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

## Reminders

**Sign Up for 1-page Summaries of City Council Meetings:** Don't have time to attend a meeting or watch the video? Get a 1-page summary of every City Council Meeting sent to your email the following day. Summaries contain highlights of agenda items and discussions, any action taken by the Council, and links to follow-up information. Sign up here: <https://www.montpeliervt.org/list.aspx>

### **Alternate Side Winter Parking Begins November 15<sup>th</sup>.**

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the City adopted new winter parking regulations called Alternate Side Winter

Parking. Alternate Side Winter Parking helps the city clear each side of the street from snow, slush, and gravel during winter months when inclement weather can be unpredictable. Alternate Side Winter Parking begins November 15<sup>th</sup> and ends April 1<sup>st</sup>. Alternate Side Winter Parking is in effect regardless of weather conditions.

### **Guidelines for Winter Parking**

**From 12:00 AM-5:00 PM:** All cars must be parked on the correct side of the street as indicated by whether building numbers are odd or even according to the ODD or EVEN calendar day. Parking on ODD sides of the street on odd-numbered calendar days and EVEN sides of the street on even-numbered calendar days.

**From 5:00 PM-11:59 PM Transition Period:** Move your vehicle to the other side of the street at any time during this transition period.

### **Downtown**

**1:00 AM -6:59 AM:** No Parking is allowed

**7:00 AM-12:59 AM:** Daytime Parking is allowed as usual (regardless of the day)

### **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 (*TENTATIVE*)**

<b>11/8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing Committee - Short Term Rentals</li> <li>Community Center Report</li> <li>Meet with Resiliency Commission</li> <li>Rebuild RFP</li> </ul>	<b>11/15</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legislative Agenda</li> <li>VLCT re: Funding</li> <li>Charter Items if needed</li> <li>CCR Use Policy</li> <li>Strategic Plan</li> <li>5 Home Farm Way</li> </ul>
<b>12/13</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FY25 Budget</li> <li>Meet with Legislators</li> </ul>	<b>12/20</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FY25 Budget</li> </ul>
<b>1/3/24</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FY25 Budget</li> </ul>	<b>1/10</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget PH</li> <li>Warning PH</li> <li>Bond PH if needed</li> <li>Charter PH if needed</li> </ul>
<b>1/17</b> <b>If needed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FY25 Budget</li> </ul>	<b>1/24</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget PH</li> <li>Warning PH</li> <li>Bond PH if needed</li> <li>Charter PH if needed</li> <li>Petitions</li> <li>Zoning Amendments</li> </ul>
<b>2/14</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zoning Amendments</li> <li>Manager's Review</li> </ul>	<b>2/28</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bond PH if needed</li> <li>Charter PH if needed</li> </ul>
<b>3/5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City Meeting Election Day</li> </ul>	<b>3/13</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizational Meeting</li> <li>Council Overview</li> </ul>

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

11/15, 12/20, 1/3, and 1/17 dates do not have location set yet.

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

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



