



April 11th, 2018

Residents and Neighbors,

At our April 3rd meeting, Council was given an overview of the snow storm and the impacts on both the City and the Budget. There is very little “fluff” in the budget, but staff was able to work overtime to keep the City running. DPW Director Bill Ahearn spoke of some of the issues of clearing snow and is looking for additional spaces where it can be dumped during cleanup efforts after a big storm.

We also reappointment Michael Smith, to join Martin Prevost, to continue discussions on the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority. This initiative has continued for several years, but there has not been an outcome. I would like a decision made later this year. Council has heard from continued efforts with the Barre Partnership, feedback on development of the Pearl Street Pedestrian Walkway, the move of the Community Justice Center to Summer Street.

Council has also been assigned tasks on Ordinance, Charter and Policy. These groups are to work on outstanding issues to make sure that City government functions efficiently and the practices on our books are also legal and up to date with current Legislative changes.

I am proud to have been able to issue two Mayoral Proclamations this past month; one was on behalf of the Granite Center Garden Club who for the past 80 years have worked to spruce up plant life our City and the other was for the Barre Area Senior Center celebrating their 50th Anniversary providing free and low-cost programs to older adults.

City Council approved several items including the following:

- Closeout of the VCDP Planning Grant for the Granite City Cooperative
- Authorization to Conduct Tax Sales
- Pouliot Ave Storm Water Engineering Services Agreement

And lastly, there are several new and returning initiatives being discussed:

- The City is starting to post vacancies on different committees, boards and commissions. We are reaching out to you for letters of interest for appointment.
- Council needs to act on items from Town Meeting Day, such as implementing the Local Option Tax and Bond-related items. City Manager Steve Mackenzie and City Clerk Carol Dawes will be working with City staff to work on these items for a future agenda.
- I will be reaching out to those involved with the Park Center project to receive an update on its status. This was a proposed project between Main Street and Summer Street, including several vacant storefronts, which could help improve our downtown.
- Barre City residents will join Rutland on June 2nd for an ability to receive free trees to plant in their yards through an Arbor Day Foundation program. The tree giveaway is being coordinated by the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program, a partnership between the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and University of Vermont Extension.

Lucas J. Herring
Mayor, City of Barre