



May 2nd, 2018

Residents and Neighbors,

April has been another productive month for the City of Barre. One of the actions from Town Meeting Day was the creation of Central Vermont Internet (CVI), which is an entity to upgrade and expand internet connectivity throughout central Vermont. Council took applications and appointed a representative and an alternate from Barre City to the CVI Governing Board.

We also had several discussions in relation to the refurbishment of a ballfield, which is now named Cornerstone Field. Rich McSheffrey, a local business owner, presented his plans to upgrade the field and requested the name change. The discussions were necessary to ensure the proper warning of the items presented and to notice effected parties of the changes. Similarly, many people still refer to Charlie's Playground 2012 as Playground 2000, which was renamed when the City used funds donated by Charlie Semprebou. Our naming conventions need to be discussed so that issues like this do not continue to happen.

Councilors are starting to receive presentations from other local organizations. Michelle LaFrancis presented the Spaulding High School Work-based Learning initiative, which highlighted their successful outreach and placement in the community, but also some barriers for student employment based on transportation. Amanda Gustin, from the Vermont Historical Society, presented on the new Racing Exhibition and the exhibit rotation cycle.

Rikk Taft, the City Human Resource Officer also presented on a new "Employee Portal" on the City website. This will allow staff and councilors the ability to access forms and documents necessary for City operations, some of which are not open to the public. He will also be working with the Executive Assistant to the Manager Nicolas Landry to increase that amount of information available on our website and create a City Facebook page in attempt to reach more members of the community.

There was a contested Ward 3 Caucus race on April 26th to fill the seat I vacated when becoming Mayor. I would like to congratulate and welcome Rich Morey as our newest member of City Council.

Council approved a Climate Change Resolution joining the State of Vermont and other Vermont communities and businesses in the Vermont Climate Pledge Coalition. We pledged to embrace sustainable land use and lifestyle principles and practices. We also encouraged the City Manager to work with committees, contractors and other organizations to develop and implement strategies and actions to minimize GHG emissions derived from City activities and spending.

City Council approved several items including the following:

- Approved a Housing Consortium Grant
- Purchased a 2019 International Truck extended chassis and a used 2007 International 2 WD Plow truck fully equipped with wing and Side Dump body with sander
- Discussion on the City Budget Audit
- Council Authorization to Sign Warrants

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

- I have asked that Councilors provide their priorities based on their interactions with the community. We will review and consolidate a list near the beginning of our fiscal year on July 1st.
- Green Up Day is my favorite holiday. I made a Mayor Proclamation for Green Up Week stating City Council support of activities including cleanups, education for litter prevention, beautification, recycling and community improvement. We were able to receive a CVSWMD Green Up Day Grant to support cleanup efforts. Additionally, Dept. Chief Aldsworth held a “sharps” Forum to educate the community on proper disposal of needles and what to do when these are found in the community, and Councilor Tuper-Giles worked with the Recreation Department to hold a “Bike Rodeo” for safe bicycling practices
- I held a Neighborhood Watch Forum along with Chief Bombardier and Officer Fleury to increase awareness of the program and try to revitalize efforts within our City.
- Despite some of the ongoing issues with the City Pool, it will open again this year. I am very thankful for the funding appropriation made in March by the residents. Please note that it will take some time to create a Request for Proposal for the designing of the pool and then follow up with the necessary paperwork for the construction of the pool.

Lucas J. Herring
Mayor, City of Barre