



June 6th, 2018

Residents and Neighbors,

Council will be cancelling the first Tuesday meeting of the month over the Summer. Since Council meets weekly, which is more than most municipalities, it was discussed to see if we could conduct business with one less meeting per month. The June 5th meeting was not held and the same will be true for the July 3rd and August 7th meetings.

Over this past month, we have established a new process for who is to act as Mayor in my absence. In the past, Council selected only one person to act as a "Deputy Mayor" to ensure that meetings could be warned and convened quickly in the case of an emergency. This Council has decided that, in the case that I am not available, authority would rest with the most senior Councilor to act as Mayor. What this means is, if I am to be absent, Councilor Boutin will act as Mayor. If he and I are both absent, then Councilor Tuper-Giles will act as Mayor, and so forth.

We had a great response from the community for Green Up Day. 170 people signed up with John Lewis at Spaulding High School for specific areas but am quite sure the number of participants were higher. Over 400 green up bags were distributed through this program, filled, and picked up by City crews the following week. It is a great program to beautify the landscape in Barre City and surrounding communities. Additionally, on the last Friday of each month the City will be collecting cigarette butts out of our newly installed buttlers on Mainstreet. The first collection was about 1.5 gallons (est. around 2500 butts) and one syringe and every single buttlers was used. There was 1.5 to 3 inches of butts in each, except the Courthouse which was overflowing.

I provided a Mayor Proclamation for Kids to Parks Day. This is a National effort to get our youth out into our green spaces during these precious Summer months. At our Council meeting, Stephanie Quaranta was able to provide an overview of all our parks and how we are collaborating with Barre Town.

Council received an overview of the Park Center Project proposed between Main Street and Summer Street. Thom Lauzon gave an overview of the New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC) that were available when the project was first proposed over a year ago, but timing will make these credits unavailable. The basic understanding is that these credits amounted to 40% of the construction cost and, without that benefit, the project would be too costly to undertake.

From our public outreach effort to fill vacancies on different committees, we are starting to see interested residents apply and welcomed Mark Martin to the Cow Pasture Committee. For our City and the different programs and services to succeed, we need to have the community invested in what we do and provide input to those processes and tasks. I look forward to more applications and appointments in the near future.

The VT Department of Health presented the City a certificate honoring Barre City as the first community having met the gold level requirements for the 3-4-50 program. This program focuses on creating healthy communities. The City of Barre will continue these efforts with discussion on commitments to a healthy community, bike path construction, pool improvements and performing a walk audit.

Council Continued to receive other presentations:

- Poppy Chairperson Charith Zickmund of the American Legion Auxiliary presented on Poppy Day, which I was able to provide with a proclamation
- Ginny Burley of the New Directions Coalition attended Council with Zoey Pickel and Emma Lee from the Spaulding High School S.A.D.D. program and presented their Opiate Education Project.
- Caroline Earle, President of the Barre Rotary, presented an update on their Summer Street Mural Wall Project. They were to selling raffle tickets to support the project, which the winning ticket I am to draw at the Tuesday, June 26th City Council Meeting.
- Introduction of City Facebook Page by Executive Assistant Nicolas Landry.

City Council approved several items including the following:

- Approval of Vermont Community Development Program application and grant for the renovation of the Children's section of the Aldrich Library.
- Approval of Capital Purchase of 2 Police Cruisers
- Approval of Memorial Day Parade
- Authorization to approve Five County Home Ownership Service Program (Downstreet Consortium Grant)
- Authorize Agreement with Stone Environmental, Inc., for a Supplemental Phase II ESA for Keith Ave Parking Lot
- Approval of Pouliot Ave. SW Engineering Services Agreement with Watershed Consulting
- Approval of VTrans F&M Agreement for School Zone Pedestrian Safety Improvements
- Ratification of City Police Contact
- Authorization for FY19 Heating Oil and Propane Purchases

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

- VGM Opening for the season
- Truck Competition in the Auditorium Parking Lot
- Several new Neighborhood Watch meetings were held on May 23rd, 30th and June 6th
- Police Visibility and Speed Cart Usage
- A resolution passed on the opening day of the Vermont Legislature in January 2018 designated Saturday, June 2, 2018 as Neighbors Day in Vermont. Residents who signed up for Trees were able to pick them up this past Saturday, June 2, from 10-1pm.

Lucas J. Herring
Mayor, City of Barre