



October 31st, 2019:

Residents and Neighbors,

Councilors were updated on several transportation items. There was a presentation from Central Vermont Medical Center and Green Mountain Transit on providing an extension to the current bus route, to include a shelter near Barre Internal Medicine and continue to Hannaford's. The number of deviated routes has increased from 9 to 88 in the past year, which Jim Alvarez mentioned taxi services to help fill the gaps. Nick D'Agostino from RCT wrote that the Morrisville Connector would be delayed and would come to City Council in November to discuss further.

The Wheelock building has been home to the Barre Senior Center and an antiques store in recent years. After establishing a process for review and selection of Wheelock House Tenancy, a contract was written and agreed to with the Barre Partnership to occupy the front portion of the building. Proposals were received for the rear of the building, which Council approved the space to be used as a Teen Center, which will allow the City to pursue grant requests in coordination with the Washington County Youth Service Bureau. Council also approved money received in downtown meters to go to recreation but earmarked for the Teen Center if the project is to receive funding and opening next year.

The City of Barre held a Housing Forum October 17th at the Barre Elks. The panel that included renters, homeowners, property managers, advocates, and landlord was led by the Lt. Governor. There were changes suggested for the eviction process and to allow additional protections for both tenants and landlords regarding rental agreements. The forum was recorded and can be viewed at CVTV723.org.

Councilor Tuper-Giles discussed the potential for an Arts District and Cultural presence in the City of Barre. He asked for suggestions from Council, which included a painting program, additional murals, additional "Welcome to Barre" signs, monuments and historical markers. He will be reaching out to different organizations for a plan to be discussed in January.

From the Public Hearing with the Merchant Street area, items were reviewed at the Traffic Advisory Committee meeting and changes agreed to. The committee has several other requests from other neighborhoods that will be reviewed of the course of their meetings.

The City of Barre continues to hold Neighborhood Watch Organizational Meetings. The North Main Street, South Main Street, Lower Prospect Street and Smith Street areas met in October, while flyers were distributed to the remaining areas. The Camp to Woodland Area will meet at 6pm on November 13th in Alumni Hall on the 2nd Floor. This same location and time will be used for the Summer Street Area on November 21st.

Council continued to receive presentations from organizations in the City and our neighbors:

- Patti Fisher from Central Vermont Medical Center reviewed the results of the community health needs assessment. This assessment is done every three years to set priorities and can be found on their website.
- There was presentation and discussion on the Mayoral Proclamation Naming November 1st Extra Mile Day. Typically, there are names that the Joint Service clubs provide for submission, but they decided to forego that process this year.
- Financial Director Dawn Monahan provided an overview of the FY2020 first Quarter, which is early in the year, but shows to be on target currently.
- The Barre-Tones, Inc. celebrated their 50th Anniversary.
- The Vermont Housing Conservation Board held their Annual Meeting at the Barre Elks Club on October 10th, bringing about 290 people to downtown Barre.
- Bill Ahearn and Steve Micheli from DPW provided a tour of the DPW Campus to Councilors. There are several aging facilities in this area, which an RFP was later discussed for replacement of the structures and will be back on the agenda in November.
- Councilor Waszazaak provided an update on the President Theodore Roosevelt Historic Marker. The application is set for review in November with installation to occur next Spring.
- Council received an overview on line striping and paving. The painting machine has been repaired, which allows for crosswalks, line bars and other road markings to be redone. Paving projects have been delayed due to the schedule of the contractor, but the projects on Merchant's, Hill and Midway should be completed in November.
- No smoking signs have been installed in parks and playgrounds due to the concern with increased smoking and vaping in these areas.
- The City manager reviewed the revised development plan for the Municipal Pool. The schedule includes having a revised bid out by early February for construction in 2020, which means that the pool will not open next year.

City Council approved several items including the following:

- Approval of Energy Plan Public Engagement Consultant with EcoStrategies
- Reviewed Errors and Omissions Adjustment Recommendations from the City Assessor
- Approval of Proposed City Fee Changes
- Approval of Wheelock House Lease with the Barre Partnership
- Approval of Veteran's Day Parade Permit
- Approval of Halloween Parade
- Approval of Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District Substantial Changes
- Approval of Resolution 2019-04: VT Revolving Fund Loan Documents for Digester Cover Engineering
- Approval of Citywide Reassessment
- Approval of Letter of Support for DPS – Broadband Innovation Grant
- Approval of Letter of Support for CVSWMD HHW Facility Grant
- Approval of Dollar Drop Date for December 7th and BCEMS Holiday Fund as the recipient
- Approval of Letter of Intent for the Working Communities Challenges Grant
- Approval to List for sale 5 Second Street and 3 Portland Street

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

- The Fall Yard Waste Program is underway, with Yard Waste pickup the first week of November. More information can be found on the City Website.
- Employee Appreciation Dinner for merchants in the downtown will be held on November 6th at 5:30pm at the Elks Club.
- The Pearl Street Pedway Opening will be held on November 8th at 5pm.
- The Veteran's Day Parade will be held on November 11th, starting at Alumni Hall and ending at City Hall Park.
- Barre Partnership Annual Meeting will be held on November 13th at 5:30pm at the Quarry.
- Flags will be coming down and lights and winter banners will be going up on November 15th.
- The "No Parking" Program will start on November 15th and run until April 1st.
- I will hold another "Coffee with the Mayor" session on Saturday at Espresso Bueno on November 16th at 9am.
- Officer Gaylord Amos will bring K-9 Mikey back to show skills learned during training on November 19th.
- Small Business Saturday will be held in the downtown on Saturday, November 30th.
- The Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting ceremony will also be held on Saturday, November 30th.
- The City Manager will be working with Department Heads to receive "Behind the Badge" training through the Washington County Sheriffs.

I wish you all a safe and Happy Halloween!

Lucas J. Herring
Mayor, City of Barre