



July 31st, 2020:

Residents and Neighbors,

Although we haven't been able to celebrate at the Barre Heritage Festival over the past two years, the Barre Partnership has still been working hard to expand the Farmers Market and Food Truck Thursdays with the Concerts in the Park series. About a year ago, in an effort to help restaurants stay open, Keith Paxman along with Tracie Lewis proposed establishing Food Truck Thursdays in Currier Park and it has been a great addition to events here in Barre City.

July has been a rainy month. Paving has been able to happen on Perry and Camp Streets, but the painting of crosswalks have not been able to be painted due to the weather. Weather was good on the weekend of July 24th, though, and 1,141 tires were turned in during the free tire disposal day for City residents.

Council is seeking residents to participate in both a new Manager's Search Committee and Homelessness Task Force. These bodies of the city are both limited-service positions and outreach will continue until August 27th to fill the seats. These positions will be recruited along with the current recruitment positions for committees within the City of Barre.

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

- Lisa Liotta and Brenna Toman from the CVSWMD noted they are planning to create a household hazardous waste facility to consolidate their one-day collections held throughout the district. They will use reserve funds and grants to support the project, but asked to co-locate functions with the DPW campus currently being explored.
- Tammy Menard spoke on living in local motels through the state's homelessness program during the pandemic. She expressed concerns with violence in the motels, the upcoming end of the voucher program, and need for people to have safe access to sanitary facilities, water, Wi-Fi and electricity. She stressed the need for police presence as well as mental health and drug counseling as part of the services through an ongoing program.

Other items approved by Council include the following:

- Approved Resolution 2021-11 Reductions in the Motel Housing Program.
- Approved changes to the Council Ground Rules.
- Approved Perpetual Easement with Metro 159, LLC.
- Approved Extension of Civic Center Special Promotion.
- Approved FY22 Municipal Property Tax Rate of \$1.9578, which is about a 1.4% increase.
- Approved Mayor VLCT Stipend Donation and Allocation to the Community Visit Dinner.
- Authorize Letter of Support for Vermont CWIP/DIBG Stormwater Treatment Grant Application.
- Ratify Council Allocation of Hollow Inn Donations.
- Appointment of JD Fox to the Diversity and Equity Committee.
- Accept Resignation from Scott Bascom from the PRT Committee and CVRPC TAC.
- Accept Re-appointments to the Barre City Energy Committee.
- Approved Creation of Homeless Task Force.

Upcoming items include the following:

- Montpelier City Manager Bill Frazier will discuss Montpelier's process for strategic planning and setting goals.
- City Council will use the upcoming Community Visit on August 25th as a way to gauge needs of residents and use as a tool for developing the City's strategic plan, working jointly with staff to identify capacity and establish common goals and priorities.
- The TIF audit by the State Auditor's Office has been completed. Copies of the audit will be distributed to Councilors, and the audit will be officially presented at the August 10th meeting.
- Appointment of Joshua Akers to the Transportation Advisory Committee
- Approval to Apply for an ERSA Trail Grant for the Cow Pasture
- Emergency Housing Program Update by DCF Commissioner Brown
- Approval to Extend Contract with White + Burke for TIF Services
- Discussion and /or Determination of the Process for Selecting ARPA-Funded Projects
- Assessor Recruitment Update
- Aldrich Library Quarterly Update
- Barre Area Development Quarterly Update
- Barre Partnership Quarterly Update
- Animal and Fowl Task Force Ordinance Change Presentation
- DPW Campus location/design bids

Lucas J. Herring
Mayor, City of Barre