



November 12th, 2018:

Residents and Neighbors,

I want to thank the residents for supporting the four amendments to Charter language for the City during this year's Midterm Election. These changes will need to be approved by the Legislature before they take effect and a Bill will need to be introduced once the Legislature is back in session. From the election, we have one returning Representative, Tommy Walz, and one new Representative, Peter Anthony, to the State House of Representatives. I want to thank Paul Poirier for his service and note John Steinman for his participation in this process. In the State Senate, Andrew Perchlik will be joining Ann Cummings and Anthony Pollina to represent us in Washington County. There are many other local election results, which you can find on the City website.

During Town Meeting Day in March, residents approved replacement of the boiler in City Hall. Although we were in the middle of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process, the boiler in City Hall stopped working and we needed to make emergency repairs. When I provided my Mayoral Proclamation to the Vermont Philharmonic Orchestra, it was done with heaters in the space as the City Hall boilers also support the Barre Opera House and City staff have had to endure chilly office spaces. The silver lining is that the system will be repaired within the next week and before the weather becomes too cold.

The City of Barre played host on November 3rd to the Salute to Veterans Parade, which was coordinate by the Green Mountain Council for the Boy Scouts along with the Barre Area Veterans Council. The Scouting Monument Committee was able to install the pavers and erect the new monument in Depot Square in time for the event. The community held several other events in coordination, including the Granite City 5K Run/Walk for Veterans, Tires for Troops at Bigras Auto and the Old Labor Hall gave away free clothing.

On November 8th, the City held an Opportunity Zones Forum to educate business owners, investors and developers on the Federally created zone within the City. The Zone is based on the U.S. Census Tract 9552 (basically any property in the City of Barre on the Southwest side of Route 302) and is aligned with the New Market Tax Credit area and eligible for additional tax benefits. This effort is designed for private economic development within the Opportunity Zone.

I recently travelled with Mayor Watson of Montpelier to Brattleboro for a site visit to see how they are running their trash, recycle and composting operations. We provided several documents to our Council members for a joint session to possibly partner in efforts to save costs while providing these services to residents. This meeting will be held on November 14th in Montpelier Council chambers in conjunction with the presentation on shared dispatch services from the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority.

The City of Barre will see a large number of employees from the Agency of Transportation (AOT) move to offices within City Place. I have reached out to Secretary Flynn from AOT and Commissioner Cole from buildings and General Services to help coordinate and welcome employees to the City. Along with this move, there will be a need to enhance bussing, which is in alignment with City goals.

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

- Nick Charyk from All Earth Renewables, presented Budd Cars, which are diesel powered one-car trains that could provide local transportation services.
- Joan Marie Misek from the Department of Health 3-4-50 provided a “check-up” on efforts to continue the City’s Gold Level compliance with their program.
- Jeffrey Tuper-Giles provided an update of upcoming events from the Barre Partnership
- Joel Schwartz from the Barre Area Development gave an overview of the marketing initiative they have contracted with the Imagination Company to provide for Barre City and Town.
- Jeff Cochran gave an update on work performed with the Dog Park Committee
- Chris Riddell provided the first update from Central Vermont Internet, which was newly formed as of Town Meeting Day.
- Lisa Lemieux gave an overview of the Central Vermont Disaster Animal Response Team and their duties during a natural disaster event within our area.

City Council approved several items including the following:

- Approval of Deed Conditions re: Sale of BGA Property
- Ratification of Submission of LWCF Pool Project Grant Pre-Application
- Emergency Replacement of City Hall Boiler
- Award of CY19 Workers Comp/General Liability Insurance Contracts

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

- A Taxi Ordinance Survey was requested through the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, which was completed by the City Clerk
- From the Brattleboro Solid Waste Collection information Council will consider services along with the City of Montpelier.
- Amanda Garland from the Central Vermont Career Center proposed and Ordinance Revision for Composting, as current language is contrary to that supported in the new Composting Law.
- Drug Free Barre has requested placement of posters in City Hall and Wheelock house, in conjunction with hanging posters in private businesses along Main Street.
- In efforts to add members to City Committees, Council will consider placing interested students on Committees.
- City Councilors will again participate in the “Dollar Drop” coin drop on December 1st, 2018.
- The Planning Commission will be finalizing their review for Zoning Changes, which will be passed along to City Council to review in January 2019.

Lucas J. Herring
Mayor, City of Barre