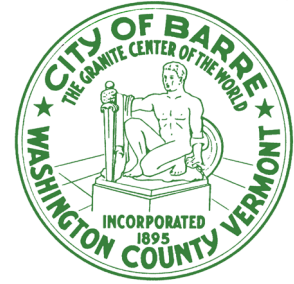


March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021



Residents and Neighbors,

Thank you to the voters who returned absentee ballots or came to the polls and supported the FY22 General Fund budget. This will allow the City to continue moving Barre forward. Congratulations to Councilor Waszazak in his re-election, a welcome back to Samn Stockwell, and welcome to our newest Councilor Emel Cambel. And I want to express my appreciation to everyone that worked at the polls as, without them, Town Meeting Day could not happen.

Voters passed all of the other Articles on the ballot. This gives clear direction with Charter changes, funding for Street Reconstruction, and support to many organizations providing services to our residents. You can find election results at: <https://www.barrecity.org/election-information/>

At the first meeting of the new Council on March 9th, Council reviewed organizational items. This included an opportunity to review the ground rules to be used at meetings, the organizational structure, actions that were needed for new Councilors, and overview of current priorities, and discussion on the different bodies of the City. New Councilors were afforded the opportunity to meet with the City Manager and City Clerk, and I set up a time to meet with all Councilors to discuss future priorities.

Council held discussion on both the Minimum Housing Ordinance and Administration Ordinance. Minimum Housing needs to be looked into further to see if a proposal for landlords to include heating fuel as part of rent is allowed under law, and a way for NFPA language to be accessible for reference from the Ordinance. The Administration Ordinance is extremely out of date, with Department, staff and negotiated contract disparities that need correcting.

The City has contracted with White and Burke for review of possible projects with the remaining funds in the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District. There have been two special meetings to bring Council up to speed on what a TIF District is and to meet with the contracted staff, Stephanie Clarke, for possible projects, developers, and property owners to contact. Due to a Legislative request last year, the City has two years to incur the debt for the project. This will be discussed several more times over the coming months to chart a course of action.

Council was provided an overview of the Barre Town Water and Sewer Intermunicipal Agreements, which are in varying ages and have different requirements for modification. Council established a team to review the agreements and overall health and rates on the Water and Sewer funds. The outcome is to have meetings with Barre Town on improvements of the agreements and update the current plans for how those funds are using for infrastructure improvements.

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

- Congressman Peter Welch gave an update on the American Rescue Plan. The City of Barre is expected to receive \$2.497 million dollars based on allocations made by the Federal Government, but the details on how those funds can be used have not been provided. The first disbursement of funds should be received in May 2021, with the second disbursement occurring within the next year.

- City Manager Steve Mackenzie reviewed the Speed Enforcement Initiative, establishing three enforcement zones increasing to six over time. Staff have designated location for speed cart and sign placement, as well as police details. There is a desire for an additional speed cart, depending on available funding.
- The City Manager provided an overview of the changes to the Grants Management Policy. This was provided in conjunction with a review of the current grants and applications by Planning Director Janet Shatney.
- Dan Casey provided an update on the projects underway at the Barre Opera House. Councilors were invited to make appointments to see the changes underway.
- Dr. Mark Depman and Eva Zaret provided an overview of the Washington County Substance Abuse Regional Partnership (WCSARP). The work in the grant-funded program is still in its infancy and they will return to Council for an update in about 6 months.
- Ayeshah Raferty and Ed Bride gave a presentation on behalf of Prevent Child Abuse Vermont. A Mayoral proclamation was presented to them for Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention month.
- Resident Bernadette Rose provided a “Tick Talk” with materials to inform the public about Lyme Disease.

Other items approved by Council include the following:

- Authorization to Apply for Dept. of Homeland Security Grant for PSB Door Lock System Replacement
- Authorize Lease Amendment with VT BGS for Interim Med-Surge Facility at Civic Center
- Approval of Resolution #2021-06 for Women’s History Month
- Authorize \$1,200 Allocation from the Brusa Trust Fund for Summer Recreation Scholarships
- Authorize Local Share Payments for 026-1(34) Big Dig and SCRIP (10) Quarry Hill with VTrans
- Approval of Resolution #2021-07: North End Ejector Project Revolving Loan Fund Documents
- Approval of BHA Letter of Support for Disposition of Ward 5 School Property
- Approved Revisions to the Permitting, Planning, & Inspection Services Policy
- Approval of 2021 Coin Drop Requests
- Appointment of Councilor Waszazak as Council Liaison to FOP Negotiations Team
- Approval of Bid Documents for East Montpelier Parcel Sale
- Pre-Authorization to Accept FY22 Fuels Quotes
- Authorization to Apply for CVSWMD MSP Tire Disposal Event Grant
- Approval of First and Second Reading to the Chapter 12 Plumbing Ordinance
- Award Bid to Penta Construction for the WWTF Biosolids (Digester/Flare) Upgrade Project
- Accepted Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water
- Accepted Mayor’s Challenge for Green Up Day
- Accepted Committee Charge and Goals for the Diversity and Equity Committee
- Authorize Manager to Execute Circle Grant Support Documents
- Re-appoint City Primary and Alternate Supervisors to the CVSWMD Board
- Approved Tax Stabilization Agreement for 51 Church Street and People’s Health and Wellness
- Approval of Resolution #2021-08 Condemning Hate Crimes Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

Upcoming items include the following:

- First and Second Readings of the Minimum Housing Ordinance

- First and Second Readings of the Traffic Ticket Ordinance
- Mayoral Proclamation National Volunteer Week
- Review of the Rules of Procedure Policy
- Review of the Grants Management Policy
- Update from Barre Kiwanis by Randy Treis and David Sichel
- Update on Barre Rotary initiatives by Karl Rinker
- Update on Working Communities Challenge by Tawnya Kristen
- Presentation on Green Mountain United Way Initiatives by Tawnya Kristen
- Consultant Overview/Update of the Enterprise Aly Brownfield Remediation Program
- Discussion on 2018 Stormwater Master Plan and Project Funding by Pam DeAndrea of CVRPC
- FY21 General Fund Year-end Projection by Finance Director Dawn Monahan
- Authorization to Purchase Human Resources/Payroll Software

Be safe and be well,

Lucas J. Herring  
Mayor, City of Barre