



April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Residents and Neighbors,

Green Up Day is this weekend! I am thankful for those who have already started picking up trash this year and the coordination with the Public Works Department on street sweeping has made a real difference in the appearance of the City. The Spring Yard Waste Program and Water Main Flushing Program are also in full swing.

The City of Barre is thankful for the service of the current City Manager, Steve Mackenzie. We acknowledge that service will be coming to an end next year and have started the discussions on what is needed in order to find a replacement. Executive sessions were held to discuss the manager's evaluation and to define the needs for contracted assistance to begin the search. More information will be provided soon on the formation of a committee to assist in this effort and the contracted services needed to see this through.

Council discussed both the Traffic Ticket and Minimum Housing Ordinances. Both ordinances received a number of questions for feedback, which resulted in provisions for heat to be sent to the Barre City Energy Committee and provisions regarding ticket enforcement to legal counsel. Both items are to be brought back up for another second reading and public hearing in May.

To recognize volunteers that support the City of Barre, I provided a proclamation for National Volunteer Week. Due to COVID-19, the City of Barre is unable to recognize volunteers with an in-person event. I am very thankful to those that have stepped up to serve on the different bodies of the city and look forward to the new applications that we will receive to fill vacancies over the next couple of months.

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

- Randy Treis of the Barre Kiwanis noted they started in Barre in 1949 and focused on children's issues. Currently, the Barre Club works on fighting hunger and improving literacy. Member David Sichel added that the Club had raised money to supported 35 different groups in the area.
- Karl Rinker of the Barre Rotary provided information on this summer's Barre Art Splash program that will place painted fiberglass cat, dog, and race car sculptures along North Main Street. The installation of these sculptures will be from May 11th through September 7<sup>th</sup> with an auction to follow at the Vermont Granite Museum on September 18th.
- Michele Braun, Executive Director of Friends of the Winooski, presented on the watershed of the Winooski River. This organization works to control phosphorus and sediment that enter the Winooski River to improve water quality, including within the Stevens Branch of Barre City. She will be working with DPW Director Bill Ahearn on grant applications for removal of broken dams that may create contaminant build-up and the ability for fish to spawn.
- Pam DeAndrea of the CVRPC reviewed the City's stormwater master plan from 2018 and spoke of the new 3-acre general stormwater permit requirement. 5 public properties must meet the rule in the near future, which engineering design and final design work could be covered by grants with no local match. The projects include Elmwood Cemetery, Currier Park, Auditorium Hill, the City Municipal Pool area, and Spaulding High School, which city staff will coordinate applications for grant funding to remedy.

- CVRPC Executive Director Bonnie Waninger reviewed the various sections of the Central VT bike path. As part of the discussion Barre City will review current documentation and provide Bonnie updated maps for the configuration of the path and exploration of the old rail beds through the City.
- Finance Director Dawn Monahan reviewed the FY21 year-end projection, which currently shows a positive fund balance of close to \$200,000. Discussion included the use of those funds for different initiatives or placing in a rainy-day fund, which is also dependent on funds to be received as part of the Federal ARPA funds to be received by the city.
- Executive Director Tawnya Kristen spoke about the Green Mountain United Way's efforts with the Everybody Eats program, as well as taking the lead for the Working Communities Challenge program for the Greater Barre Area.

Other items approved by Council include the following:

- Approved the Grants Management Policy
- Approved the Rules of Procedure Policy
- Approved the Annual Adoption of the Local Emergency Management Plan
- Approved Letter of Support for CVSWMD Municipal Services Program (MSP) Grant Application
- Approved purchase of Hathorn Sewer Camera System
- Approved Charge of the Transportation Advisory Committee
- Approved Parking Meter Rate Change – Approach & Vendor Authorization
- Authorization to submit Completed AARP Grant Application – A.D.A. Committee
- Authorization to submit Completed AARP Grant Application – Cow Pasture Committee
- Authorization for Manager to Sign VTrans ROW Agreement - Berlin St RR Crossing
- Authorization to Purchase 2021 Police Cruiser (FY22 Purchase)
- Authorization to Purchase Three -Year HR/Payroll Software
- Ratification of Resolution #2021-08 Condemning Hate Crimes Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
- Ratification of DPW Director Letter of Interest re: Ecosystem Restoration Program Dam Removal Grant (Stephens Branch: Jockey Hollow & Hebepp Dams)

Upcoming items include the following:

- Recognition of Service for Joseph Rouleau
- Mayoral Proclamation for Kids to Parks Day
- Second Public Hearing on Chapter 7 Minimum Housing and Chapter 17 Traffic Ordinances
- Central Vermont Council on Aging Update by Mary Hayden and Luke Rackers
- Appointments to the Transportation Advisory, Recreation, and Public Arts Committees
- Updates from the Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) Committee, Tree Stewardship Committee, Community Garden Committee, Barre City Energy Committee, Dog Park Committee, and Paths, Routes and Trails Committee
- Update from the VT Dept. of Health, Buildings and Communities Services Department, Aldrich Library, Barre Area Development, and Barre Partnership

Be safe and be well,

Lucas J. Herring  
Mayor, City of Barre