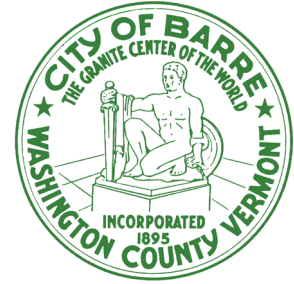


May 28th, 2021



Residents and Neighbors,

Memorial Day is this weekend. The event will be held in-person in City Hall Park at 11am on Sunday, May 30th. There will not be a parade as part of the event this year. All flags will be flown at half-mast from sunrise to Noon. I want to thank Jeff Bergeron and his crew for making sure that maintenance to City Hall Park and the Cemeteries was completed by this date.

The Department of Public Works has shifted emphasis to Perry Street for sidewalk and water main work after pavement stripping is completed this week. Crosswalk painting on Ayers, South Main, Summer and adjoining side streets are complete. Over the next two weeks, stop-bars on those streets should be completed as well as starting crosswalks/stop bars at the lighted intersections with Parkside/South Main, then Elm/Summer, and Summer/Maple streets. Weather permitting, the areas of VT62/North Main, North Main/Elm, South Main/Prospect are expected to be completed shortly after that. Camp Street has had drainage structure repairs completed. Manhole covers are awaiting final pavement scheduling. Temporary patching will be completed due to delays in paving, but paving quote solicitation is underway.

Pool construction progress is on schedule with the "beach-entry" shaping up nicely. Pool filling, testing, and mechanical equipment check-out, startup and operator training will occur the week of June 14th. A firm date for the Ribbon Cutting and Opening has been set for Sunday, June 27th. Time and details are being developed and a formal announcement is expected on/before June 15th.

It has been a great month to listed to the different Committees of the City. Council has heard from the A.D.A. Committee, Tree Stewardship Committee, Garden Committee, Civic Center Committee, Dog Park Committee, Barre City Energy Committee, and the Paths, Routes and Trails Committee. Council has been approving the work of each of these groups, as well as the committee's "charge", which ties back to an overall mission and vision for the City of Barre. A draft Strategic Plan will consolidate all of this information into one place for Council review and leading into our Community Visit process.

DPW Director Bill Ahearn requested, and Council approved, naming the clarifier section of the Wastewater Treatment facility for retiring Chief Operator Joseph J. Rouleau. Mr. Rouleau worked for the City of Barre for 41.5 years. During that time, he contributed to the removal over of 700,000 pounds of phosphorus from over 21 trillion gallons of water!

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

- Joan Marie Misk provided an update from the VT Dept. of Health. She noted that most people gather information on the high vaccination rate and low number of deaths associated with COVID in Vermont already and thanked the City for use of the civic center as part of that success. She answered questions from Council related to the current COVID status, lessons learned, and other programs currently underway at the department.
- Director Jeff Bergeron provided the Buildings and Communities Services Update. Work continues for replacement of the pool house roof, setting up Cornerstone Field, and repairing

vandalism at Rotary Park, but residents have already started using tennis courts, batting cages, and the playgrounds.

- As part of Loren Polk's update from the Aldrich Library Quarterly Update, she noted that they will be reopening on June 16th for book browsing and checkout.
- Cody Morrison on Barre Area Development noted increased employment numbers in the downtown and additional marketing that has occurred over the past quarter.
- Barre Partnership Executive Director Tracie Lewis spoke of an effort to get more flowers out in the downtown, and that Food Truck Thursdays will occur along with the Concerts in the Park starting on July 8th.
- Nick Landry provided information on the upcoming Granite City Grocery annual meeting and the pending vote to dissolve. If the organization is to continue, there is a need for individuals to become active board members and serve on committees, which has been dwindling over the past several years.
- City Manager Steve Mackenzie provided a status overview of the projects funded by current bonds. Several projects are underway or have been completed, but many still need to have bid solicitations created to procure the work. Another update will be provided in about 6 months.

Other items approved by Council include the following:

- Approved Resolution 2021-09 for adoption of ACCD form Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Plan for the Barre Recovery Residence grant award Special Conditions
- Approved Resolution 2021-10 Adoption of ACCD form MP-1 Municipal Policies and Codes for Barre Recovery Residence grant award Special Conditions
- Approved Resolution 2021-11: Recognition of Service for Joseph Rouleau
- Authorization to Purchase Line Striping Equipment
- Authorization to submit "Vermont Afterschool Summer Matters For All" Grant
- Approval of Clerk's Office Licenses and Permits
- Approval of Local Government Certification – Mosaic Vermont Emergency Housing Project
- Approved Clerk/Treasurer Annual Compensation
- Awarded the Bid for the Sale of the City owned East Montpelier Property

Council has made the following appointments:

- Joanne Reynolds to the Transportation Advisory Committee
- Jake Hemmerick to the Transportation Advisory Committee
- Alexander Raeburn to the Public Art Committee

Upcoming items include the following:

- Vacant Building Ordinance Update
- Vermont Granite Museum Update
- Selection of the Citywide Re-Appraisal Consultant
- Annual Review of the City's Fee Schedule
- Public Hearing on Chapter 7 Minimum Housing and Chapter 17 Traffic Ordinances
- Annual City Appointments, including new appointments to the Recreation, Police Advisory, Community Garden and Community Garden Committees and the Planning Commission.
- Updates from the Public Art Committee and Recreation Committee
- Formation of a Manager's Search Committee
- Legislative Update from Barre City Representatives and Washington County Senators

- Approval of FY22 City of Barre Priorities
- Pool Reopening on June 27th (more details to come)

Be safe and be well,

Lucas J. Herring
Mayor, City of Barre