



October 30th, 2020:

Residents and Neighbors,

The Yard Waste Disposal program is coming to a close, but the City will be offering a Fall “Greenup” event to help clean up street of rubbish and debris that. A drop-off container will be placed at the DPW garage for the weekend of November 7th and 8th to allow people to clean up items that they may not have been able to get rid of during the Yard Waste Disposal program.

Council has moved many items to the consent agenda, as they are repeat items from year to year or otherwise meet current policy and don’t need discussion. Council has approved these following:

- Award of Annual Report Contract
- Selection of North Main Street Sewage Pump Station Consultant
- Acceptance of Center for Tech and Civic Life Election Supplies Grant
- Acceptance of Local Government Expense Reimbursement for Covid Expenses
- Award of the FY21 Salt and De-icing Contract
- Acceptance of Water Utility from Daniel Drive to Beckley Hill Estates

City Manager Steve Mackenzie spoke to City Hall’s limited reopening. Available hours may change as there are outbreaks within our area, which has also pushed back the opening of the B.O.R. to November 8th. Council received a general overview of the FY22 budget and ambulance revenues are up, but a more detailed review will occur with each Department Head in November and December. The Manager is still working on several ongoing projects, including sales of unused City property, Administrative Polices, solicitation for volunteers, and current position vacancies. The City Pool project will be completed next Spring and should be finalized prior to the traditional opening date in late June 2021.

Council received an overview of this year’s Legislative session by Barre’s representatives. A large amount of CARES funding from the federal government has been made available for business and economic development projects and to support of essential and frontline workers. Two items specifically for Barre City were approved, which was the passage of the Charter change removing the Housing Review Board and extending the TIF District deadline so that the Barre City and have time to prepare the necessary documentation to incur debt to support a project within the downtown.

The Transportation Advisory Committee has been very active, which has translated into additions of speed bumps on Park Street and Merchants Row. Bulb-outs are also expected to be installed on Washington Street. Positive responses were provided from the different Neighborhood Watch Groups on the effects in their areas of the City.

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

- Presentations by Executive Director Mark Saxon of the Green Mountain Council, which some area scouts also attended the meeting.
- Tracie Lewis from the Barre Partnership presented on Barre Bucks, Pumpkin Carving, the Granite City 5k, this year’s farmers market, Food Truck Thursdays, and other programs being offered by the organization.

- Barre Area Development introduced their new Executive Director Cody Morrison. He spoke a little bit about his previous experience and work to be performed over the next three months.
- Executive Director Loren Polk provided an update for the Aldrich Library and the impact the coronavirus has had on those using the library facilities. Books can be picked up for curbside in both the East Barre and Barre City locations.
- Council received a Quarterly Budget Update by Financial Director Dawn Monahan. The City is currently in a favorable position, but budgets are being managed in a reduced manner to ensure that overspending does not occur.
- City Clerk Carol Dawes spoke to the Tax Increment Finance District and an audit that is about to begin.

Other items approved by Council include the following:

- Ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fraternal Order of the Police.
- A Proclamation for Extra Mile Day, honoring the Barre Partnership and the Barre Mutual Aid group.
- Authorization of Stipulation with the Salvation Army.
- Approval of the Funding Request Policy.
- Approval of the Procurement Policy.
- The Social Media Policy has been moved to a workgroup to be discussed and vetted with the Manager.
- Removal of Housing Board of Review.
- 1st Reading of Ordinance Changes #2020-05: Chapter 11. Offenses and Misc. Provisions.
- Approval of Errors & Omissions Assessment Changes.
- Approval of the Holiday Parking Moratorium.
- Approval of the MRPG Storm Water Grant.

Upcoming items in November include the following:

- Please remember to vote at the Auditorium on Tuesday, November 3rd if you have not voted already.
- 2nd Reading Ordinance Changes #2020-05: Chapter 11. Offenses and Misc. Provisions.
- Citywide Reassessment RFP.
- Barre Opera House Capital Campaign Request.
- Department Head Budget Conversations.
- Further discussion on the Animal and Fowl Ordinance.
- Presentation of the FY20 Audit.

Have a safe and Happy Halloween!

Lucas J. Herring
Mayor, City of Barre