

To be approved at the next Barre City Council Meeting

Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council – draft
Held February 3rd, 2026, at 6pm
Council Chambers-Barre City Hall

The warned Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order in person and via video platform by Mayor Thomas Lauzon at 5:59 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall, Barre, Vermont. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilors Sonya Spaulding and Beth Hilgartner; from Ward II, Councilor Jeff Bergeron and Councilor Amanda Gustin; and from Ward III, Councilors Don Routhier and Michael Deering. City staff members present were City Manager Nicolas Storellicastro, Clerk Cheryl Metivier, Finance Director Christina Kimball and Police Chief Brad Vail, Fire Chief Keith Cushman

Adjustments to the Agenda –Pull warrants from consent agenda and move to 8E in New Business
Move PD Budget proposal to 8A
Interim policy to 8F

Motion to approve of the agenda dated 2/3/2026 moved by Councilor Deering, Seconded by Councilor Hilgartner, approved.

Visitors & Communications – none

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

- i. Meeting of 1/27/2026

B. Clerk's Office Licenses & Permits-none

C. Authorize the Manager to execute contract(s)-none

Motion to approve of the consent agenda dated 2/3/2026 moved by Councilor Bergeron, Seconded by Councilor Deering, approved.

4-a. Approve City Warrants-(moved to 8E)

- i. Approve week of 1/7/26
- ii. Ratify week of 12/24/25 and 12/31/25

Motion to approve city warrants-Move made by Councilor _____, seconded by Councilor _____ – approved. Councilor Spaulding abstaining

City Clerk & Treasurer Report –

Liquor/Cannabis Boards-

Barre Social Club-1st class

Motion to approve the 1st class liquor license renewal submitted by Barre Social Club was moved by Councilor Gustin, Seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

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Managers' Report-

The budget survey has currently had 191 participants. We are currently compiling the data to share with the Council and the results will be read at the February 10rd Council meeting.

Skate Rentals are available at the BOR thanks to some generous donated adjustable skates. The cost is \$3 to rent. If you have some gently used skates to donate reach out to the Recreation Department.

Kudos to the DPW staff for the snow removal efforts. Side note, a DPW staff member was injured because while plowing sidewalks he had to physically move a residents trash can and fell. Please keep the cans off sidewalks and pull out of plowable areas.

Round (2) of the CDBG-DR grant with a focus of acquisitions or elevation of properties in the north end. Learning the restrictions placed on the funds for elevations has lead to some residents interested to give it a second thought.

Warming shelters are operating on the 6th-10th, and closed Wednesday the 4th & Thursday the 5th. If you would like to make a meal that feeds (15) and donate to the shelter, they would eagerly accept that gesture. Volunteers for all shifts are welcome. The shifts are 7pm-11pm, 11pm-3am and 3am-7am. If you are interested call organizer, Tess Taylor at 802-522-7818.

New Business-

New Business;

A. Volunteer appointment – JEDIB – deferred Ms. Flynn was not in attendance

Aurora Flynn has for the Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging Committee. The committee has one vacant seat with a June 30, 2027, expiration date.

B. Approve Parks & Rec Committee charge

Draft charge proposed by members of the committee. Michelle La Barge-Burke, the staff liaison to the committee, has participated in development of the process.

The charge was read by committee member Rhodelene Premont. Other committee members in attendance included Joshua Piascik.

Mission; To enrich the lives and empower Barre City residents by providing safe, welcoming parks, open spaces, and recreation programs that support health, community connection, and lifelong enjoyment.

Vision; A vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable Barre where every individual - regardless of age, background, or ability - has access to quality spaces and opportunities to play, connect, relax, grow together, and build relationships that reflect the heart, pride and resilience of our city – today and for generations to come.

A motion to approve the mission statement for the Parks & Rec committee was moved by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Deering, approved.

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C.FY27 Budget - Department Reviews (PD, FD)

With Fire Chief Keith Cushman and Police Chief Brad Vail present to answer questions, the Manager outlined these department fixed expenses including wages, benefits etc. and the future revenue from contractual work for other municipalities, collection of parking ticket fees and late fees, and other potential revenue for these departments. The budget is a constantly changing document with focus on getting as close to maximum 5% increase.

This presentation gave the bottom-line budget for the City, an amount of \$15,818,869.

D. ICE preparedness-(Hilgartner)- Would like an interim statement of the state of the city in regard to a 287(g) stance.

287(g) agreements are voluntary partnerships between U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and state/local law enforcement agencies.

Mayor Lauzon does not know of any Vermont municipality that has issued a policy and prefers not to issue a policy on a fire when nothing is burning. Will not take a stand on the situation until asked. There will be continued review and monitoring but will not make blanket statements. Wants to react to give the matter the seriousness it deserves and consideration it deserves, but also react in a way that is in the best interest of the City. We have policies in place already for fair and impartial policing.

E. 4-a. Approve City Warrants-(moved to 8E)

i. Approve week of 2/4/26

Motion to approve city warrants-Move made by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Gustin – approved. Councilor Spaulding abstaining

F. Flood Resiliency Plan update (Gustin) North End Gateway

Create a series of shared ideas with resident consensus specifically targeted for the North End.

The North End of the city was most damaged in both the 2023 & 2024 floods. Since the 2023 flood, the City Council has engaged residents citywide and in the North End specifically during flood recovery town hall (Barre Opera House/Barre Up), ward-based neighborhood meetings, North End forum and a resident survey. The City has applied for funding to implement North End visions with EPA Communities Change Grant and the CDBG-DR Rounds I and II.

The goal is to develop a well-attended public engagement process in hopes to identify resident priorities.

Review existing plans for citywide action, with a focus on the North End and eventually coming to an agreement to move forward approving a Master Plan. Stating this is what we are going to do in the short term with the funds we have, in addition to having conversations and updates at the council level. Engaging with north end residents and providing support and city level services for them in continued clean up

The funding for necessary improvements is lacking, and not for the lack of trying. The city is at the mercy of federal and state funding.

Up Coming

Mayor Lauzon – Legislature-grants to fund Tess Taylors position

-Legislature lobbyist work

North End funding sources

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Councilor Gustin & Councilor Bergeron – Ward II meeting-Sat. Feb 7th at 1pm to be held at the Aldrich Library.

Round Table

Councilor Bergeron- Fire Marshal Nick Copping & Fire Chief Keith Cushman will be training the concession stand volunteers in crowd control. Using the basketball tournaments and venue as a training site.

Councilor Gustin – Neighbors in Barre are super. While away, her neighbors went above and beyond to assist her with a failed furnace and the repair of such. Trusting and helpful

Councilor Hilgartner – Has been volunteering at the warming shelter covering late night/early morning shifts and encourages others to reach out.

Councilor Deering- BCEMS Talent show is Thursday, Feb. 5th at 530pm. Proceeds will be used to fund field trips, and donations to the Peoples Health & Wellness Clinic.

BUUSD Art Show – Feb. 13th 530-630pm

Executive Session-none

Motion to adjourn moved by Councilor Gustin, seconded by Councilor Bergeron, approved

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm

Next regular meeting is scheduled for February 10th, 2026, at 6pm.

The open portions of the meeting were recorded on the video platform.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Metivier, City Clerk