

To be approved at the next Barre City Council Meeting

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council – draft
Held March 17th, 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 6:01 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 Storrellicastro, Clerk Cheryl Metivier, Finance Director Christina Kimball, Treasurer Carol Dawes and Police Chief Brad Vail

Adjustments to the Agenda –Move Item C from consent agenda and place it under New Business 8F
Add Clerk Compensation to executive session

Motion to approve of the agenda dated 3/17/2026 moved by Councilor Deering, Seconded by Councilor Bergeron, approved.

2-a. Resolution #2026-03 in recognition of Catherine Degreenia's service to the City of Barre

Resolution #2026-03 honored the 43+ years of service to the City of Barre by Catherine Degreenia. Her dedication, professionalism and detail to her duties earned her a day name for her, March 19th 2026 is officially Catherine Degreenia Day.

Visitors & Communications – none

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

i. Meeting of 2/10/2026-corrected

B. Clerk's Office Licenses & Permits-Barre Pride- Baked w/ Love 2026, June 6th at 10am in CH park

~~C. Approve PILOT agreement with Downstreet for 173 S Main St (moved to 8F~~

D. Approve form MP-1 for federal grant awards

E. Authorize the Mayor or Manager to execute a purchase option for the acquisition of Prospect Heights

F. Approve distribution list of Prospect Heights housing developer RFP

G. Authorize the Manager to execute contract(s)- Dufresne Group contract

Motion to approve of the consent agenda dated 3/17/2026 moved by Councilor Gustin, Seconded by Councilor Bergeron, approved.

4-a. Approve City Warrants

i. Approve week of 3/18/26

ii. Ratify weeks of 2/18/26, 2/25/26, 3/4/26, and 3/11/26

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

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City Clerk & Treasurer Report –

With the announcement of the Auditorium closure March 31st for much needed upgrade. The location of the election polling place will be moved to the 2nd floor of Alumni Hall. The area is spacious, ADA compliant and adequately heated/cooled. The Clerk's office will post on social media and the City's website of this temporary change. The area will have clear signs and direction.

Dog licenses are still due, up until March 31st before late fees are added. Please bring an updated rabies certificate with you.

Liquor/Cannabis Boards-

Liquor Control;

Barre Smoke Shop (deferred)

- 2nd Class liquor
- Tobacco
- Tobacco Sub

Emslie's Florist & Gifts (Wild Childs Flower Co.)

- 2nd Class liquor

Dente's Market

- 2nd Class liquor

The Mutuo

- 1st Class liquor
- 3rd Class liquor

Motion to approve the liquor license renewals submitted by Emslies Florist, Dente's and Mutuo was moved by Councilor Bergeron, Seconded by Councilor Gustin, approved. (The liquor license for Barre Smoke Shop was not approved due to lack of representation at Council meeting. Will defer to another time).

Managers' Report-

The Auditorium will be closed March 31st for renovations and upgrades.

CBDG-DR-two applications have been submitted by the March 16th deadline

Awards have been granted however some conditions had to have extensions due to the timing of the buyouts.

An RFP for project management for Prospect Heights was issued.

Another buyout on River St has been completed

FD has announced the purchase of a SCBR-self-contained breathing apparatus

New Business;

A. Volunteer appointment – JEDIB, DRB

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

Motion to approve the appointment of Aurora Flynn to the JEDIB committee was moved by Councilor Gustin, Seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

Phil Back, retired attorney, has applied for a seat on the Development Review Board. The board has two vacant At-Large seats. If Mr. Back is amenable to the Council, recommend appointment to the seat with a June 30, 2029, expiration date.

Motion to approve the appointment of Phil Back to the DRB committee was moved by Councilor Bergeron, Seconded by Councilor Deering, approved

B. Flood Resiliency Plan (Gustin)

Roy Schiff and his team Leah Cromer, Brian Cote and Alex Marcucci from SLR presented an update of the initial hydrology model and results, the hydraulic model setup, and start of the stormwater data collection. A cutting-edge laser mapping system provided data of the Stevens Branch, Jail Branch and Gunners Brook rivers and surrounding areas providing. They will use this information to provide a guideline for flood mitigation and storm and water drainage patterns.

C. FY27 Budget review

The FY27 budget review will consist of the following topics:

- Proposed GMT cut: Representatives Monica White and Christian Meyers, from Green Mountain Transit/TVT (Tri-Valley Transit) presented information to make their case for reversing the proposed reduction in their annual allocation stressing the importance of this service to the areas population and the work in place to improve current and future services. Ultimately requesting the Council to keep the level of funding.
- Proposed Rental Registry Increase: City staff requested the Councils direction on the proposed increase to the rental registry fee, which would account for \$80,000 in new revenue if the fee increased to \$100 per rental.
- The fund balance was projected and healthier than anticipated, giving the Mayor some new numbers to input into the tax chart to determine funds to be raised by property taxes.

D. Discuss 2026 paving plan

The City released the 2026 paving bid last month, which includes sections of Camp St, Seminary St, Auditorium Hill, Plain St, Warren St, and Spaulding St. Seeking the Councils feedback begin discussing proposals that have been made about increases to the paving budget. Talks of frontloading a paving schedule on a biannual basis to hopefully lower product and workforce cost were discussed.

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E. Discuss changes to US Post Office postmark procedure

Revisiting the proposal to stop accepting post marked payments, the City's Treasurer Carol Dawes continued the conversation with a detailed outline of all the measures that will be taken to inform the resident of Barre, as well as any vendors of this change, and would enact a grace period for a set timeline. Hoping to partner with Barre Town if their voters approve, the notifications of the change would be blasted through social media, publications in local papers, pamphlets, post cards and bill inserts to start the process.

Authorize clerk, treasurer, water-sewer billing, and delinquent collections offices to draft a policy related to payment deadlines, to be presented to Council for consideration.

C. Approve PILOT agreement with Downstreet for 173 S Main St

Downstreet has applied for and qualifies for a property tax exemption that would reduce its tax obligation. At the same time, supporting the City's grand list is important to Downstreet, so the City and Downstreet have negotiated a PILOT agreement.

The grand list value of the parcel was \$896,400, which resulted in \$19,006.34 in municipal taxes and \$16,274.14 in education taxes. Under the PILOT agreement, Downstreet would make a municipal tax payment of \$35,000 in Year 1, with payments increasing by 2 percent annually thereafter

After discussion and number crunching the Council counter acted with increasing the increase percentage to same level as residents 3.75% and limit the timeline to ten (10) years.

Motion to authorize the Manager to execute a PILOT agreement with Downstreet Housing & Community Development for purposes of creating a 3.75 percent annual escalator for 173 S. Main Street for a limited period of ten (10) years was moved by Councilor Gustin, seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved

Up Coming

Mayor Lauzon – Budget discussions

Round Table

Councilor Bergeron- Worked at the Auditorium during the BB tourneys huge attendance for the games. Announced the State Wrestling championships will be held at the Auditorium next year and annually going forward.

Councilor Gustin – Pam Wilson from Barre Up will chat with state representatives about flood resiliency work and plans on Thursday.

Councilor Spaulding – The Ward I meeting had a good attendance and good conversation.

Executive Session-real estate & clerk compensation

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Motion for finding for executive session moved by Council Spaulding, Seconded by Councilor Bergeron, approved

Motion to enter executive session moved by Councilor Bergeron, Seconded by Councilor Hilgartner, approved

Entered session at 9:31pm-recording paused

Motion to exit executive session moved by Councilor Bergeron, Seconded by Councilor Gustin, approved

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:55pm

Next regular meeting is scheduled for March 24th, 2026, at 6pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Metivier, City Clerk