

To be approved at the next Barre City Council Meeting

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council - Approved**  
**Held April 8th, 2025 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, Councilor Emel Cambel and Councilor Sonya Spaulding; from Ward II, Councilor Amanda Gustin and Councilor Jeff Bergeron; and from Ward III, Councilor Samn Stockwell and Councilor Michael Deering. City staff members present were City Manager Nicolas Storellicastro, Assistant Manager/Finance Director Dawn Monahan and Clerk/Treasurer Cheryl Metivier.

**Absent:** none

**Adjustments to the Agenda-**Include discussion of adding “Youth First Mentoring” to the Annual Meeting Warning for city funding.

**Visitors & Communications** – none

**4. Consent Agenda**

- Approval of Minutes
  - i. Meetings of 03/25/2025 & 4/1/2025
- B. Clerk’s Office Licenses & Permits - none
- C. Approve RLF agreements
- D. Volunteer appointments
  - i. Cow Pasture Stewardship Committee
- E. Authorize the Manager to execute contract(s) – Pike Industries Paving contract

*Motion to approve consent agenda moved by Councilor Deering, seconded by Councilor Stockwell - approved.*

**4-a. Approve City Warrants**

- i. Approve week of 04/09/25
- ii. Ratify week of 04/02/25

*Motion to approved City Warrants moved by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Cambel - Approved (Councilor Spaulding abstaining)*

**5. City Clerk & Treasurer Report**

\*With the Annual Town Meeting quickly approaching (May 13<sup>th</sup>) Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> was the deadline for candidates to submit their Consent Forms and petitions. The Clerk’s office has received (5) petitions, including;

Ward 1 –

Ed Rousse

Beth Hilgartner

Ward 2 –

Jeff Bergeron

Ward 3 -

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Samn Stockwell

Don Routhier

Great time to request absentee ballots if you have not done so yet. You may do so by logging onto <http://mvp.vermont.gov/> or calling the Clerk's office.

\*Looking forward, Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> is Green-Up Day. The Clerk's office has a sign-up sheet for areas you intend to cover, and green bags for the collected items during the Event. Darn Tough has asked for suggested areas their team could focus on. If you have any ideas please reach out soon.

\*May 15<sup>th</sup> the 4<sup>th</sup> and final quarter for tax payments are due. Please reach out to the Clerk's office for final balances if you are unsure.

## **6. Liquor/Cannabis Control Boards - none**

## **7. City Manager's Report**

Currently (27) Buyouts on the roster, of which (21) are FEMA. Six (6), if accepted, are headed toward closing.

Elevation finalist will be presented to Council for approval the next meeting.

Bulky Waste tentatively scheduled mid-May.

Federal cuts have yet to affect City funding at this time.

Relining of sewer lines are set to wrap up Friday.

\*Mayor Lauzon stated VTrans funding is down, but he intends to advocate for Rte 14 paving before it turns to gravel.

## **8. New Business**

### **A. Volunteer appointments**

#### **i. DRB – Michelle Farnham**

*Motion to approve the volunteer appointment of Michelle Farnham the DRB moved by Councilor Deering, seconded by Councilor Bergeron -Approved*

### **B. Update on motel exits (Unhoused Community Committee)**

Kathi Partlow / Osa Busch / Dan Barlow / Beth Mueller join, in giving a sobering update on the status of the community members exiting the Hotel/Motel program due to ineligibility. The group is trying to create safe, warm places while remaining connected to critical medical care for those who are now unhoused.

Community members can donate blankets, sleeping bags, small propane tanks and tarps to supplement the lacking supplies for these folks. All donations can be brought to Capstone or to 1571 US Route 302 location. The Group hopes to create designated areas that could have facilities, running water, trash collection and secure or monitored place for belongings.

Tess Taylor presented QR code stickers meant to provide an easy access to services for those in need.

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C. Approve FY26 budget

The Manager Nicolas Storrellicastro and Assistant Manager/Finance Director gave a final briefing of the FY26 Budget. The total budget of \$14,800,120 is below the 6% asked by the Council.

*Motion to approved General Fund Budget of \$14,800,120 of which an amount not to exceed \$10,762,686 is to be raised by local property taxes for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 moved by Councilor Deering, seconded by Councilor Stockwell, approved.*

D. 1st hearing warned 6:45PM: Charter changes

The first reading of the (3) warned Charter changes were discussed by Council members and guest Carol Dawes.

*Motion to place charter changes on the Annual Meeting ballot moved by Councilor Gustin, seconded by Councilor Stockwell, approved.*

E. Approve May 13, 2025 annual town meeting warning

With a minor adjustment to the fund retention allowance and an increase to the street and sidewalk improvement budget, the Council approved the 2025 Annual Town Meeting warning for the City of Barre. As well as the inclusion of the funding request from the Youth First Mentoring program.

*Motion to approve the 2025 Barre City Annual Town Meeting warning was moved by Councilor Deering, and seconded by Councilor Cambel – approved.*

Upcoming Business;

Manager; Christian Myer of Green Mt Transit will come to discuss the reduction in routes on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
Chief Vail will discuss community safety updates, as well as additional camera installations.

Councilor Gustin-Flood Resiliency updates coming soon.

Mayor- (5) year contract with Manager  
Community standard review  
Camera installation

Councilor Deering – Would Tess Taylor come and discuss more on the unhoused community

Councilor Stockwell – Vacant building ordinances

Round table;

Councilor Gustin – Dinner at Foxy's was amazing.

Rain barrel workshop this Saturday at the Library.

Councilor Stockwell – Enjoying the sidewalk improvements but would like to see more.

Councilor Bergeron – Look at the activity schedule for the Spring break up at the Auditorium and BOR  
Pickle ball and walking weekday allowed up on the hill.  
Easter egg hunt on April 19. Check the website for more information.

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Councilor Spaulding – Attended a Philosophy Talk at the Bike Shop- discussion of bike infrastructure within communities and would like to see more family friendly bike accessible pathways or roadway striping. Attended the Library Spring Fling and is happy the funding goal was met.

Mayor – Attended the Library fund raising event, thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The Italian sandwiches from Morse Block Deli were amazing. Making sure he brought some home for later.

He is pleased the Library met the goal for raising the \$20,000 dollars to close the gap in funding needed.

***Motion to adjourn moved by Councilor Gustin, seconded by Councilor Deering, approved***

**Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm**

Next regular meeting is scheduled for April 22nd, 2025 at 6pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Metivier, City Clerk

CITY OF BARRE  
WARNING FOR ANNUAL MAY MEETING

The legal Voters of the Wards of the City of Barre are hereby Warned to meet at the respective polling places of said wards at the central polling place in the municipal auditorium on Auditorium Hill on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025 from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

At the same time and place and during the same voting hours, the voters of the Wards will meet for the purpose of electing by Australian Ballot one Councilor for each of the Wards as follows:

Ward 1: One Councilor to serve for a term of two (2) years.

Ward 2: One Councilor to serve for a term of two (2) years.

Ward 3: One Councilor to serve for a term of two (2) years.

At the same time and place and during the same hours, the legal voters are Warned to meet for the purpose of acting, by Australian Ballot, on the following articles. The polls will be open from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

ARTICLE I

Shall the Barre City Voters authorize a General Fund Budget of \$14,800,120 of which an amount not to exceed \$10,762,686 is to be raised by local property taxes for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026?

ARTICLE II

Shall the Barre City Voters authorize the sum of \$600,000 for Street Reconstruction and Sidewalk Improvements, and the Capital Improvement Fund?

ARTICLE III

Shall the Barre City Charter be hereby amended to make the Clerk an appointee of the City Council (bold/underlined is added, bracketed/struck out is deleted):

Sec. 205. Officers elected.

(a)(1) The legal voters shall elect biennially a Mayor~~[- and one person to serve as Clerk and Treasurer]~~.

Sec. 301. {Governing body.}

(1) The City Council shall consist of the Mayor and two (2) councilors for each ward who shall serve for a term of two (2) years.

(2) Within the limitations of the foregoing, the ~~[council]~~ **Council** shall have the power to:

(e) **Appoint and remove at Council's pleasure the Clerk, who may or may not be the same individual as the Treasurer.**

(4) All **full- or part-time** City employees~~[- to include full-time and part-time,]~~ are prohibited from holding the office of councilor or mayor.

ARTICLE IV

Shall the Barre City Charter be hereby amended to authorize the Manager and City Councilors so authorized by an action of the City Council to sign conveyances, grants or leases of any such real estate sale or leases (bold/underlined is added, bracketed/struck out is deleted):

Sec. 313. {Sale or lease of City property.}

The City Council may authorize the sale or lease of any real or personal estate belonging to the City, and all conveyances, grants or leases of such real estate shall be signed by the Mayor, the City Manager, or any councilor duly authorized by an action of the City Council.

#### ARTICLE V

Shall the Barre City Charter be hereby amended to authorize the City to retain an amount equal to one month's worth of general fund expenses as an undesignated fund balance (bold/underlined is added, bracketed/struck out is deleted):

Sec. 601. Payment of taxes.

(b) At the close of the fiscal year audit, any unexpended funds remaining from the City budget may be retained, if approved by vote of the City Council, as an undesignated fund balance for future use. Any funds retained pursuant to this provision shall be limited to an amount not greater than ~~[five]~~ ten percent of the City general fund budget expenses for the most recent voter-approved fiscal year. Any amount remaining in excess of ~~[five percent in the City budget]~~ such amount must be used in the subsequent budget to ~~[cut]~~ reduce the tax rate.

#### ARTICLE VI

Shall the Barre City Voters authorize the sum of \$105,200 to be allocated to the following social service agencies and organizations as indicated?

Barre Area Senior Center	\$7,500
Barre Partnership -- Heritage Festival	\$5,000
Capstone Community Action, Inc. (FKA CVCAC)	\$3,000
Central VT Adult Education (Barre Learning Center)	\$7,700
Central VT Council on Aging/RSVP	\$18,000
Central VT Home Health & Hospice	\$28,000
Circle (formerly Battered Women's Shelter & Services)	\$2,000
Community Harvest of Central Vermont	\$1,500
Elevate Youth Services (formerly WashCo Youth Services Bureau)	\$5,000
Family Center of Washington County	\$3,500
Good Samaritan Haven	\$1,500
Mosaic Vermont (formerly Sexual Assault Crisis Team)	\$2,500
OUR House of Central VT	\$500
People's Health & Wellness Clinic	\$3,000
Rainbow Bridge Community Center	\$3,000
VT Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired	\$1,000
Washington County Diversion Program	\$2,500
Washington County Mental Health	\$10,000

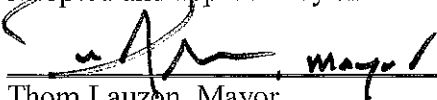
#### ARTICLE VII

Shall the Barre City Voters authorize the expenditure of \$15,000 for the Vermont Granite Museum?

#### ARTICLE VIII

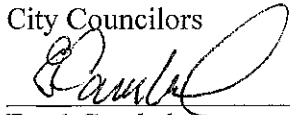
Shall the Barre City Voters authorize the expenditure of \$2,000 for Youth First Mentoring?

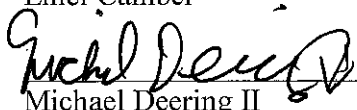
Adopted and approved by the Barre City Council on April 8, 2025.

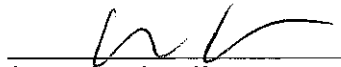
  
Thom Lauzon, Mayor

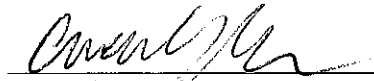
  
Cheryl Metivier, City Clerk

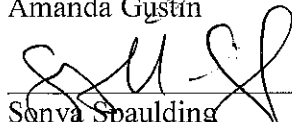
City Councilors

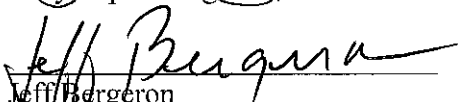
  
Emel Cambel

  
Michael Deering II

  
Samn Stockwell

  
Amanda Gustin

  
Sonya Spaulding

  
Jeff Bergeron