

To be approved at the next Barre City Council Meeting

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council -Draft
Held September 22, 2026, at 5pm
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 Councilor Michael Deering at 5:04 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, Councilor Michael Deering and Don Routhier. City staff members present were Manager Patrick Cushing, Finance Director Christina Kimball, Fire Chief Keith Cushman and Clerk Cheryl Metivier

Adjustments to the Agenda – Remove Item B from the consent agenda and place it under New Business as 8E

Motion to approve of the agenda dated 9/22/2026 moved by Councilor Hilgartner, Seconded by Councilor Gustin, approved.

.Executive Session – Collective Bargaining IAFF;

Joined by City Manager Patrick Cushing, Finance Director Christina Kimball, Fire Chief Keith Cushman, Nicolas Storellicastro, and Scott Cameron (City Labor Attorney)

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

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

Video paused at 5:06pm

Motion to exit executive session moved by Councilor Hilgartner, Seconded by Councilor Routhier, approved

Executive session ends at 5:55pm.

Visitors & Communications –

Shawna Trader-Introduce a project in the works called “Voices from a Vermont Sacrifice Zone”, focusing on the plight of the unhoused community. Future action items and community events to connect the community would include a cookout and an Art project of revitalization of the mural on River St for starters. People interested could contact Shawna for more information.

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

- i. Regular Meeting of 9/1/2026
- ii. Special Meeting of 9/9/2026
- iii. Special Meeting of 9/16/2026

~~B. Approve Resolution #2026-14: Resolution relating to the financing of the Wastewater Treatment Facility Headworks project~~

C. Clerk's Office Licenses & Permits -none

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D. Authorize the Interim Manager to execute contract(s) (as needed)

E. Approve First Amendment to Option to Purchase & Modification of Easement Plan (Stevens Branch Apartments)

Motion to approve Consent Agenda moved by Councilor Spaulding, seconded by Councilor Bergeron, approved.

Approve City Warrants

A. Approve week of 9/23/2026

B. Ratify week of 9/9/2026

C. Ratify week of 9/16/2026

Motion to approve city warrants moved by Councilor Gustin, seconded by Councilor Hilgartner, approved. (Councilor Spaulding abstaining)

City Clerk & Treasurer Report –

The clerk's office just finished up the data entry and filing for the 3rd BUUSD Budget revote. At this time, we do not have a date for the next revote and we will keep you updated as we get information.

With that being said, we have (2) elections on the horizon, the Central Vermont Career Center (CVCC) Bond vote and the Midterm General Election, both of which are scheduled for Tuesday, November 3rd.

The State of Vermont has been mailing out and will continue to mail out ballots to all registered voters this week on a town-by-town basis with a deadline of Oct 1st to have all ballots in the mail. Please know it may be a week to 10 business days to have your ballot to arrive.

The Career Center ballots will be mailed to only those who have requested ballots for the 2026 calendar year. If you would like the Career Center ballots, please access your online account or call the Clerk's office. Currently we have 460 residents signed up for absentee ballots.

The clerk's office has also finished collecting the 1st quarter property taxes with the postmark policy in place. We did notice more foot traffic coming into the office to ensure making the deadline.

The water department is currently collecting their first quarter and have noticed the same. For the most part people agree with the policy.

Liquor / Cannabis Control Boards –

Tally's – 1st Class & 3rd Class

Motion to approve the liquor license(s) as presented was moved by Councilor Spaulding, seconded by Councilor Gustin, approved.

Managers' Report

- The seated Manager Patrick Cushing gave a brief self-introduction and relayed his enthusiasm in learning and getting caught up on and collaborating with the staff on projects in the works and projects on the horizon.

New Business;

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A. Granite City Housing, Inc. dba Lincoln House: Request for Approval of Loan Forgiveness for Deferred Loan - Sarah Rowan, RN BSN (Executive Nurse Administrator) Norm Akely (Board Member) Janet Shatney

The purpose of coming before the Council is to get approval that allows the closure of a greater than 30 year loan (a grant that became a deferred loan)for housing, with the State of Vermont slowly ending and closing such loans. The Lincoln House has proven the continuation of house currently and for the future. The action would be for the Council to approve the “Request for Approval of Loan Forgiveness for Deferred Loan”.

A motion for Request for Approval of Loan Forgiveness for Deferred Loan was moved by Councilor Gustin, seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

B. Update on Civic Center Auditorium Renovation Project -Tom Baker (Janet Shatney)

With the funding still pending the majority of the work will be delayed until Spring of 2027. The projects geared towards City Hall must be completed by December 31, 2026. The Auditorium will be open for usage on Oct 5th through spring.

Council did request to have an emergency plan in place if the one working boiler were to fail this winter.

A motion to approve the contract was made by Councilor Gustin, seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

C. Update on BOR Renovations (Tom Baker)

The plan is to test the pressure in the tubing under the ice, checking for leaks. There are (12) current leaks known of.

The BOR is in need of major repairs for the roof, compression box and a dehumidifier, in addition to renovations to locker room.

D. Flood Resiliency Update (Councilor Gustin) A recap of the “Adopt A Drain” program was given, as well as some of the expectations for those who do join the program.

E. Approve Resolution #2026-14: Resolution relating to the financing of the Wastewater Treatment Facility Headworks project (Carol Dawes)

Having seen and reviewed the Resolution to Authorize Forgivable Indebtedness Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4755(a)(4)(D) related to the financing of the Barre Headworks Project, I hereby move the adoption and approval of Resolution 2026-14 as presented at this meeting. Moved by Councilor Gustin seconded by Councilor Hilgartner, approved.

Up Coming

Manager Cushing- Follow up on BUUSD in regard to budget information and public conversation.

Councilor Gustin – DPW update (paving and new garage campus)

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Councilor Spaulding – Revisit the parking lot of topics, the BUUSD budget & Council involvement, the change in the structure of Seminary St.

Round Table

Councilor Hilgartner – Neighborly Barre is hosting (2) events;

Sept 30 (at the last Farmers Market) Donuts & Cider from 530pm to 7pm

Downtown Walking Tour with author Russel Belding on Oct 3rd at 10am beginning at the Aldrich Library.

Councilor Routhier – Be positive. The rebirth of Barre is here. We are investing funds and working diligently to improve our community.

Councilor Spaulding – Peter Anthony would like to thank the help the DPW staff offered on the river clean-up sponsored by the Barre River Collective.

.Councilor Deering-Participated in the Granite Museum Festival over the weekend by offering to be “dunked” in the tank by community members. The event was enjoyed and highly attended. While there he was able to chat with the ED Scott McLaughlin about the tours and tour buses scheduled to come into town for the Autumn season.

.Executive Session – Legal;

Joined by Treasurer, Carol Dawes

Motion for finding for executive session moved by Councilor Gustin, Seconded by Councilor Hilgartner approved

Motion to enter executive session moved by Councilor Routhier, Seconded by Councilor Gustin, approved

Video paused at 7:37 pm

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

Executive session ends at 7:55pm.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Metivier, City Clerk