Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council -Draft
Held November 10, 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 Thom Lauzon at 5:57 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, Councilors Jeff Bergeron and Amanda Gustin; and from Ward III, Councilors Michael Deering and Don Routhier. City staff members present were Manager Patrick Cushing, Planning & Zoning Director Janet Shatney and Clerk Cheryl Metivier

Adjustments to the Agenda –

Executive Session- Personnel, Legal & Real Estate

Motion to approve of the agenda dated 11/10/2026 moved by Councilor Gustin, Seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

Visitors & Communications –

Amber Terway- Thanking the council for approving the Orange St Block party. The event was successful with many in attendance for food, decoration and costume swap. Great way to get to know neighbors. The neighborhood had 400+ trick-or-treaters.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes;

- Regular Meeting of 10/20/2026

Clerk's Office Licenses & Permits

- Veterans Parade Wed. 11/11 at 1030am – Route Barre Aud to Youth Triumph at City Hall Park.

Authorize the City Manager to execute contract(s) (as needed)

- DEW Letter of Intent - The City, through a thorough public process, has selected DEWP as its development partner to construct a housing development on a parcel currently owned by the city

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

Approve City Warrants

Approve City Warrants;

- Approve week of 11/11/2026
- Ratify week of 10/29/2026 & 11/4/2026

Motion to approve City Warrants moved by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Deering, approved. Councilor Spaulding abstaining.

City Clerk & Treasurer Report –

The 2nd quarter of property taxes are due on Monday, November 16th by 430pm.

Please pay the amount reflected on the 2nd quarter stub of the interim bill.

Now that the voters have finally approved the school budget, we have to wait 30 days for the "reconsideration period", and then the state will set the education homestead tax rate.

It usually takes the Agency of Education several days after the 30-day reconsideration period has run out before they issue the tax rate. we'll be looking at mid-December.

Liquor / Cannabis Control Boards – All applicants have been vetted and approved by required City personnel.

Bernis Dobis LLC and Vermont Essentials LLC

Motion to approve the license and occupancy of Bernis Dobis LLC and Vermont Essentials LLC at 21 Metro Way, Unit 8 pending Vermont Cannabis Control Board approval was moved by Councilor Deering , seconded by Councilor Gustin, approved.

Managers' Report

- The City was awarded $6,000 with matching funds, through a Passive Grant- special barricades and other safety equipment will be purchased.
- Erin Petenko will be leaving VT Digger. Thank you and good luck.
- Phase update on the Wobby Park project, RFP are going out.
- VHP site visit, nothing was found on the site of the future Prospect St Heights.
- A structural engineer will be evaluating the BOR for the future of the facility.
- Pricing on cooling matting for the BOR
- Recreation Dept is working on MOU for recurring larger vendors at the Aud & BOR
- Doing a deep dive into the Capital Improvement Plan.
- Establishing a vendor for Emergency Maintenance Services for quick access in case of an emergency.
- Using VLCT underwriters to overlook insurance and get a better understanding of the coverage
- Union negotiations are continuing
- Aldrich Library was awarded $300,000 through a HUD Grant. This will help fund a new HVAC system

Committee Update;

- Unhoused Committee; has offered training for shelter volunteers. Looking into have lockers available for some.
- Neighborly Barre Committee; Hot Cocoa through the holidays. Creating a candy bank for heavy hit neighborhoods on Halloween.
- Transportation & Public Works; Hill St, Camp St. Berlin St and Prospect St. speed control. Short fall on funding for the Ayers St water main project. Additional funding for Cobble Hill water project. Headworks project to begin November or December.

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New Business;
A Request of Holiday Free Parking (Barre Partnership)

There will be designated lots where parking will be free. However, any funds placed in the meter will be donated to a chosen charity organization.

B. Flood Resiliency Update - Procedure for Use of FEMA - Acquired Lots (Zoning & Planning Director Janet Shatney)

With approximately 30+ properties to be owned by the City through FEMA buy-outs. There are specific guidelines for individuals or groups applying for use of FEMA buy-out properties owned by the City of Barre.

Interested persons can begin by consulting the map of FEMA buy-out properties on the City of Barre Planning and Zoning Department website to find potentially available lots and begin talking with the zoning office about possibilities and what is allowed; if the idea is an allowed idea, then the interested party can begin the application process. It is important to note that any project seeking approval on City owned FEMA purchased property must abide by and meet all requirements of the Flood Hazard Ordinance. Any idea or project that does not meet the Flood Hazard Ordinance or the Unified Development Ordinance will not be able to move forward.

Upcoming Business;

Mayor Lauzon; *Update of fund balance. Update on Prospect Heights *Update on DPW garage *Capital Budget updates *City Budget updates *Update on West Patterson St.

Councilor Spaulding will resign mid-December, leading to a Ward caucus in mid-January.

Councilor Gustin; Updated Flood Resiliency Plan is updated.

Round Table

Mayor Lauzon; Show gratitude to a Veteran. Extra Mile Proclamation was dedicated to the gentleman who repaired the BOR ice system.

Councilor Deering; Parks & Rec has a new member

Councilor Hilgartner; A concert at the Hedding Methodist Church to benefit Good Samaritan Haven raised $1,300

Councilor Gustin; attended the training for the warming shelter volunteers very informative

Councilor Bergeron; Attended some BYSA basketball at the Auditorium and the place was full.

Councilor Spaulding; Saw record number of people voting on Nov 3rd. Thank you for passing the BUUSD budget & the CVCC Bond.

Councilor Routhier; Thank you to all the volunteers who assisted with the repairs to the ice rink at the BOR it is

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nice to see the BOR is still active.

Executive Session – Personnel, Legal & Real Estate

Joined by City Manager Patrick Cushing

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

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

Video paused.

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

Executive session ends.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm

Next regular meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2026, at 6pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Metivier, City Clerk

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