Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council -Draft
Held November 17, 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 Deputy Mayor Michael Deering III at 6:00 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, Finance Director Christina Kimball, Treasurer Carol Dawes

Adjustments to the Agenda –

Executive Session (Legal) immediately upon approval of the adjustments to the agenda.
Add explanation of the process for electing a new Mayor.
Remove item "B" under new business

Motion to approve of the agenda dated 11/17/2026 moved by Councilor Spaulding, Seconded by Councilor Hilgartner, approved.

Deputy Mayor Michael Deering III called for a moment of silence for remembrance and reflection of Mayor Thom Lauzon.

Executive Session - Legal

Joined by City Manager Patrick Cushing, City Clerk Cheryl Metivier, Treasurer Carol Dawes

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

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

Video paused at 6:02pm

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

Executive session ends at 6:14pm

Manager Statement

Upon exiting the executive session, the Manager Patrick Cushing read the Charter to explain the process to name a new Mayor as reads;

Sec. 206. Vacancies. (a) In case of vacancy of any elected municipal City officer, except a councilor, occasioned by death, removal from the City, resignation or inability to serve, such vacancy, unless herein otherwise provided, shall be filled by appointment by the City Council until the next annual election, In such case, nomination may be made by any member for the Council. (Amend. of 5-09-06, 5-8-12, 5-14-24)

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The Council, as a whole, decided to wait, out of respect for Mayor Thom Lauzon, and will come forward at next weeks special meeting with a decision.

Visitors & Communications –

Michael Boutin, Jason Fleury, Kate Fleury and Jennifer Charboneau came forward to provide details and information about a project they have worked on annually for many seasons, "Christmas for Kids".

A background on how instrumental and dedicated the former Mayor Thom Lauzon was to this cause was shared, including some of the "behind the scenes" actions he took to ensure all young community members received a special gift for the holiday.

Though we have lost one of the biggest advocates for the cause the team hopes the community will step up and keep the generosity going strong.

Donation may be made to the projects at City Hall or at the Public Safety Building. Or look for a web site with a "Donor Box" for Christmas for Kids soon to be created by the Barre Partnership ED Tracie Lewis.

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes;

- Regular Meeting of 10/20/2026

Clerk's Office Licenses & Permits-none

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

- Dubois & King - Agreement for Consultant Engineer Services with DuBOIS & KING, INC. For the Barre Residential Elevation Program

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

Approve City Warrants

- Approve week of 11/18/2026

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 is finishing closing out the 2nd quarter for property taxes. The foot traffic within the office has noticeably increased.

I will repeat my information from last week, in regard to the "new" tax bill. We have a 30 day reconsideration period from the date of the election (Nov 3rd) before the state will begin calculating the new educational tax rate. Upon receipt of that tax rate is when we can start the process of producing the final tax bill with out programmers with hopes of having the adjusted tax bill out mid to late December.

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

Quality Market
155 Washington St.

2nd class liquor
Tobacco

Motion to approve the liquor license renewal was moved by Councilor Spaulding, seconded by Councilor Hilgartner, approved.

Managers' Report

- The sale of the Seminary St property closes December 2, 2026.
- There will be a special meeting on Tuesday November 24th
- Paving Seminary St., Auditorium Hill, Maple Ave., Warren St & Berlin St will get base and top coats. Plain St will get the base coat only this season.

New Business;
A Flood Study - SLR Flood Modeling -Alex Marcucci & Roy Shiffer

The model study of area bridges and culverts completed, stands accurate comparatively to the actual events of the past events. Scenarios of adjustments to bridges, riverbanks and designated flood plain areas show a moderate level change expectations for any future flooding events. Areas included in the modeling were Willey St bridge and surrounding embankments, Berlin St bridge and surrounding embankments, River St and Granite St properties to be used for flood plains, and Gunner Brook.

~~B Approval of Volunteer - Judie Copping - Parks & Recreation Committee~~

C Financial Update -YTD and Budget Timeline (Christine Kimball)

The financial outlook for the city has not followed what the City expected during budgeting for this years expenses, due to increased cost of goods, lower revenue than expected and unknown status of recoup of some City expenses. The timeline for the FY28 budget is;
Budget Congress – Jan 4th & 5th
Resident feedback in December
Come back to Council by Jan 19th
Follow up in March
Published budget by April 11th
Annual Election May 11th.

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D Headworks Project - Financial Update (Finance Director Christina Kimball & Treasurer Carol Dawes)

Bottom line, the Headworks Project is underfunded by $600,000 and the City would like to do a 10yr inter fund loan through the Cozzi Capital fund. The team is asking for pre-empt permission to keep the project moving forward, which was agreed upon by Council.

Upcoming Business;

Councilor Gustin; Flood Resiliency Plan with a focus on the Currier Park area.

Round Table

Councilor Deering; Words of remembrance, appreciation and gratitude for Mayor Thom Lauzon.

Councilor Hilgartner;

Councilor Gustin;

Councilor Bergeron; Attended a Buildings & Facilities Committee meeting and will return with a full report..

Councilor Spaulding;

Councilor Routhier;

Executive Session-none

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm

Next regular meeting is scheduled for December 8th, 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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