



October 14th, 2018:

Residents and Neighbors,

Hurricane Florence took me back to two times when the City of Barre has severe flooding. Sara Akers led a Herculean relief effort to fill a truck and trailer with items for those in need. The City was able to assist in a location for her and volunteers to set up and our community came together to support another community in need and I want to thank her for her efforts.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It has been about three months since Courtney Gaboriault was fatally shot during a domestic disturbance and domestic violence is still an issue that affects many and requires our attention. Please attend one of the many meetings or events that are happening this month to support victims or those that are assisting victims. In Washington County, please refer those dealing with domestic violence situation through Circle at 1-877-543-9498.

City Council had several additional committee appointments this past month. I want to thank all of those who have stepped up to volunteer with our city committees:

- Appointment of Ben Brown to the Bike Path Committee
- Appointment of Tim Rapczynski to Cow Pasture Stewardship Committee
- Appointment of Debbie Chase to Recreation committee

Council authorized the creation of Community Garden Committee and Tree Committee. There was discussion on the need to address issues with our trees, like with the Ash Borer, and to support and grow our community gardens. I thank resident Amanda Garland Director of Buildings Community Services Jeff Bergeron for attending and supporting these new initiatives.

Councilors reviewed FY19 priorities, which established guidelines for when items are to be completed. This is similar to what Council has established for priorities with the City Manager for work to be completed. We also discussed our FY20 budget goals and priorities with the City Manager to work on with the Budget Committee. A 2% increase was the guideline set by Council so that services can be maintained and still be in accordance with inflation.

The City is continuing its success with establishing new Neighborhood Watch Areas. Elmore and Long Streets held recent meetings, while Elmwood has an upcoming meeting and Cassie Street is interested in setting one up in their area. Additionally, the City was able to hold a Public Safety Forum on October 8th with presentations from Washington County Attorney Rory Thibault, District Manager Mike Sweeney from the Department of Corrections and Jeannie MacLeod from the Barre Community Justice Center.

The Yard Waste Program is currently underway this year from October 13th to 28th. The leaves were beautiful this year, but recent rain and wind has knocked them into our yards and this program will allow a proper place to dispose of them.

Councilors heard from our final City Department Heads. This is important as all councilors have had the opportunity to see each operation and speak with those in charge of the City functions:

- Overview Briefing of the Fire Department from Fire Chief Douglas Brent. Doug also provided a tour of the Fire-side of the Public Safety Building.
- Overview Briefing of the Police Department from Police Chief Tim Bombardier. Tim also provided a tour of the Police-side of the Public Safety Building.

Council Continued to receive other presentations from organizations in the City and our neighbors:

- Winooski River Tactical Basin Plan Overview by Pam DeAndrea at the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission.
- Overview of Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District services by Bruce Wescott.
- Directory Corey Touchette provided and overview of Freezing Fun for Families 20th Anniversary.
- Planning Commission Discussion of Zoning Ordinance Adoption Timeline.
- The City Clerk provided an overview of Board of Civil Authority Duties.
- Jeff Bergeron provided an update on Hope Cemetery Monument Cleaning Program.
- CVPSA Regional Dispatch Initiative update was provided from their Executive Director Paco Aumund and our appointed Mike Smith and Martin Prevost.

City Council approved several items including the following:

- Council Approval of Bond Certificates of Project Completion
- Award Approval: 2018 Roadside Mowing Contract to Donnell Dexter
- Approval to Place Order Reservation for FY20 Police Cruiser
- Mayoral Proclamation Naming November 1 as Extra Mile Day
- Mayoral Proclamation for ReSOURCE Youthbuild. Council also had discussion on a “Scrap Metal Day” in addition to our Yard Waste Cleanup in to remove broken swing sets, trampolines, old cars, etc. This is available every day, but residents need to bring the items to ReSOURCE for proper recycling. Additionally, Montpelier held a hazardous waste collection on September 29th in support of cleanup and disposal efforts.
- Rescission of Water & Sewer Bills Appeal & Abatement Policy, as this was superseded by Legislative action this past session.

And lastly, there are several new and returning initiatives being discussed:

- Council received a Mathewson Playground Refurbishment Preview and Mayoral Proclamation to Ellen Sivret on her efforts with this group. They were also noted as part of Extra Mile Day, which is an annual recognition through the Barre Area Joint Service Clubs.
- Caroline Earl provided an update on the Rotary Mural Project.
- Chuck Barney of the VFW provided an update regarding the VT Boy Scout Annual Salute to Veterans, which will be held on November 3rd along with the annual Veterans Day ceremonies.
- Patriotism Week Presentations were given from American Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion.
- Council held the 2nd Public Hearing for Proposed Charter Changes to be requested for voter approval at the November 6th Elections.
- Council reviewed its Decorum and Ground Rules. There was little discussion on changes to be made, but review of time management of agenda items was discussed.

- Council was asked by the Barre Partnership to judge window displays at 6pm on October 30th, prior to City Council, for announcement of winner at the meeting.
- The Recreation Committee has been started to look into items with the Teen Center, Sharing Swimming Pool registrations with neighboring towns, and creating a survey for Barre City residents.
- The City will be coordinating efforts for an Opportunity Zones Forum November 8th.