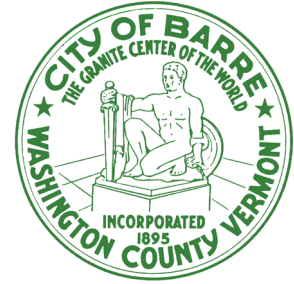


February 26th, 2021



Residents and Neighbors,

This is a reminder that Town Meeting Day is March 2nd. The City Clerk has indicated that over 1200 absentee ballots were sent and over 600 of those have already been received. In person voting can still occur at the Barre City Auditorium from 7am to 7pm on March 2nd.

The Manager provided the public two presentations on the budget. Council also held the 2nd hearing for the proposed Charter Changes. An Informational Meeting provided opportunity to go over the ballot in detail. You can find sample ballots on the City's website. The FY22 Budget calls for a budget increase is 2.18% over the FY21 budget. The proposed FY22 budget is \$12,836,332, of which \$9,316,073 is to be raised by taxes.

As part of the review of the City's response during COVID, DPW Director Bill Ahearn has implemented split shifts at the water and wastewater treatment facilities and the street department personnel are working in three small teams to minimize risk of COVID exposure. If these teams are out due to COVID, there can be an impact on street plowing or emergency repair, so he has developed a mutual assistance program with Barre Town and staffing at the wastewater treatment plant with Montpelier. Standard disinfectant protocols continue to be followed between each shift.

The Mayoral Proclamation for Barre City Employee Recognition Week Council started the recognition of City staff for all of their efforts over the past year. City Manager Steve Mackenzie acknowledged staff for longevity, based on 5-year milestones; this included both Donny Bullard and Joe Rouleau who have each served over 40 years in City service.

Council reviewed the history of the TIF district and the Merchant's Row action plan as the remaining project to receive TIF funding. Incremental funds from the district would only cover half of the project, which started discussion on what other projects could be explored. Councilor Hemmerick arranged a meeting with consultants White & Burke to see if they could assist in these efforts, which they stated they could. A sole-source agreement was approved per the Procurement Policy for the consulting work.

Council heard from Bob Nelson and members of the newly named Police Advisory Committee. The name was not previously reflective of the work that the committee was doing, which was recommended by the City Attorney and the Committee for the change. Also approved were the charge and objectives of the committee; the scope was reduced as attorney review noted that oversight is a management function and could not be delegated to the committee.

As part of Review of the Plumbing Ordinance, DPW Director Ahearn said changes would create criteria requirements for companies conducting sprinkler system tests within the Barre City water system, including registration, proof of insurance, and monitoring. Councilor Boutin presented the draft Police Ticketing Ordinance. Chief Bombardier reiterated that the change would allow the City to collect the revenues currently collected by the Judicial Bureau. There was discussion on how enforcement would be handled and notation of exceptions in State Legislation for areas of enforcement, such as overweight truck permits.

Councilors said their farewells and appreciation for other Councilors that have served. Councilor Waszazak is on the ballot and may be back, but Councilor Morey and Steinman have elected not to run again. As with anyone that volunteers their time in public service, I am thankful for their efforts in continuing to move the City of Barre forward.

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

- Aldrich Library Executive Director Loren Polk provided a PowerPoint presentation over that past quarter, as well as for 2020 as a whole. Curbside services continued even though the building was closed to the public.
- Barre Area Development Executive Director Cody Morrison also gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting items on business recruitment, unemployment, an inventory of developable land, grant assistance that is available as part of COVID relief.
- Barre Partnership Executive Director Tracie Lewis additionally provided a PowerPoint on the annual holiday events, Barre Bucks local merchant program, snowman building contest, and efforts to promote the Pearl Street pedway.
- Roz Renfrew and Katie Newell from the Vermont Human Trafficking Task Force provided a PowerPoint and spoke to their efforts for survivor outreach and support. They work closely with law enforcement and showcased tools in supporting survivors.
- Chris Russo-Frasyier and other committee members provided an update on the 2021 goals based on their previously approved committee charge.
- DPW Director Bill Ahearn reviewed items underway as part of the Municipal Roads General Permit, and roads being examined to eliminate erosion.

Other items approved by Council include the following:

- Approved revisions to the Dix Reservoir Hunting and Fishing Policies
- Approved revisions to the Personnel Activity Reports Policy
- Approved revisions to the General Internal Controls Policy
- Approved revisions to the Credit Card Policy
- Approved revisions to the Interfund Activity and Pooled Cash Fund Policy
- Approved revisions to the Partial Payment Policy
- Approved revisions to the Liquor Control Policy
- Approved revisions to the Cash Receipts Policy
- Approved Assessing Final Errors and Omissions Certificate PVR-4261-E for Filing in the 2020 Grand List Book.
- Approved Assessing Certificate of No Appeal or Suit Pending PVR-4155 for Filing in the 2020 Grand List Book.
- Approved Renewal of Chargepoint Contract for Merchant's Row EV Charging Station
- Approved 2020 TIF Annual Report
- Approved of Minimum Bid Amount for Sale of East Montpelier Parcel
- Approved Resolution 2021-05 in Support of Community Autonomy for School Resource Officers
- Appointed Janet Shatney as Interim Assessor
- Authorization to Submit CVRPC Technical Assistance Grant Application.
- Authorization to Submit CRWSF Loan Application for Water Distribution System Assets Management Plan
- Authorization to Execute Services Amendment with ATC Environmental re: Enterprise Aly Remediation Project

Upcoming items include the following:

- Council Welcome and Introductions to new City Councilors
- Organizational Items, including review of Ground Rules, Onboarding document, FY21 Priorities, and City Staffing
- Summer Camp Scholarship Fund
- Defer Bike Path Easements with current TIF Discussion
- Update on Speed Enforcement Initiative
- Overview of Accepted Grants and Grant Applications
- Review Grants Management and Permitting, Planning, & Inspection Services Policies
- Discussion on Chapter 02 – Administration Ordinance
- First Reading and Public Hearing of the Plumbing Ordinance
- Approval of 2021 Coin Drop Requests
- Update on 10-year Water and Sewer Budget
- Discussion on Barre Town Water and Sewer Agreements Revisions

Be safe and be well,

Lucas J. Herring
Mayor, City of Barre