

To be approved at the next Barre City Council Meeting

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council - draft
Held January 6th, 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 Thomas Lauzon 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 Amanda Gustin and Jeff Bergeron; and from Ward III, Councilors Don Routhier and Michael Deering (Remote 6:05). City staff members present were City Manager Nicolas Storrellicastro, Clerk Cheryl Metivier, Finance Director Christina Kimball and Treasurer Carol Dawes.

Adjustments to the Agenda – Executive session/personnel

Motion to approve of the agenda dated 1/6/2025 moved by Councilor Hilgartner, Seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

Visitors & Communications –

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

i. Meeting of December 16, 2025

B. Clerk's Office Licenses & Permits-none

C. Approve letter of attestation for The Barre Partnership Downtown Vibrancy Fund application

The Barre Partnership has requested Council approval of a letter of attestation for its application for \$25,000 in Vibrancy Funding from the State of Vermont. The grant would fund the following:

- \$18,000: Part-time Marketing Manager.
- \$7,000: Destination Barre Project (as described in the narrative included in the packet)

D. Allocate free holiday parking proceeds to Rec Department programming
final amount to be donated after weekend collections are made through the duration of the free holiday parking period.

E. Authorize Steve Mackenzie to execute 143 N Main St purchase and sale documents on behalf of the City
It is recommended that the Council authorize former City Manager and current President of BADCO Steve Mackenzie to sign all the closing paperwork for 143 N Main Street on behalf of the City. The closing is scheduled for Friday, January 9, 2026

F. Authorize the Manager to execute contract(s)-none

Motion to approve consent agenda made by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Hilgartner-approved

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4-a. Approve City Warrants

- i. Approve week of 1/7/26
- ii. Ratify week of 12/24/25 and 12/31/25

Motion to approve city warrants-Move made by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Hilgartner – approved. Councilor Spaulding abstaining

City Clerk & Treasurer Report –

The new year is upon us, and NOW is the time to renew your request for absentee ballots. Absentee ballot request must be renewed annually for all upcoming elections within the calendar year. To request ballots;

*Go to/ create your account in the Voter Portal;

<https://vote.vermont.gov/public/dashboard>

*Call the Barre City Clerk's office at 802-476-0242

*Email a request complete with;

Full name

Legal address

Mailing address

Phone number (in case additional information is needed)

Liquor/Cannabis Boards-none

Managers' Report-

Explanation for the Special Meeting 1/7/2026- The Council Meeting scheduled for 1/6/2026 was not published in the Times Argus, so to comply with the charter, the Special Meeting will be held to ratify all decisions made by the Council at the 1/6/2026 meeting.

Due to the extra plowing events in December, DPW is experiencing a road salt shortage. The VT State of Transportation has loaned the City enough to meet the demand until the stock is replenished. We will then reimburse the State.

The Auditorium renovations kicked off today with the USDA and project management touring the facility. The Auditorium will close April 1st through mid-November.

The RFQ for Prospect Heights is out and posted with help from Josh Jerome and Pat Moulton.

The City's budget survey will remain open for residents until noon on January 28th. This survey is a great way to have your say in how you think the city should apply its funding. Have your voice heard and complete it online at barrecity.org.

New Business-

New Business;

- A. FY27 budget baseline discussion

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The Manager, Finance Director Christina Kimball and Treasurer Carol Dawes opened the discussion with a PowerPoint presentation outlining; the fixed cost, discretionary cost and future project expenses in hopes of the Council input on their priorities and goals for the FY27 budget, meanwhile, keep the tax rate down.

Discussion of the new assessments and how the changes will affect the tax rate for some, but ultimately hoping the changes will fairly distribute values and maintain a relatively level rate.

Fixed costs-employee wages, insurance, benefits

Discretionary cost-stump dump, recreation programming, pool etc.

Asking members to look at areas' reductions can be made, ideas for increased revenue and investments.

This topic will be continued at upcoming council meetings until the Council approves a budget ready to be warned for April 7th ahead of Town Meeting May 12th.

B. CDBG-DR applications update

There is \$14,000,000 remaining on the table for grant funding from the State, to be applied specifically for housing. The City is preparing an application geared toward the North End Gateway project. The pre-application is due January 12th, and final second round application due February 27, 2026.

Components of the application are buyouts along the main street corridor, elevation of some properties thus beginning the revitalization of the North End, in hopes of sparking private investment in growing businesses, the grand list and revitalization of current properties in the flood ravaged neighborhoods.

C. Flood Resiliency Plan update (Gustin)

This PowerPoint presentation focused on "Wobby Park" in the North End. This .41-acre lot could be used for housing. Some considerations limited access points, acreage and blending with the future North End Gateway plan. for Housing. Given the history on this site, and the need to regift the Wobby family a lot of similar size, the city seeks direction from Council on next steps.

D. Revision of city fee schedule

The packet includes marked up revisions to the current fee schedule, including:

- Updating Civic Center fees to reflect current rental opportunities-skate rentals/facilities rentals etc.
- Creating a new towing administrative fee to replace the winter parking ban ticket (\$35 fee from \$38 ticket)
- Create new reciprocal document preparation and legal review fee (for fees charged to the City by third parties)

The motion for approval to adapt the revised city fee schedule was moved by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Gustin, approved.

Up Coming

Mayor Lauzon - CDBG-DR second round application

FY27 budget

Councilor Gustin – preparing the Flood Resiliency plan through April

Round Table

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Councilor Hilgartner – the 1st meeting of the Neighborly Barre committee was Monday Jan. 1st.

Councilor Gustin-a history buff has been tuned into the Revolutionary War, acknowledging the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. And has had the January 6th Insurrection in her thoughts.

Councilor Bergeron- Is happy to report that both the Auditorium and BOR have been busy with basketball and hockey sporting events and activities over the past weeks and weekend.

Thank you to the DPW for all the hard and time consuming services they provide

Councilor Spaulding – spoke with a resident in Ward 2, and heard they were very pleased with the Council representatives from Ward 2.

Councilor Routhier – Thank you the DPW for the service they provided.

Executive Session-Personnel -8:25pm

Motion to move findings for executive session by Councilor Spaulding, seconded by Councilor Bergeron- approved

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

Motion to exit executive session moved by session by Councilor Routhier, seconded by Councilor Bergeron- approved

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm

Next regular meeting is scheduled for January 27th, 2026, at 6pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Metivier, City Clerk