

To be approved at the next Barre City Council Meeting

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council -Draft
Held July 28th, 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, Councilor Jeff Bergeron and Councilor Amanda Gustin; and from Ward III, Councilor Michael Deering and Don Routhier. City staff members present were Acting City Brad Vail, Clerk Cheryl Metivier, Facilities Director Tom Baker, Public Works Director Brian Baker, Treasurer Carol Dawes, Unhoused Liaison Tess Taylor

Adjustments to the Agenda – Remove item 4E from Consent agenda
Add approval of city-wide ballot mailing to include JP candidates in consent agenda item 4H.

Motion to approve of the agenda dated 7/28/2026 moved by Councilor Deering, Seconded by Councilor Gustin, approved.

Visitors & Communications –

Emel Cambel – would like the minutes of the Special Meeting on July 14th for clarity to reflect Tilia Tea Co. is an LLC for profit business.

Merrill Creagh – would like the minutes to reflect the word for word conversations of the meeting.

Connie Godin – Would like the ordinances reviewed. Would like council to address e-bikes and scooters on sidewalks and jake break usage within city limits.

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes -

- i. Meeting of 7/14/26 Special & Regular-corrected
- ii. Emergency Meeting of 7/16/2026

B. Clerk's Office Licenses & Permits-

Turning Point of Central VT- Overdose Awareness - Aug. 1st at Currier Park from 5pm-830pm.

C. State Auditor's Internal Financial Controls Checklist annual presentation

D. Approve Water/Sewer Rates Resolution #2026-10 & approve \$50,000 for water system rate study

Fully funding the system in one year is not possible. We are recommending significant increases to help reduce deficits, while also providing the resources needed to operate, maintain and improve this infrastructure. After an initial briefing for the City Council at its July 14, 2026 meeting, we recommend the following increases for FY27: • Water: 3% base rate; 15% use rate (last year 3% base and 3% use increase) • Sewer: 3% base rate; 15% use rate (last year 5% base and 5% use increase, decrease from 21% increase in FY25)

Impact:

- Low user \$12.60/qtr increase

To be approved at the next Barre City Council Meeting

- Average user \$45.00/qtr increase
- High user \$77.40/qtr increase

E. ~~Appointment of Deputy Health Officer~~ approved Arthur Young at previous meeting.

F. Approve DAR Rebeckah Hastings Marker letter of support

G. Authorize the Acting Manager to execute contract(s) none

H. Authorize city-wide mailing to include JP candidates on the GE ballot.

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

4-a. Approve City Warrants

A. Approve week of 7/29/26

B. Ratify week of 7/22/26

Motion to approve city warrants moved by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Gustin – (Councilor Spaulding abstaining) approved.

City Clerk & Treasurer Report –

Updating the residents on the interim tax bill timeline as follows;

ACTION	DATE
Grand list lodged	7/29/26
Council approves municipal tax rate	8/4/26
Interim tax bill file created/sent to printer	8/6/26
Interim tax bills mailed by	8/14/26
1 st quarter due date	9/15/26
2 nd quarter due date	11/16/26
Projected printing/mailing of final tax bills (after BUUSD budget approved)	12/15/26
3 rd quarter due date	2/15/27
4 th quarter due date	5/17/27

Treasurer Carol Dawes spoke of the interim tax bill process once the school budget has been passed. The required 30-day waiting period and the timeline the State of Vermont's Education Department would issue the tax rate would all come into play.

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

Pearl Street Pizza – 1st, 3rd, OCP
Morse Block Deli/Restaurant

To be approved at the next Barre City Council Meeting

Motion to approve Liquor/Cannabis licensures moved by Councilor Bergeron , seconded by Councilor Gustin , approved.

Managers' Report-

The transition is going smoothly due to the professionalism of the staff.

The Heritage Festival was a success.

Joel Carmineti is the new Cemetery Foreman

Seeking to replace the Deputy FD Chief position

Reminder-Aug 4th is the Annual Night Out event at Currier Park at 5pm

Be mindful of the rain in the forecast

New Business;

A. Volunteer Appointment(s) – Cow Pasture Committee-Greg Rouleau

A representative of the Barre Sno-Bees Snowmobile Club and the Snowmobile Community of Vermont. Leading in the winter trail maintenance and activities in the Cow Pasture.

Motion to approve the Volunteer Appointment of Greg Rouleau to the Cow Pasture Committee was moved by Councilor Gustin, seconded by Councilor Routhier, approved

B. Discussion concerning process for Hilltop land use (Tess Taylor) and Amber Terway of Tilia Tea Co.

(Merrill Creagh, Mel Cambel, Cat Allen, Mark Waskow and Pam Wilson and residents Mark Martin, Linda Riddle, Megan Cherry.)

The conversation began as an outcry of lack of information, notice or due process over shadowed Tess's goal to start a conversation or process for future endeavors and projects using city owned lots obtain through FEMA buyouts. While hoping to have more clarity of rules and regulations of due process, ideas for bringing a solid starting point back to the table included;

Clear procedure to apply for use

Clear acceptable or prohibited project allowed by FEMA

Notice to surrounding neighbors

Consider review by the Planning Commission or the DRB (Development Review Board)

Council has final decision

Contact other communities for their current policies and procedures in use

Seek information from other community gardens in use and information leading to their success

How would any new policy or rules affect current users.

Who would be responsible for testing sites for safe soil

Know the issue was not going to be resolved immediately, a plan to have Tess back in September with a solid foundation was accepted.

C. Use of Semprebon Bequest Fund for lighting improvements on Church St/Auditorium Hill, and sidewalk improvements on Auditorium Hill (Brian Baker)

To be approved at the next Barre City Council Meeting

Replacing the historic but aged lighting fixtures to improve the visibility in these areas are important for safety and aesthetics.

Motion to approve the use of Semprebon Bequest Fund for lighting improvements on Church St/Auditorium Hill, and sidewalk improvements on Auditorium Hill was moved by Councilor Spaulding, seconded by Councilor Bergeron, approved.

D. Execute Clerk of the Works Contract for Auditorium Project (Tom Baker)

A competitive bid project that requires the full-time position to be filled.

Motion to Execute Clerk of the Works Contract for Auditorium Project was moved by Councilor Gustin, seconded by Councilor Deering, approved.

E. Manager Search Committee Update (Councilor Gustin)

Councilor Gustin lead a power point presentation of the current timeline the search committee is at, what goals have been completed and future steps.

Accomplished – Development of the City & Candidate profile.

Posted job

Phase 1 public input-forums, surveyys, in person interactions, ZOOM meetings

NOW-Phase 2 Citywide survey

Open forum at the Aldrich Library Aug. 6th – 630pm

Timeline;

Applications close 8/14

Interviews begin 8/16

Finalist discussion 8/27

Council review 9/1

Council would like to have the number of qualified candidates pared down to 2 or 3.

Council would keep candidates confidential

Council could waive the required residency

Up Coming

Mayor Lauzon West Patterson Street repair discussion. Paving update. (Pam Wilson voiced safety concerns in regard to students who use the now closed street to walk to school.)

Round Table

Mayor Lauzon –.

Councilor Routhier –.Appreciates the infrastructure work being done by DPW

Councilor Spaulding – Attended the Taste of Barre exhibit but did not have the opportunity to taste all the food.
Watch party for VT Green at Barre Social club

Councilor Bergeron-Enjoyed the dunking booth

To be approved at the next Barre City Council Meeting

Councilor Gustin- The taste of Barre event at the Heritage Festival was delicious. Saturday was the perfect day
Enjoyed the “fight” replicating the historical fight that led the city to being named Barre.

Councilor Hilgartner – Enjoyed participating in the parade. Mr. Pickwick’s sculpture in the Aldrich Library’s lawn has a beautiful garden now.

Councilor Deering- appreciate all aspects of the Heritage Festival-community meaning and connection

Executive Session-none

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm

Next regular meeting is scheduled for June 16th, 2026, at 6pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Metivier, City Clerk