

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council -Draft
Held August 25th, 2026, at 5pm
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 5:00 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 Clerk Cheryl Metivier

Adjustments to the Agenda – Remove item 8E from New Business

Motion to approve of the agenda dated 8/25/2026 moved by Councilor Bergeron, Seconded by Councilor Deering, approved.

.Executive Session – USW Grievance Hearing; Joined by Ray Bettis USW #4-68 President., Scott Cameron City Labor Attorney, Acting Manager Chief Brad Vail, Employee

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 5:10pm

Motion to exit executive session moved by Councilor Deering, Seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved
Executive session ends at 5:55pm.

Video resumes.

Action- A motion was made to Uphold USW Grievance and the Council will Provide a Written Explanation was moved by Councilor Deering, seconded by Councilor Routhier, approved.

Visitors & Communications –

*Daniel Barlow the Executive Director of the Peoples Health and Wellness Clinic submitted a written statement regarding statements made by a Council member on social media. (Attached)

*Cathy Jamieson representing the First Presbyterian Church on Seminary St came to Council asking for clarity on the construction continuing Seminary St. which currently has blocked access to the church's front door and obstructed handicap parking.

The Council made a promise to have City staff meet with the Church officials to share plans and assist in correcting deficiencies in communications.

*John Raper asked permission to create a documentary of the Barre City cemeteries, with still photography, video and drone footage.

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

i. Regular Meeting of 8/4/26

B. Clerk's Office Licenses & Permits

- Equinox Morris Dance Tour-Hosted by Midnight Capers Morris Team-Sat. 9/19 from 4pm to 530 pm
Dance teams performing within the park to acoustic music
- Throttle Up for Hockey-Hosted by Central VT Youth Hockey-Sat. 10/3 from 11am to 5pm

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

Motion to approve Consent Agenda moved by Councilor Spaulding, seconded by Councilor Deering, approved.

4-a. Approve City Warrants

A. Approve week of 8/26/26

B. Ratify week of 8/12/26

C. Ratify week of 8/19/26

Motion to approve city warrants moved by Councilor Deering, seconded by Councilor Bergeron, approved. Councilor Spaulding abstaining.

City Clerk & Treasurer Report –

The interim tax bills have been mailed. The first quarter payment is due Tuesday Sept 15th by the end of the day, 430 pm.

Please be mindful the City of Barre no longer accepts post marked payments as timely. Meaning, the payment must be received by the Clerk by 430 pm at the latest.

The Barre Unified Union School district budget revote is Tuesday, September 15th. Absentee ballots have been mailed.

425 ballots have been issued.

28 have been returned

Please drop ballots in one of the two ballot drop boxes, hand deliver, mail early or bring to the polls to drop in the drop box or place your ballot in the ballot box.

Ballots will be hand counted at the end of the night.

Liquor / Cannabis Control Boards – none

To be approved at the next Barre City Council Meeting

Managers' Report-(given to Council prior to meeting. Acting Manager was not present)

- Barre City pool closed on Aug 22nd.
- Deputy Fire Chief search is ongoing.
- Officer Jason Fleury is set to retire as the School Resource Officer
- The Police Departments "BEE" program is winding down as school reconvenes.
- Clarification on the use of the cameras at intersections in Barre. These are not FLOCK cameras these are the security cameras approved by Council.
- E-bike discussion will be forthcoming. Regulation on use will be discussed.

Old Business; Additional paving for 2026: update fund request. (Acting Manager Brad Vail, DPW Director Brian Baker.

Upon inspection of Routes 14 & 302, the contracted paving company found the need to increase the cost for the skim coat to be applied. The disrepair of these corridors increased the workload and expenses. The contacted paving company felt a \$250,000 cap would better reflect the actual cost.

Motion to approve the funding request for paving was moved by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

New Business;

Opened at 6:19pm

- A. Warned for 6:15 PM: Public Hearing for CDBG-DR applications (Janet Shatney, Josh Jerome, Pat Moulton)
 - a. Resolution #2026-11: North End Buyouts Project application approval

This 3rd round application is being submitted the team who penned the application are extremely satisfied with the result and are confident that the submission holds value and will be seriously considered. The plan includes green space and housing in the Wobby Park space. With the goal of focusing on housing the application will be submitted before the August 31st deadline.

A motion to approve Resolution #2026-11: North End Buyout & Housing Project application was moved by Councilor Hilgartner, seconded by Councilor Gustin, approved.

6:34pm

- b. Resolution #2026-12: 143 N Main Street Housing Development application approval

The application for 143 N. Main Street Housing Development application has a developer onboard (DEW Construction) and projects to add (30) units, both one and two bedroom to the downtown. The plan is to have a small space for storefronts with parking in the rear under the structure.

A motion to approve. Resolution #2026-12: 143 N Main Street Housing Development application was moved by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

Hearing closes at 6:48pm

B. High Water Mark Project (Barre Rivers Collective) Danielle Owczarski, Jim Dresher, Peter Anthony

The group would like to place a water marker in a visible area marking past water levels during flooding events dating a hundred years or more ago. The marker would be thoughtfully designed. The Barre Rivers Collective has asked for suggestions of placement where residents would see it prominently. The group is looking for permission to install the marker.

A motion was made to approve the installation of a High-Water Marker was moved by Councilor Gustin, seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

C. Process of appointing tree warden – Adam McCullough, Ellen Sivret, Chris Russo-Fraiser

With an extensive background in forestry and an arborist, his services would be a grand asset to the City for maintaining the health of current parks, trees and forest, but also his expertise will assist in smart planning for future flood mitigation, restoration and upkeep.

A motion to appoint Adam McCullough to Tree Warden for the City of Barre was moved by Councilor Spaulding and seconded by Councilor Bergeron, approved. (to be ratified at the next meeting)

D. Revising September Council meeting dates

Due to the holiday and election, the dates for September Council meeting were adjusted to;

September 1st
September 22nd
October 3rd

E. Flood Resiliency Update (Councilor Gustin)

F. Manager Search Committee Update (Councilor Gustin)

The search committee has conducted some 1st round interviews. There are to date (17) applicants with some interviews completed. The committee has stated they have a great pool of qualified candidates. Thursdays upcoming meeting will determine the finalist and those who will be interviewed in person next round, with a goal of giving the Council the final (3-5) for consideration by September 1st

Up Coming

Mayor Lauzon – submission of the CDBG-DR grants / paving / manager search

Round Table

Mayor Lauzon – 75 N. Main is near completion for tenants.

To be approved at the next Barre City Council Meeting

Councilor Routhier – With school starting please be cautious of children at bus stops and on streets.

Councilor Spaulding – Mosaic artist Mary Tapogna created a vibrant public mosaic art installation on the staircase at Downstreet Housing & Community Development's Ward 5 School Apartments

Councilor Bergeron-

Councilor Gustin – saddened to hear the passing of Dolly Parton

Councilor Hilgartner –

Councilor Deering- School starts Wednesday please be aware.

Executive Session-legal real estate

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

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

Motion to exit executive session moved by Councilor Routhier, Seconded by Councilor Gustin, approved.
No action was taken.

Carol Dawes, Treasurer & TIF manager wanted to bring the TIF funding available to the Council and would suggest swift action.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm

Next regular meeting is scheduled for September 1st, 2026, at 6pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Metivier, City Clerk



PEOPLE'S HEALTH & WELLNESS CLINIC

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August 25, 2026

Dear Mayor Lauzon and Members of the Barre City Council,

I am writing on behalf of the People's Health & Wellness Clinic (PHWC) following recent social media comments by a Barre City Council member stating that the organization distributes free crack pipes and that our organization is contributing to problems in downtown Barre.

I want to correct the record clearly: **PHWC does not distribute crack pipes or other drug-use supplies.**

More importantly, I want to take this opportunity to talk about what PHWC actually does - and what our organization has meant to Barre for more than three decades.

PHWC has proudly called Barre home since **1993**. I am also a Barre City resident, and I care deeply about this community and what happens here.

The people who walk through our doors aren't abstract statistics. **They are our neighbors and community members.** They are people who live here, work here, raise families here, shop at our businesses, and contribute to our community.

Every year, more than 700 people come to PHWC for care. We provide completely free primary and preventive medical care, dental care and extractions, medications, laboratory testing, cancer screenings, wellness services, and help managing chronic illnesses like diabetes and high blood pressure. We help people enroll in insurance, access hospital financial assistance, and connect with housing, food, transportation, and other essential resources.

And we never send a patient a bill.

Our small staff works alongside dozens of volunteer doctors, nurses, dentists, and other health professionals who donate their time because they believe their neighbors deserve access to health care.

That work has a real impact on Barre. When someone gets their diabetes under control, has an infected tooth removed, gets the medication they need, or receives treatment before a manageable condition becomes an emergency, that person is healthier and our community is stronger.

We care for people who are working but cannot afford insurance. We care for people experiencing homelessness. We care for people struggling with substance use or mental health challenges. We care for people who have simply fallen through the cracks of an increasingly expensive and difficult-to-navigate health care system.

We don't ask whether someone is the "right kind" of person to deserve health care. We take care of our neighbors.

PHWC welcomes questions about our work. Our doors are open to every member of the City Council, and I would be happy to arrange a visit at any time. Come meet our staff and volunteers. See our medical and dental clinics in action. Ask us questions about what we do, whom we serve, and the challenges we face.

What is difficult is seeing people cautioned against supporting an organization that has served this city for more than three decades based on information that simply isn't true. Our staff and volunteers work incredibly hard every day to earn the trust of our patients and this community, and it is important to us that conversations about PHWC are based on the work we actually do.

PHWC has enjoyed a strong relationship with the City of Barre and with members of the Council over many years. We value that relationship enormously and want it to continue.

PHWC is proud to call Barre home. **I am proud to call Barre home.** And we will continue doing what we've done here since 1993: taking care of our neighbors when they need us.

Free clinics save lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Barlow', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel Barlow
Executive Director
People's Health & Wellness Clinic
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