

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council -Draft
Held October 6, 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 Thom Lauzon at 6 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 Jeff Bergeron and Amanda Gustin; and from Ward III, Councilors Michael Deering and Don Routhier. City staff members present were Manager Patrick Cushing, Fire Chief Keith Cushman, Deputy Fire Chief Nick Copping, Facilities Director Tom Baker, Public Works Director Brian Baker, Treasurer Carol Dawes and Clerk Cheryl Metivier

Adjustments to the Agenda -none

Motion to approve of the agenda dated 10/6/2026 moved by Councilor Deering, Seconded by Councilor Gustin, approved.

Visitors & Communications –

Gabby Boch a Northfield High School senior and hockey player
Payton LaPerle-Spaulding High School hockey player
Finley Boyd-Spaulding High School hockey player

The trio came to the table to share their experiences, lessons, skills and friendships they developed playing sports, including hockey. They hope the City will succeed in finding a solution to the BOR ice issue so they can play on the best ice in the state.

Bern Rose thanked city staff member Alberta for hosting the meet and greet at the Aldrich Library.

She volunteered at the Granite Museum during busy bus tour season.

She also volunteers at BCEMS Everybody Wins Literary program.

She inquired about the DPW campus garage status. Brian Baker stated the hurdle of the Act 250 was received, and is now waiting for the zoning litigation to process through Superior court.

Fire Chief Keith Cushman introduced the new Deputy Fire Chief to the Council and public. Former Fire Marshal Nick Copping will now take on the role.

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

 i. Regular Meeting of 9/22/2026

B. Ratify 9/22/26 approval of First Amendment to Option to Purchase with Downstreet Housing

C. Ratify 9/22/26 approval of Modification of Easement Plan Date with Downstreet Housing

D. Clerk's Office Licenses & Permits Cookout-Voices from a Vermont Sacrifice Zone

 c/o Shawna Trader

 Oct 11th from 2pm-6pm

 City Hall Park

 All are welcome

E. Authorize the Interim Manager to execute contract(s) (as needed)

To be approved at the next Barre City Council Meeting

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

Approve City Warrants

A. Approve week of 10/07/2026

B. Ratify week of 9/30/2026

*Transfer of grant funds received from Agency of Commerce and Community Development to Turning Point Center of Central Vermont, Inc. Grant #07110-IG-2021-Barre C-12, Barre Turning Point Center Renovation Project. Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development is scheduled to deposit \$600,000 into the City's Community Development bank account on or around October 8, 2026. The City serves as the passthrough for the grant funds. This payout represents the total and final balance of the grant funds.

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

City Clerk & Treasurer Report –

The Clerk's office is preparing to fun (3) consecutive elections on Tuesday, November 3rd. The General Election, the CVCC Bond and the BUUSD Budget Revote for the 4th time. Our goal is to be very articulate and precise with absentee ballots and the check-in books on election day. The Clerk is hoping all BCA member will be willing to put some serious time into this election to keep operations running smoothly.

Liquor / Cannabis Control Boards –

Arandas Mexican Cuisine- 2nd class, tobacco, tobacco sub
Reynolds House-1st & 3rd Class, OSC Permit

Motion to approve the liquor license(s) as presented was moved by Councilor Deering, seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

Managers' Report

- Campbell parking lot is near completion
- The City was awarded the full 4.2 Million dollars grant to create housing in the now Wobby Park in the North End.
- Easement deed for Seminary St approved
- Auditors Sullivan & Powers service has been extended one more year, knowing RFP will go out for future audits.
- An inhouse program within Microsoft 360 will be the place for staff to access information on projects in progress and follow the progress..

New Business;

A. Cow Pasture Committee request to install plaque on bridge (Chris Russo-Frayser)

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A request from committee member Chris Russo-Frayer to have a plaque placed on the newly constructed bridge in the Cow Pasture, as a project comes to completion.

A motion to approve Committee request to install plaque on the new bridge in the Cow Pasture Committee was moved by Councilor Deering, seconded by Councilor Bergeron, approved.

B. Approve a donation from Brusa Trust to Capstone's Fuel Your Neighbors/Warmth Fund (Carol Dawes)

As the City has done in the past, Treasurer Carol Dawes asked to Council to approve providing funding to Capstones Fuel Your Neighbor's / Warmth Fund. The request was for the amount of \$5,000. The funding would come from the Brusa Trust dedicated for residents in need.

A motion to approve a donation from Brusa Trust to Capstone's Fuel Your Neighbors/Warmth Fund was moved by Councilor Gustin and seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

C. Voice of Vermont event space application and micro grant

Spokes person Shawna Trader came to the table to ask the Council to approve the event application to host a cookout in City Hall Park on Sunday, October 11th from 2pm-5pm sponsored by Voices from Vermont a Sacrificial Zone, waiving the require committee approval requirement, for approval of the grant (Funds approved by Council for resident to host community events to bring all walks of life together for a good cause.)

A motion to approve the event and grant funding, waiving the required committee approval for the grant funding was moved by Councilor Gustin, seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

D. Fire Engine #1 Engine Repair (Keith Cushman)

While on route to a training event the City's Engine #1 had an engine failure requiring the vehicle to be towed back to the City's garage for evaluation. Upon inspection from the city's mechanic, it was determined the engine could not be salvaged, leaving a few options. Knowing a new truck is due in a few years, the options on the table are replacing the motor, using an after-market motor or using a factory rebuilt motor. The second option was chosen and including a (2) year warranty the price will be \$32,000. The funding will come from the cancelled Rehab Gym membership the City has paid for the employees.

A motion to approve funding for the Engine 1 motor replacement was moved Councilor Spaulding, seconded by Councilor Gustin, approved.

E. Fire Alarm Replacement at the Barre City Hall - DuBois & King, Inc. proposal (Keith Cushman)

Chief Keith Cushman explained the need for improvement/updates to the aged fire alarm system within the Opera House and City Hall. This would include new panels, strobes and pull stations. Dubois & King have worked engineering for the system.

A motion to approve the Fire Alarm Replacement was moved by Councilor Gustin, seconded by Councilor Deering, approved.

F. Verkada Secure Access System (Larry Eastman)

Deputy Chief Larry Eastman outlined a centralized locking system to improve security and limit access for City properties. The system would have one command center with separate panels throughout the city. Employees would use FOBs for access and locking. Each fob would be programed individually based on access need to

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certain areas of the City. The cost to the city would be \$115,000 for equipment, and warranty. The funding would come from the departments savings for unfilled open positions.

A motion to approve the Verkada Secure Access System install was moved by Councilor Gustin, seconded by Councilor Deering, approved.

G. Paving Update and plan explainer (Brain Baker)

Camp Street construction is near paving and completion stage.

Seminary St will be ready for paving soon.

Warren St, Plain St and Seminary St should be completed by November.

Maple Ave is near completion.

Berlin St sewer and drain structure replacement is almost done.

Former City Manager Steve MacKenzie, applauded the aggressive street work over the past (3) years.

H. Wastewater Treatment Facility Headworks Upgrade Bid Analysis (Brian Baker)

The analysis bids came within range and recommended the manager to sign the contract to initiate the work due to be completed in the fall of 2027.

I. BOR Update

Reviewing the information from local professionals who donated their time and expertise, of the magnitude of the failed lines, some recommendations came, but with fingers crossed. The community professionals are willing to put in the time, if the City will put up the cost, to hopefully get the BOR rink up and running until a larger scale long-term fix could be implemented. The upcoming weekend will determine the outcome.

J. Flood Resiliency Update (Councilor Gustin)

The recent announcement that the City of Barre has been granted the remaining 4.2 million dollars to be applied to build and sustain current housing was gratefully welcomed. The City's plan to raise some North Main St properties to create green space and a place for water to rest during flooding events to replace higher level green space now intended to build (17) Townhouse style unit in the current Wobby Park.

Up Coming

Round Table

Councilor Hilgartner –

Neighborly Barre hosted (2) events. on Sept 30 (at the last Farmers Market) Donuts & Cider was a huge success. A Downtown Walking Tour with author Russel Belding on Oct 3rd was well attended and a great learning opportunity. She would also like to have “Meet your Councilor events”.

Councilor Routhier – Invited people to read the piece penned by Raylene Meunier.

Councilor Spaulding – Please vote for the school budget approved at Monday nights meeting.

Councilor Deering-Attended the Barre Town Fall Festival and enjoyed family time. The Parks & Rec committee could use more members to ensure quorums are met for all meetings. The meetings are the first Monday evening of the month.

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Councilor Gustin – Participated in the History Walk with Russell Belding, spent some time at the Social Club, went to Pearl St Pizza Beer Garden and had the best pretzel ever, and enjoyed the Cow pasture activities.

Councilor Bergeron – Wanted to give kudos to Recreation Director Michelle LaBarge-Burk for her hospitality during an open hoops event. Her sales approach and care is commendable.

.Executive Session – Legal & Personnel

Joined by City Manager Patrick Cushing

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

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

Video paused.

Motion to exit executive session moved by Councilor Spaulding, Seconded by Councilor Gustin, approved

Executive session ends.

Motion to adjourn moved by Councilor Hilgartner, seconded by Councilor Gustin, approved

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Next regular meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2026, at 6pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Metivier, City Clerk