

To be approved at the next Barre City Council Meeting

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council -Draft
Held May 19th, 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 6:02 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 City Manager Nicolas Storrellicastro, Clerk Cheryl Metivier

Adjustments to the Agenda – Add Donna Pulice to Cemetery Committee
Add Executive Session – personnel & union bargaining

Motion to approve of the agenda dated 5/19/2026 moved by Councilor Gustin, Seconded by Councilor Deering, approved.

2-a. The reading of Resolution #2026-06 In recognition of Deputy Chief Joe Aldsworth 19+ years of service to the city upon his retirement.

Visitors & Communications

Tess Taylor and Cathy Jamieson of the River Access Force invited Council and staff to a demonstration of river/water movement through rivers and channels. The display allows manipulation of water by changing scenarios and circumstances of the environment. The event will take place at the Vermont Granite Museum on Tuesday, May 26th at 4pm.

Bern Rose came to thank the Mayor, Thom Lauzon for running a fine campaign and offered her assistance in any capacity fit.

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes -CORRECTED

i. Meeting of 5/5/26

B. Clerk's Office Licenses & Permits-

- Amys Armoire-Fill-A-Bag Event- June 6th – 10am to 12pm
- Georges Dawgs-food truck

C. Approve HILP loan application

TIF Administrator Carol Dawes and the Manager requested approval of loan documents for the Stevens Branch Apartments bond. We are applying for funding through the recently enacted Housing Infrastructure Loan Program (HILP), through which we are getting very favorable rates. Part of the materials include approval of Resolution #2026-09.

D. Approve 2026-27 Local Emergency Management Plan

State law requires all municipal jurisdictions to review and update their Local Emergency

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Management Plan (LEMP) annually and to formally re-adopt them between Town Meeting Day and June 1st. Current LEMPs are also required for municipalities to receive federal preparedness funds and increased state reimbursement through the Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF).

E. Resolution #2026-07 Council Authorization for City Manager to sign the Stormwater Project Design/Engineering Grant Agreement

F. Resolution #2026-08 Council Authorization for City Manager to sign Turning Point Grant Agreement Planning Director Janet Shatney to execute grant agreements for Turning Point (for which Barre City is a pass-through) and our own stormwater planning CDBG-DR grant award.

G. Volunteer re-appointments – Cemeteries, Cow Pasture Stewardship, JEDIB, Neighborly Barre, TPW, and Unhoused Community Committees

- Cemeteries Committee: Starr LeCompte, Helen Long and Donna Pulice re-appointed to 2-year terms
 - Cow Pasture Stewardship Committee: Chris Russo-Fraysier and Emily Hoffman, re-appointed to 2-year terms
 - Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging Committee: William Toborg, Greg Quetel, Matt Mulligan and Carlos Pereira, re-appointed to 2-year terms expiring June 30, 2028
 - Neighborly Barre Committee: Ernie Drown, re-appointed to a 2-year term
 - Transportation & Public Works Committee: Ken Bauer, re-appointed to a 2-year term
 - Unhoused Community Committee: Kathi Partlow, Dan Barlow, and Beth Mueller, re-appointed to 2-year terms
- If approved by the City Council, all terms would end June 30, 2028.

H. Approval of Warranty Deed of Merger to combine the City's WWTF and Ice Rink properties into one parcel of land for the WWTF "headworks project"

The City's headworks upgrade at the Wastewater Treatment Facility will cross lot lines between the current facility and the lot where the North Barre Rink is located. We have been advised that the lots must be merged for the project. The packet includes a warranty deed to do just that.

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

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda for 05/19/2026 was moved by Councilor Spaulding, seconded by Councilor Bergeron, approved.

4-a. Approve City Warrants

- i. Approve week of 5/20/26
- ii. Ratify week of 5/13/26

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

City Clerk & Treasurer Report –

The elections went smoothly, and congratulations to all the winners. The Clerk's office is playing catch up on all the work set aside during the election May 12th, and the last quarter tax collection due May 15th.

Liquor/Cannabis Boards-

Cumberland Farms (North & South) 2nd Class Liquor / tobacco / tobacco sub

Gusto's- 1st Liquor / OSC

Meltdown- 1st Liquor / OSC

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

Managers' Report-

- DPW is working on water and sewer upgrades on Washington and Spaulding St and continued work on Camp St.
- The City wide appraisal preliminary value letters will be mailed on Friday, May 22nd.
- Thank you to voters for passing the budget and articles for the City to move forward.
- Paving projects are set to increase.

New Business;

New Business;

A. Organizational actions of new Council

i. Assign Councilor(s) to approve weekly warrants on non-meeting weeks

A motion to approve Mayor Lauzon to continue to approve weekly warrants was moved by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Deering, approved.

ii. Appoint Deputy Mayor

A motion to approve Councilor Deering to continue to the role of Deputy Mayor was moved by Councilor Spaulding, seconded by Councilor Gustin, approved.

B. 2nd Reading Warned 6:30PM: Ordinance #2026-02 Winter Parking Ban Ordinance Update

(6:45pm)

The final approval from the City Council to making changes in ordinance pilot and to make permanent our weather dependent winter parking ban. Once approved the ordinance would be in effect 14 days from Saturday, May 23rds publication.

The motion to approve to make permanent the weather dependent winter parking ban ordinance was moved by Councilor Gustin, seconded by Councilor Hilgartner, approved.

C. Volunteer appointment – Parks & Rec Committee

Eddie Rousse has applied for membership on the Parks & Rec Committee to be appointed to a currently vacant seat with a June 30, 2028, expiration.

A motion to approve Eddie Rousse's appointment to the Parks & Recs Committee was moved by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

D. Flood Resiliency Plan – Community Microgrants

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Councilor Gustin gave an update to the Council on the community microgrant program, which relates to a prior section of the plan related to community building opportunities. Looking for approval of funding for neighbors to host events within their neighborhoods. This project is meant to grow community connections.

With guidelines from the Parks & Recs committee and City staff Michelle Lebarge-Burke, applicants will be required and review in hopes the grants will be distributed evenly throughout the city wards and spaced out through to year. Each event receives \$250

A motion to approve the grant funding was moved by Councilor Deering, seconded by Councilor Hilgartner, approved.

E. City leadership transition planning

Dominic Cloud, the St Albans City Manager met with the Council to share information on the best practices in the search for a new city manager.

- Typically 3-5 month process
- Format brochures & advertisements
- Have predetermined questions
- Keep continuity
- Keeping confidentiality

The City is forming a search committee with a maximum of (7) members.

Motion to approve search Committee chaired by Councilor Gustin was moved by Councilor Deering, seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

Motion to approve contracting VLCT for recruitment services was made by Councilor Spaulding, seconded by Councilor Hilgartner, approved.

Up Coming

Mayor Lauzon – Hosting a meeting in the North End.
Memorial Day Parade May 25th.
Discussion of property forfeiture after drug busts.

Councilor Spaulding– Suggested that the JEDIB committee review ordinances prior to readings or approval

Councilor Gustin – Food Resiliency Plan review- additions and ideas

Round Table

Mayor Lauzon –.

Councilor Routhier – Appreciates the work the DPW is conducting on the streets.

Councilor Spaulding – Election went well and encourages greater participation in future elections.

Councilor Bergeron- Elections were successful. Thought the turnout was terrible.

Councilor Gustin- pass

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Councilor Hilgartner- Storm Drain mapping May 30th at 11am – Aldrich Library

Councilor Deering- Empty Bowl Project BCEMS cafeteria- Thursday, May 21st. Each bowl is \$10-\$12 dollars - all proceeds will go to local food shelf

Executive Session-Personnel – Bargaining Union

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 Spaulding, approved.

Entered executive session at 7:57pm

Motion to exit executive session moved by Councilor Bergeron, Seconded by Councilor Deering, approved

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Next regular meeting is scheduled for June 2nd, 2026, at 6pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Metivier, City Clerk