CITY OF BARRE
PUBLIC BODY MEETING MINUTES
(APPROVED)

Committee/board/task force: Transportation & Public Works Committee

Date of meeting: Thursday, 9/24/2026 at 4:30pm **Location of meeting**: City Hall Council Chamber

Members in attendance: Art Bombardier, Steve MacKenzie, Jayme Bauer, Brian Baker, Joanne Reynolds, Kenneth Bauer

Members absent: N/A

Others in attendance: CPL Frey, Sandy Perry, Bern Rose, Janelle Starr, City Counselor Beth Hilgartner

1) **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 4:37 pm

2) **Adjustments to the Agenda:** Add W. Patterson as a new item (6A).

3) **Public Comment:** Bern Rose stated that she lives on Allen Street, which was repaved and new sidewalk was installed, However, the other side of the street was not finished, and rain is eroding the soil, and the storm drain has collapsed. Soil and gravel are being washed into her yard and her neighbor's yard. Brian Baker said he was aware of the issue and added that the storm drain on Allen Street was one of forty that need to be replaced. Bern asked how the replacements were prioritized. Brian said it was on the list to be done. Bern asked if Allen Street could put at or near the top of the list, since residents were highlighting the issue to the City and added that the berm by the driveway hadn't been replaced.

   Sandy Parry said the storm and sewer pipes were replaced at her neighbor's house at 15 Palmisano Plaza and gravel was washing into the road there too.

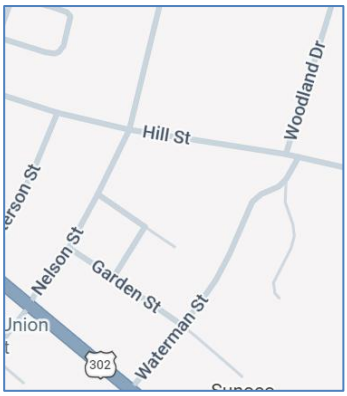
   Joanne Reynolds asked how the city could finish the road without a curb. Brian replied it is difficult to collect water without a curb and added that the storm drain and pipes need to be replaced for the system to work properly. Steve MacKenzie asked Brian if the city was still hoping to finish all the concrete work by the end of October. Brian hoped so. Steve then asked how projects were prioritized. Brian said it is a combination of easy ones and ones with more concerns, depending on staffing and time.

4) **Approval of Minutes:** Jayme Bauer was not able to complete the August minutes,

but will have them ready for the October meeting.

5) Continuing Agenda items:

a) Review of Status of Hill Street Traffic Study RFP:



Steve said that the Hill/Camp intersection warranted a professional assessment.

Joanne asked what the firm VHB provided to the city in 2025. Brian replied that VHB gave a generic power point on traffic calming options. Joanne asked if they looked into putting a 4-way stop sign at Hill Street and Camp Street. Brian said that VHB only assesses if one is warranted, Joanne responded that having two main streets connect could make a 4-way stop sign warranted, and added that many pedestrians have almost been hit at the intersection. Steve asked Brian if Jen from VHB could address the committee at the next meeting specifically about the Hill/Camp intersection.

Counselor Hilgartner said that there is an overall issue with the process. Traffic engineers assess whether traffic goes smoothly rather than pedestrian safety. She added that the city receives a lot of calls about the lack of pedestrian safety at Hill/Camp and that a 4-way stop sign would be a relatively inexpensive fix compared to narrowing the street, adding traffic tables, etc. Joanne said that residents feel unsafe at this intersection.

Steve asked if the city could stripe Hill Street when the paving is completed this year. Brian said that the city may have to hire a contractor to complete this because of staffing shortages. He added that the state would do the center lines.

Steve asked the Committee if they wanted to invite Jen from VHB to the next meeting before proceeding with the RFP. The recommendation was accepted by the committee. Bern had concerns about redundancy to have a study of Hill/Camp because a similar study was conducted in 2024 for the Prospect Street and Berlin Street intersection. Steve responded that while there are similarities in issues between the two locations, there are differences as well, and that in his judgement, a traffic study, or at least a review, by VHB is warranted if there is to be any meaningful progress to address the traffic and pedestrian safety issues on Hill Street.

b) Review Status of 131 Orange Street Draining/Erosion Issue Resolution

No updates.

c) Update on Ayers Street Paving Schedule

The city did not receive grant funds for the water main pipe work this year. The city will continue to pursue funding and schedule the paving in 2027.

d) Prospect/Berlin St Intersection- Implementation and Follow-up Status

Sandy wanted to know the true number of accidents at Prospect/Berlin; the state's numbers do not match what the Barre Police Department is reporting. She also asked about vegetation at a property on Berlin Street that is not being maintained and impedes visibility at the intersection. Brian sent letters to the property owner but there hasn't received a response. He added that the fence at the property was a zoning violation and will be submitted to the City for enforcement.

Brian said that reportable accidents data was used to design improvements to intersections. Sandy asked who determines what is reportable versus unreportable. Sgt. Frey replied that accidents that injured one or more persons and/or caused $3,000 or more in damage were reportable accidents. Sandy asked who determined the dollar figure for damages. Sgt. Frey replied that police officers estimated it.

Bern stated that residents were concerned about accidents regardless of being reportable. The standard should be based on safety.

Sandy said that the vegetation at the Berlin Street property made it difficult to see the intersection. Steve asked if trimming the vegetation could be added to the mowing contact. Brian did not think the logistics would work because the mowing contractor does not do trimming or pruning work for the city.

Counselor Hilgartner stated that City Council would consider that vegetation has not been removed by the city for two years when discussing potential solutions for pedestrian safety at Prospect/Berlin. Brian said he would have a crew clean it up in the next week.

Sandy asked if the city can not get a stop sign, if it could get intersection signs. Brian replied yes.

Sandy said that the city needs to prioritize improving the safety of the Prospect/Berlin intersection.

5. New Agenda Items: None

6. Public Works Report (Attached)

Brian provided the following updates, in addition to the attached monthly report:

- The city received additional funding of $1M from the state (total $2M), allowing the WWTF Headworks project to move forward in Fall 2026.
- West Patterson update. There was a geotechnical assessment after the flooding and mitigations required to prevent erosion will cost between $250K - $500K. Counselor Hilgartne wondered if leaving West Patterson closed and creating a walk path would be a better solution.

Brian added that he has been working with City Council and needs approval in fall 2026 for Spring 2027 paving projects.

7. Round Table: None

Action items (use additional sheets as necessary)

1) Motion: Ask Jen of VHB to assess the Hill Street and Camp Street intersection and provide her findings and options to make the intersection safer for pedestrians at the October 2026 meeting.

Mover/Seconder: The motion was moved by Joanne Reynold and seconded by Art Bombardier

Result of vote (how many yes, how many no, pass, didn't pass): It passed unanimously (5-0),

2) Motion: Recommend that City Council approve installing a 4-way stop sign at the intersection of Prospect Street and Berlin Street, as well as any associated signage, based on the study the city has already conducted.

Mover/Seconder: Joanne Reynolds made the motion and Jayme Bauer seconded it.

Result of vote: It passed 4-1. Art Bombardier voted against the motion.

Note: Joanne will draft the motion and submit it to Steve.

3) Motion: Recommend that City Council approve paving plan in Fall 2026 for Spring 2027 implementation, prioritizing paving Ayers Street.

Mover/Seconder: Joanne Reynolds made and motion and Kenneth Bauer seconded it.

Result of Vote: Passed unanimously (5-0)

Meeting adjourned: 6:30pm

Mover/Seconder: Not recorded

Next meeting date/time/location (if known): City Council Chamber; 4:30 pm, Thursday, October 22, 2026.

Person filing Minutes:

Jayme Bauer