

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, October 28, 2025 6:00pm
Zoom Meeting ID: 889 8252 5535 Passcode: 675736
One tap mobile 929-205-6099

Page	Agenda Item
	1. Call to Order – 6:00PM
	2. Adjustments to the Agenda
	3. Visitors & Communications
	4. Consent Agenda
4	A. Approval of Minutes
	i. Meeting of 10/21/25
9	B. Clerk’s Office Licenses & Permits
	C. Place Good Beginnings on the 2026 Town Meeting Day ballot for \$1,000 in voter-approved assistance
	D. Authorize the Manager to execute contract(s)
	4-a. Approve City Warrants
	i. Approve week of 10/29/25
	5. City Clerk Report
	6. Liquor/Cannabis Control Boards
	7. City Manager’s Report
	8. New Business
19	A. Public Informational Hearing warned for 6:15PM: Special Election November 4, 2025
	B. Situation Table briefing
	C. Good Samaritan Haven update
20	D. Flood Resiliency Plan – Adopt a storm drain program (Gustin)
	E. Discuss Neighborly Barre Committee proposal (Spaulding/Hilgartner)
	9. Upcoming Business
	10. Round Table
	11. Executive Session – as needed
	12. Adjournment

Ground Rules for Interaction with each other, staff, and the general public

- Rules may be reviewed periodically
- Practice mutual respect
 - Assume good intent and explain impact
 - Ask clarifying questions
 - If off course, interrupt and redirect
- Think, then A.C.T.
 - Alternatives – Identify all choices
 - Consequences – Project outcomes
 - Tell your story – Prepare your defense
- Ethics checks
 - Is it legal?
 - Is it in scope (Charter, ordinance, policy)?
 - Is it balanced?
- “ELMO” – Enough, Let’s Move On
 - Honor time limits
 - Be attentive, not repetitive
- Be open-minded to different solutions or ideas
 - Remarks must be relevant and appropriate to the discussion; stay on subject
 - Don’t leave with “silent disagreement”
 - Decisions agreed on by consensus when possible, majority when necessary
 - All decisions of Council are final
- No blame
 - Articulate expectations of each other
 - We all deeply care about the City in our own way
 - Debate issues, not personalities
- Electronics
 - No texting, email, or videogames during the meeting



City of Barre, Vermont

6 N. Main St., Suite 2
Barre, VT 05641
www.barrecity.org

R. Nicolas Storellicastro
City Manager
(802) 476-0240
citymanager@barrecity.org

MEMO

TO: City Council
FROM: The Manager
DATE: October 24, 2025
SUBJECT: Packet Memo re: 10/28/2025 Council Meeting Agenda Items

The following notes apply to packet support materials for the Subject Council Meeting Agenda.

Adjustments to the Agenda

Due to a scheduling misunderstanding, I will request that the Council remove item “**8(C): Good Samaritan Haven update**” from the agenda. This will be rescheduled for an upcoming Council meeting.

4(C) Authorize the Manager to execute contract(s)

There are no contracts for approval.

8(B) Situation Table briefing

This fall, Barre City and surrounding communities began to implement the “Situation Table,” an innovative public safety response model that coordinates responses to residents who might be in need of multiple social services. Tess Taylor is chair of the local Situation Table, and she will be joined by Scott Allen and Mike Botieri who have championed this model across the State in partnership with the Department of Public Safety. I encourage you to review the following news stories about use of this model in Vermont for context about the program.

- [WCAX report](#)
- [Vermont Public story](#)
- [WPTZ report](#)

8(D) Flood Resiliency Plan – Adopt a Storm Drain Program

There is no memo in the packet, but Councilor Gustin and I will lead a discussion about this innovative program and the potential to implement it in Barre. Councilors may review more about the [program at this site](#).

8(E) Discuss Neighborly Barre Committee proposal

This item was placed on the agenda at the request of Councilors Spaulding and Hilgartner. Staff was not involved in developing the proposal and will be reviewing it ahead of the Council meeting. We will provide staff feedback at the meeting.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, October 21st, 2025, 6:00pm
IN PERSON LOCATION: Council Chambers, City Hall
6 N. Main St., Barre, VT

Item 1. Call to Order; 6:00 PM

Item 2. Adjustments to Agenda; Add;

Add conversation to clarify communication response to public or between council members.

Discuss the memorial bench set in the Barre City Dog Park, the caretaking or relocation.

Motion to approve the agenda dated October 21st, 2025, moved by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Hilgartner, approved by all.

Item 3. Visitors & Communications;

Peter Anthony thanked and praised the street staff and supervisory staff for the extraordinary amount of street, sewer and water upgrades done though the paving and repair season.

Bern Rose also commented with a positive and appreciative message following the same subject.

Molly Gleason presented a plea to Council to have the non-profit added back to the list of community funding that fell to the wayside last year due to staffing changes and missed deadlines. The Council has requested she present support documents for a council meeting presentation in the near future.

Item 4.Consent Agenda;

A. Approval of Minutes- 9/30/25

B. Licenses & Permits;

Event; Veterans Day Parade- November 11th, at 10am- beginning at the BOR/ending at City Hall Park. Speakers will be present on behalf of the Veterans, Elks and Community Leader at the parades end.

C. Accept the resignation of Mark Martin from the Cow Pasture Committee

D. Authorize the Manager to execute contract(s)

- Ice re-surfacer: \$121,957.77 to be funded from the Capital Improvement Plan (\$89,301 budgeted) and a private sponsorship donation (\$40,000).

- SCBA: \$283,925.68 to be funded from the Capital Improvement Plan (\$284,000 budgeted).

- PSB HVAC Roof Top Units: \$45,700 to be funded from the Capital Improvement Plan (\$48,000 budgeted).

Motion to authorize the approval of the Consent Agenda dated 10/21/2025 moved by Councilor Bergeron, Seconded by Councilor Deering, approved by all.

Item 4a. Approve City Warrants;

Approve City Warrants;

- i. Approve week of 10/22/25
- ii. Ratify week of 10/8/25 and 10/15/25

*Motion to approve City Warrants moved by Councilor Hilgartner, seconded by Councilor Deering, approved. Approved * Councilor Spaulding abstained.*

Item 5. City Clerk Report;

Absentee ballots for the City Bond vote and the CVCC bond are still available on request. If you have not yet requested an absentee ballot you may contact the Clerk's office for them.

A BCA (Board of Civil Authority) is holding a pre-election meeting on Thursday, October 30th at 6pm in Council Chambers at City Hall. If you are curious about the behind the scenes work to hold an election, come and sit in on the discussion.

Item 6.Liquor / Cannabis Control Boards;

Tally's 1st & 3rd Class liquor license

Gusto's 3rd Class liquor license

Reynolds House 3rd Class

Motion to approve Liquor/Cannabis licensures moved by Councilor Deering, seconded by Councilor Bergeron, approved by all. Liquor & Cannabis Board closes at 6:15pm

Item 7.City Managers Report;

Security cameras are currently being installed on the exterior and interior of City Hall. (2) of (4) exterior cameras are completed with (2) additional due for installation on utility poles at strategic locations in the City.

Expecting the first ice event at the BOR on November 1st.

The Coyotes basketball season has started, bringing in good crowds and income potential to area businesses and the City of Barre.

The Fire department's engine no. 3 and ambulance no. 2 are here to replace the older models which will be/have been sold or used for trade in value and will be repurposed in other communities.

Item 8.New Business;

New Business;

A. Volunteer appointment – Parks & Rec Committee

Rhodelene Premont of Barre City was unanimously approved for a seat on the Parks & Rec Committee. She is eager to restart volunteering again with the community. Mrs. Premont has

agreed to the Council's recommendation appointment that would run through June 30, 2027. With her appointment the committee now has a quorum.

A motion to approve the appointment of Rhodelene Premont to the Parks & Rec committee was moved by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Deering, approved.

B. Approval to consolidate St. Monica's Cemetery perpetual care funds with Cemetery General perpetual care funds

City Treasurer, Carol Dawes explained the benefits of combining the funds, giving the City more investment return to be applied toward necessary maintenance and repairs for all cemeteries in the City.

A motion to approve to consolidate St. Monica's Cemetery perpetual care funds with Cemetery General perpetual care funds was moved by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Deering, approved.

C. Approval to allocate Russell Bequeath Fund for ongoing Hope Cemetery maintenance and repairs

City Treasurer, Carol Dawes presented an outline of the funds bequeathed to the City by Richard Russell to be used for cleaning and maintaining the monuments in Hope Cemetery. This allocation would allow the Facilities Director to use the funding, honoring the spirit of Mr. Russell's request, and to avoid the repetitive Council approval.

A motion to allocate Russell Bequeath Fund for ongoing Hope Cemetery maintenance and repairs was moved by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

D. Authorize request for technical correction of water transmission CDS grant award

The Manager and PW Director Brian Baker explain the origin of the grant funds and the need to shift the use to upgrades in the Wastewater Treatment plant. The shift of use would be allowed upon submission of a request letter and approval by the EPA. Other communities have gone this route when project priorities and funding shifts toward more pressing matters.

A motion to authorize the request for technical correction of water transmission CDS grant award with submission of a letter was moved by Councilor Gustin, seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

E. Nominate representative for bike share pilot program steering committee

In June 2024, the City Council agreed to pledge \$10,000 towards a regional bike share pilot program. CVRPC has reached out to request that Barre City nominate a representative to the project steering committee. Though an able nominee has not been identified, a representative for consideration after soliciting input from members of the community, the Manager asks, with intent to find a person who checks all the boxes and maybe has already been vetted for another committee, can move forward in appointment knowing the Council will have the final say.

F. Flood Resiliency Plan update (Gustin)

The Manager had a power point ready to deliver the message, vacant or abandoned homes or buildings would face penalties unless steps were taken to improve or occupy safely for increased housing opportunities. The Council supported the need to hold property owners accountable for the state of the structures on their lots. Moving forward, the Code Enforcement Team (CET) including the Fire Marshal and other officials will take action to resolve the increasing dilapidated or vacant buildings.

Item 9. Upcoming Business;

Mayor Lauzon;

Round #2 for GR grants are approaching.

Bond Vote op-ed will be frequent up until Nov 4th election.

Item 10. Round Table;

Mayor Lauzon;

Patriots are back.

Local sports play offs are coming up – Good luck to all!

Extra Mile Day – Nov 1st – thank someone you think has taken those extra measures to do better or make others better.

Councilor Deering;

It's busy up on "The Hill";

Unspoken concert was enjoyed

The Coyotes basketball game was fun to watch-has brought some new features to the Aud

Councilor Hilgartner;

Councilor Gustin;

Amber Terway local entrepreneur-Tilli Tea Co. is growing her own tea and marketing locally

Councilor Spaulding;

Webinar- Bond informational forum- Aldrich Library-Oct 29th 5pm

The City Manager & TIF Administrator Carol Dawes will be outlining and answering questions for the City Bonds.

Jodi Emerson will be outlining and answering questions for the CVCC Bonds.

Councilor Bergeron –

Recognizing the passing of Former FD Chief Peter John.

Councilor Routhier

Item 11 Executive Session – n/a

Item 12 Adjournment;

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

Adjourned at 7:50 pm

Next regular meeting is scheduled for October 28th, 2025, at 6pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Metivier, City Clerk



October 3, 2025

Dear Barre City Council Members:

On behalf of Good Beginnings of Central Vermont, I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the support of Barre City residents, whose votes over the years have made it possible for hundreds of Barre parents and their babies to receive hands-on help, companionship, and connection during this often isolating time. Last year alone, 54 families in Barre City received support through our Postpartum Angel home visiting program, parenting education workshops, and a new weekly Baby & Caregiver Meetup at the Barre Congregational Church (at the Aldrich Library this year). The commitment of Barre residents has sustained us as a longstanding recipient of the city's appropriation, ensuring that parents and caregivers have someone to turn to during one of life's most significant transitions.

I am writing this year with a request that I recognize requires special consideration by the City Council. We are requesting an exception to the petition requirement that would allow Good Beginnings of Central Vermont to remain on the Town Meeting ballot for FY26. Unfortunately, due to an oversight during a leadership transition, our prior Executive Director missed last year's application deadline, which triggered the petition requirement. Despite investing nearly \$500 in staff time and volunteer hours gathering signatures in Barre City, we are far short of the required number.

Our appropriation request of \$1,000 has remained consistent for many years, even as wages and costs have risen. As a small, community-based organization, we rely on town appropriations as one of our only reliable, steady funding sources outside of the donations from our generous annual donors. This stability allows us to plan ahead and ensure families can continue to count on our programs year after year.

We hope you will consider granting an exception this year. If that is not possible, could a question be added to the ballot asking voters whether Good Beginnings should be reinstated on the ballot for FY27?

I have attached a flyer with quotes and testimonials that we posted in several Barre businesses to share how much this support means to families in our local communities.

With gratitude,

Molly Gleason
Executive Director

CITY OF BARRE

OUTSIDE ORGANIZATION FUNDING POLICY & PROCEDURE

PURPOSES:

Pursuant to section 307 of the Barre City Charter, the Council establishes this policy to:

- Establish a fair, consistent, and predictable process for consideration by the City Manager, Council and voters of outside organization funding requests from the City's general fund budget;
- Manage the upward pressure on the tax rate; and
- Allow for electronic petition signatures during a state of emergency to protect public health, if authorized by law.

PERSONS AFFECTED:

- Outside organizations advancing a public interest (including but are not limited to health and welfare, cultural development, economic development, and social services);
- Beneficiaries of outside organizations;
- City staff;
- City Council; and
- City Clerk & Treasurer

APPLICATION

- Effective July 1, 2021.
- This Policy applies to all outside organizations with tax exempt status legally incorporated with the State of Vermont seeking a general fund appropriation from the City of Barre voters.
- This Policy does not apply to organizations receiving a direct allocation from the Manager's Council-approved, General Fund budget, which may be included in the Manager's budget as dues, taxes, or direct funding.

POLICY & PROCEDURE

1. In accordance with the timeline of Section 406 of the City Charter, the City Manager must recommend a budget amount for outside organization funding based on a comprehensive review of needs and tax rate priorities.
2. Not later than 90 calendar days prior to the annual meeting, the City Manager (or designee) will notify outside organizations that have duly petitioned for funding in the past and were allocated funding in the prior fiscal year to remind said organizations to submit level-funding requests for the next fiscal year within 30 calendar days. All such funding requests must be submitted on a standard form created and maintained by the City Manager (or designee) to obtain necessary information for review and include the following: 1) the most recently completed year-end balance sheet, and budget-to-actual revenues and expenditures (profit & loss report); 2) the most recent 990 or equivalent; 3) list of current board members and 4) copy of IRS determination letter.
3. The City Council will meet to review the prior year's organizational report and funding requests, and determine outside organization funding amounts within the Manager's recommended budget, not to exceed the prior year's budget, based on the following priorities:
 - a. Is the application complete?
 - b. Does the organization have a long-term and sustained funding relationship and demonstrate successful outcomes?

- c. Does the organization provide necessary and direct service(s) to residents of the City that focuses on a population or service area with a demonstrated need for, or lack of, a specific service?
- d. Is the organization located within the city and/or provide substantial services to residents of the city?
4. The City Manager (or designee) must notify outside organizations of City Council's funding determinations to the contact of record provided on the request form in writing within 5 days of the meeting.
5. Funding endorsed by City Council shall be bundled and placed on the ballot for voter consideration as a single article.
6. Outside organizations whose funding was reduced or eliminated by Council from the prior year's voter-approved amount may file a written appeal within 5 calendar days of the decision to the City Clerk to be placed on the ballot to maintain the prior year's funding amount as a separate article on the annual meeting ballot for consideration by the voters. The City Clerk shall grant all appeals.
7. Outside organizations that did not receive funding from the City in the prior year's budget shall be considered new requests (even if previously funded in other years) and be required to petition their request for inclusion on the annual meeting ballot. Such requests will appear as a separate article on the annual meeting ballot for consideration by the voters.
8. Outside organizations that request an increase in funding from the prior year's approved budget are required to duly petition their request for inclusion on the annual meeting ballot. Such requests will appear as a separate article on the annual meeting ballot for consideration by the voters.
9. Outside organizations required to petition for inclusion on the annual meeting ballot must submit a petition in accordance with Vermont Statutes Annotated 17 VSA §2642(a) and Barre City Charter, and such petition must be signed by at least 10% of the City's registered voters. This petition must state the exact question to be included on the ballot in accordance with this policy not less than 47 days before the day of the Annual Meeting.
10. Notwithstanding other provisions of this policy, petitions in form and content approved by the City Clerk containing electronic or digital signatures of duly registered voters of the City will be accepted during a declared state of emergency when necessary to protect public health, if authorized by general law.
11. Any organization receiving funding from the City must submit a report for the City's Annual Report not to exceed one page in order to receive notice under paragraph 2 of this policy and be eligible for consideration in the Manager's recommended budget. This report must be for the organization's most recent fiscal year in which the voter-approved support was received. The report must be submitted to the City Manager's Office (or designee) by September 1st following the end of the fiscal year.
12. For questions concerning requests to be placed on the Annual (Town) Meeting ballot, please contact the City Manager (or designee).

REFERENCE

- Adopted by City Council on February 14, 2006.
- Revised and adopted by City Council on July 22, 2008.
- Revised and adopted by City Council on August 2, 2011
- Revised and adopted by City Council on June 6, 2017
- Revised and adopted by City Council on October 3, 2017

Revised and adopted this 27th day of October to be effective 1st day of July 2021, as certified by the City Clerk

City of Barre, Vermont
6 N. Main Street, City Hall
Barre, Vermont 05641

Application for Funding Request

To accompany letter or petition requesting placement on Annual (Town) Meeting Ballot

FY25 (July 2025 – June 2026)

Deadline for submission: 4:30 pm, January 2, 2025

*****PLEASE SUBMIT APPLICATIONS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS
ELECTRONICALLY VIA EMAIL TO clerk@barrecity.org**

Applicant / Organization Name: Good Beginnings of Central Vermont

Mailing Address; 174 River Street, Montpelier, VT 05602

Website: www.goodbeginningscentralvt.org Fiscal Year Dates July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

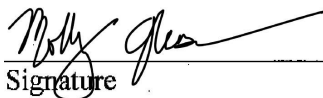
Amount requested \$ 1,000 (level)

Primary Contact Person Molly Gleason Title Executive Director

Phone: () 802-595-7953 E-

Mail: director@goodbeginningscentralvt.org

This application must be signed by the Executive Director, President of the Board, or primary contact person listed above.


Signature

Executive Director

Title

Molly Gleason

Print name

10/22/25

Date

1. Provide a brief description of your work and the program for which you are requesting funding.
Explain your organization's activities

Through our Postpartum Angel & Family Support Program, Good Beginnings provides respite, companionship, and connections to community resources to families during pregnancy and through the postpartum months. Our Program Director matches families with a trained volunteer from within their community who visits parents in their home once a week for up to 12 weeks. Any Central Vermont family with a new baby is eligible and support is provided to all families for free regardless of income or circumstance. We also provide Baby & Caregiver Meetups throughout Central Vermont (one is in Barre City), educational workshops, baby carriers and babywearing support, emergency financial assistance for families in crisis, and a drop-in space at our office and Kellogg-Hubbard Library called the "Nest" for families to change a diaper, feed their baby or connect with our Program Director for additional support and resources.

2. If approved, how will you use the money you are requesting? Is it for general operating expenses or for a particular program or project? Please provide an organization, program or project budget that a layperson can understand

Funding from Barre City will directly support the program activities outlined above. Specifically, our Program Director's time spent recruiting, training, and matching volunteers with families, family intake, case management, Journey Into Parenthood classes and other parent education workshops.

Total Program Budget: \$83,390

Personnel (two part-time staff): \$70,000 Program Director's time noted above and our Communication Director's time spent designing and distributing program materials, updating the website, and creating and managing newsletters and social media for the program.

Baby & Caregiver Meetup Facilitators: \$2,000

Advertising & Promotion (materials): \$100

Family Emergency Fund: \$2,500

Rent/Operating Expenses to Support the Program: \$7,450

Food & Refreshments for Workshops: \$240

Family & Volunteer Management Software: \$1,100

3. What geographic area does your organization or program serve?

All of Washington County and parts of Lamoille and Orange counties

4. What are the unduplicated numbers of people served by your organization or program during your most recent fiscal year?

In FY25, we served a total of 1,037 unduplicated individuals. We served 54 unduplicated individuals in Barre City.

Your Support in Action

"I didn't realize how challenging my postpartum time would be and how much support I would need. Good Beginnings has been such a wonderful resource. Kim was awesome - her texts and calls of support really made a difference."

"As a young, first-time mom with no family nearby and a very small support system, I found myself looking forward to the Good Beginnings mom group. Staying home full time with my baby while also navigating college classes was challenging, and it was a real comfort knowing I had a safe and always welcoming place for both my baby and me to spend time."

"The carrier lending library is a fabulous resource! I've used it with both my babies and I am so grateful to good beginnings for offering this service. With my first, I was able to learn more about safe baby wearing and try carriers that worked for myself and baby. With the second baby I was able to borrow different style carriers to figure out what she liked best and then make an informed purchase. I was surprised to find there were also toddler carriers that I was also able to learn about and try so I could continue to wear my older child. I continually recommend this resource to new parents."

What Your Support Makes Possible

“As a dad trying to navigate this crazy new world called parenthood, having a welcoming group of others either going through the same thing, or already having been through it and willing to be guides has been a literal life saver. I have found and made lasting friendships that are some of the only reasons we've been able to remain in Vermont. These groups might be the only supportive interaction some caregivers get in these first few precious (and highly stressful) months of our children's lives. I can say without a doubt in my mind, that the help I've gotten stemming directly from these groups has made both me a better parent, and created an environment where my son has a much better chance to flourish. In my opinion these groups should be available to every caretaker everywhere. Thanks for getting us through the hard times.”

“Bringing my grandson to the Barre baby/caregiver meetups is the highlight of our week. Not only does he get to interact with other babies and caregivers, but I learn about all of the community resources available to us. Other caregivers have such great advice and suggestions!”

**Quotes listed anonymously to protect privacy.*

Real Stories. Real Impact.

"I visited Good Beginnings after two major abdominal surgeries disrupted my ability to wear my 8 month old in our carriers of choice. Jessica helped me identify two carriers without waistbands that were compatible with baby wearing with an ostomy. This made it possible for me to keep my baby close and reconnect after multiple weeks of separation during my surgeries and recovery. I cannot thank Good Beginnings enough for their creative problem-solving and support through all phases of early parenthood - both planned and unplanned."

"Our angel was quickly part of our weekly routine and my toddler loved her visits. She had a great calming energy & she perfectly divided her time playing blocks with my two year old and helping with household tasks. This program should be replicated everywhere! I'm not in a season right now where I can be giving much time but I can't wait for when I am and I can volunteer."

"As a single parent, babywearing was a game changer for me, and something I credit with helping me and my baby having a really strong bond and being able to grow very attuned to her needs."

Your Impact, in Their Own Words

"I didn't realize how challenging my postpartum time would be and how much support I would need. I'm so glad I found you guys! My Postpartum Angel really helped me. We talked about nutrition, breastfeeding, really anything. I felt comfortable bringing things up with her that I didn't always feel comfortable bringing up with family. It was really amazing to have an advocate cheering me along and checking in regularly."

"If it weren't for my Postpartum Angel I wouldn't have known that postpartum anxiety was a thing. I thought it was just normal new-mom nervousness. But I actually wasn't sleeping. So I ended up calling my doctor."

"The Montpelier Baby & Caregiver Meetup has been foundational to my connections and confidence as a parent and to my daughter's friendships and relationships since she was a newborn. It's the most local, inclusive, supportive, and baby-centric group I could find and I made an effort to go every week, even/especially on hard early parenting days, and I have recommended it to every parent and caregiver I've crossed paths with since. I look forward to going again with my second baby and can't wait to grow our community network even further. Thank you Good Beginnings for ALL of your offerings!"

Why Your Support Matters

"The Good Beginnings Baby & Caregiver Meetups are one of the most significant assets in this community that my family has found as we've been adapting to life with a new baby. There are very few events here that are friendly for caregivers of newborns and babies, and having somewhere I know I can go every week to learn from other parents and share my experiences has been a life saver.

As a stay-at-home parent who recently moved to the area, these meetups are one of the few ways that I have to meet people and talk to another adult during the day. Simply put, going to these meetups has been the biggest thing keeping me sane as a new parent. The benefit to my child of having a less stressed parent should not need to be expanded upon. And now that my baby is growing older but is still too young to attend events that cater to toddlers, the Good Beginnings caregiver meetups are the main opportunity my child has for socializing and learning how to play with other children.

I would also like to add that Good Beginnings has done an excellent job preparing the event coordinators, as they are always incredibly welcoming and help foster introductions to other parents and create community."

OFFICIAL BALLOT
CITY OF BARRE SPECIAL MEETING ELECTION
CITY OF BARRE, VERMONT
NOVEMBER 4, 2025

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

1. TO VOTE FOR an article, mark the "yes" box with a check mark or X.
2. TO VOTE AGAINST an article, mark the "no" box with a check mark or X.
3. If you tear or deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it and get another.

ARTICLE I

Shall bonds or notes of the City of Barre in an amount not to exceed **Two Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,400,000)**, subject to reduction from available state and/or federal grants-in-aid, appropriations and reserve funds, be issued for the purpose of financing Tax Increment Finance District infrastructure improvements that will support the development of Stevens Branch Apartments, the aggregate cost of such improvements estimated to be **Two Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,400,000)**, and for the payment thereof pledge the credit of the City, in particular the revenues generated from the Tax Increment Financing District?

Voters are hereby notified that the above total includes up to Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) in related costs to be reimbursed by the tax increment finance district, that the total amount of previously approved Tax Increment Financing District debt is \$2,200,000, and if the increment received by the City from any property tax source received by the City is insufficient to pay debt service on the indebtedness identified above, in any year for whatever reason, including a decrease in property value or repeal of a state property tax source, unless determined otherwise at the time of such repeal, the City shall remain liable for such debt service for the term of such indebtedness.

☐ Yes

☐ No

ARTICLE II

Shall bonds or notes of the City of Barre in an amount not to exceed **Three Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,300,000)**, subject to reduction from available state and/or federal grants-in-aid, appropriations and reserve funds, be issued for the purpose of financing the cost of renovating the Public Works Campus at 277 Morrison Road, the aggregate cost of such improvements estimated to be **Three Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,300,000)**?

☐ Yes

☐ No



City of Barre, Vermont

“Granite Center of the World”

ACTION ITEM BRIEFING MEMO **CITY COUNCIL AGENDA: 10/28/25**

Agenda Item No. 8 - E

AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION: Authorize creation of Neighborly Barre Committee

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT/PERSON: Councilor Hilgartner and Councilor Spaulding

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Neighborly Barre Initiative was presented to City Council on June 17th and included Neighbor Patrollers, Neighborly Neighbors, Fixed Resource People, Friendship Bench Volunteers, Neighborly Barre Educators and Friendly Neighbors (see attached for original proposal).

Councilor Hilgartner and Councilor Spaulding had a strategy meeting to brainstorm ways to move forward with the central *concept* of the BNI — that community issues are collective issues and respond best to collaborative approaches, while supporting downtown businesses, getting more people engaged and making Barre a welcoming, neighborly place for everyone. Based on the revised idea of the Neighborly Barre Initiative, we are asking the Council to appoint and charge a Neighborly Barre Committee, which will generate ideas and enthusiasm for volunteer-driven efforts to create community, build connections and engagement among residents, and boost simple projects (like picking litter, or "adopting" a bus stop) to beautify and care for our physical spaces. The Committee's role will be to generate ideas that provide opportunities for folks of all ages to come together to model the type of community we want to be; to collaborate with other organizations or committees (eg. the Barre Partnership, the River Access people, etc.) when projects overlap; and to encourage resident engagement in the City, its people, and its businesses and organizations.

We have a few people who are willing to serve on the committee, including Joanne Reynolds, Marjorie Strong, Ernie Drown and Tracie Lewis. Beth Hilgartner would like to serve as the council liason.

Some of the ideas for projects include "adopt a bus stop" (a small team of volunteers who find ways to make bus stops clean, comfortable, welcoming, and pretty); potluck in the park (a chance for neighbors to gather and share fellowship); cider/baked goods give aways using food prepared and served by school kids; collaborating with downtown businesses and the Barre Partnership to craft a "pay it forward" model that provides a safe mechanism for neighbors to help others with immediate small needs; facilitating the formation of litter pick up groups, walking groups, etc. that bring people together and into our downtown; chalk art and other temporary/seasonal beautification efforts. There are, of course, many other possibilities.

EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING SOURCE: NONE

ATTACHMENT: Original proposal from June 17, 2025

RECOMMENDED ACTION/MOTION:

Move to approve the creation of a new committee, the Neighborly Barre Committee, with the charge to beautify, build connections and create community in Barre City.

Agenda Item #8-F

June 17, 2025

Submitted and Proposed by Councilor Hilgartner

Neighborly Barre Initiative (NBI)

Overview: The Neighborly Barre Initiative seeks to establish a coordinated response to a community-wide problem that manifests in how we interact with one another. It is not an ordinance and is not intended to be "enforceable;" its purpose is to offer a non-legalistic approach — one that stresses changing everyone's attitudes and behaviors, rather than targeting a specific group of "troublemakers" to control and punish. While it is clear, from the number of people who spoke against the ordinance at the May 20th Council meeting, that many residents are uncomfortable with the proposed ordinance, it seems there are also business owners and residents who believe a firm, legalistic response to the problems Barre faces is necessary. While we may need some kind of legal tool to enforce community standards of behavior, the more successful the Neighborly Barre Initiative is — at both supporting the people who need help and building community spirit and connection among the people who volunteer — the less necessary the ordinance will become. Recognizing that **all** people residing in Barre, including marginalized and unhoused individuals, are our neighbors; and **all** our neighbors deserve to be treated with respect are the foundational assumptions of the Neighborly Barre Initiative. Coordinating, educating, training, commissioning, and empowering NBI volunteers, as well as by funding and supervising the Neighbor Patrollers, will foster a climate of respect and forbearance that will help to make Barre safe and a good place for residents, business owners, and visitors alike.

In addition to the Barre Police Department's role in the Neighbor Patrollers (see below), the City will need to provide a Coordinator to oversee training of community volunteers, organize community education events, fundraise (grants and charitable giving), keep Council apprised of progress, and facilitate good communication and cooperation between and among the various elements of the Initiative, including the private sector efforts (Barre Up, People's Health and Wellness, Good Samaritan Haven, Rainbow Bridge Community Center, downtown churches, the Aldrich Library, etc.), who are already doing remarkable work on behalf of our citizens. Naturally, the specifics of this position still need to be worked out.

While it will be feasible to enlist volunteers for most of the roles, the Neighbor Patrollers will need more public safety training and supervision than can reasonably be expected of a purely volunteer operation; perhaps a model similar to the Barre Bees, staffed by interns from public safety programs or the Police Academy, and supervised by our very capable Police Department would be workable. The specifics

(like the specifics of recruiting volunteers and locating charitable donors for the Friendship Bench Volunteers piece) need to be discussed and worked out.

There are many helping efforts already underway in Barre, both private and public. I would be remiss in not underscoring the valuable work Tess Taylor already does for the City, as well as the heroic efforts of the many local organizations that provide services to our community members. The NBI Coordinator will be in regular communication with these groups, to explore ways the NBI efforts can dovetail with and strengthen their missions and support their volunteers. Some groups are already engaged in or exploring efforts that have specific relevance to the NBI. The Aldrich Public Library has begun a program called Community Partners, which gives space to helping organizations like Turning Point, so that library patrons can find the information and help they need in an easily accessible way; Barre Area Development Corporation is exploring the possibility of offering some training and education to business owners and managers, so they will have more tools for constructive engagement with all their customers. Other ideas and projects will surface as the NBI gains more exposure and people start to consider specifics of how they might participate in the Initiative.

NBI participants fall into six main categories; the Neighbor Patrollers will not be volunteers. (Specifics of how volunteers are recruited and trained is yet to be decided.)

1. **Neighbor Patrollers (NP)** – these are interns trained in de-escalation and conflict resolution techniques, emergency first aid (including Narcan administration), and who have a working knowledge of emergency resources available for situations that arise on a regular basis. They will be supervised by Barre City Police, especially the Social Worker on staff. Duty schedules and "beats" will be targeted to daylight/early evening hours, when more people tend to be out and about, and NPs will travel in pairs — on foot, or on bicycles, depending on the area to be covered; we will not try to provide 24/7 coverage. Members of the NP will wear something visually identifying (vest, large pin or nametag, etc.), so they will be instantly recognizable. It may be helpful or necessary for the NPs to carry police radios, so they can coordinate with Dispatch in the event of a situation that requires police intervention or emergency services.
2. **Neighborly Neighbors (NN)** – these are volunteers, trained in de-escalation and conflict resolution techniques, who make themselves available on an as-needed basis to resolve or avert potentially problematic interactions. For example, if a Neighborly Neighbor were to see a panhandler approaching a youngster who had just visited an ATM, the NN might intervene to make sure the youngster didn't feel pressured, and that the panhandler understood that pushing his or her request beyond a simple ask is un-neighborly and discouraged.

3. **Fixed Resource People** – these are volunteers with specific areas of expertise, who may be contacted for help when the situation warrants it, and (if available) could help when something arises with which any NBI volunteer could use support. The Barre Police Department staff would, of course, be an important resource as well. Fixed Resource People might be clergy, Library staff, staff of other helping organizations (People's Health and Wellness, Rainbow Bridge, Barre Community Justice Center, etc.), residents or business managers, etc. whose locations are convenient to downtown Barre.
4. **Friendship Bench Volunteers (FBV)** – ("The Friendship Bench (FB) project is an evidence-based intervention developed in Zimbabwe to bridge the mental health treatment gap. The [original] FB aims to enhance mental well-being and improve quality of life through the use of problem-solving therapy delivered by trained lay health workers, focusing on people who are suffering from common mental disorders, such as anxiety and depression." More information at: <https://www.centreforglobalmentalhealth.org/the-friendship-bench> . This entire segment of the NBI could reasonably be funded by charitable contributions; what would be needed is a social worker or licensed psychologist — either volunteer or paid — to provide training and supervision to the Friendship Bench Volunteers, and some places to set up purchased or donated benches.) In the Neighborly Barre Initiative's version, FBVs are community members who are trained to provide a listening ear and advice to people suffering from common mental health challenges, such as anxiety and depression, who are feeling lonely or isolated, who need advice or guidance with life skills, or support to maintain sobriety. Friendship Bench "hours" can be publicized via Front Porch Forum or other means, and can be quite flexible, depending on the availability of volunteers. One of the benefits of this approach is its applicability to a wide range of ages and needs, from lonely elders, to school kids wanting homework help; FBVs provide a listening ear and friendly contact.
5. **Neighborly Barre Educators** – these are volunteers who (with the help of the NBI Coordinator) organize and provide opportunities (workshops, programs, etc.) several times a year, that offer basic interpersonal training to community members who want to learn more about how to be neighborly, but who may not have the time or the desire to become an official volunteer. These workshops might be of particular use to volunteers in other organizations, who might benefit from some interpersonal techniques to improve encounters with a wide range of community members. It is the hope that as education spreads about how to have positive (instead of negative or combative) encounters with fellow neighbors, an unofficial network of Neighborly Neighbors and Friendly Neighbors (see below) will grow organically, so that attitudes in the wider community are transformed in healthy and affirming ways.
6. **Friendly Neighbors** – People who gather as a group, periodically, in the parks and in downtown areas, to walk around, spend time with (and meet new) friends, pick up trash, and be friendly faces to the people they encounter. Groups

would be responsible for their own scheduling, with a group leader tasked with providing a quick orientation to remind participants of expectations, such as friendly greetings, positive interactions with everyone, etc. (The Friendly Neighbors portion invites fruitful cooperation with efforts such as the Street Captains grant Tess Taylor is working on.) Activities could also include "family friendly" events, like a croquet game and a picnic in one of the City's parks. Scheduling would be flexible to allow lots of different people to participate, and meeting as a group (even an informal one) would help connect neighbors to one another and make the work more fun. This group would be a "low-threshold" volunteer opportunity and could easily be expanded to include (say) a "storm drain clearing" group, or other specific needs identified by the Public Works department and easily handled by volunteers. The advantages to including this category of volunteers in the Neighborly Barre Initiative is that it could ramp up very quickly and raise awareness with immediate positive impact.

Expansion of scope:

The Neighborly Barre Initiative could expand to address any number of community-defined priorities and projects such as activities for Barre's youth (sports, arts, downtown beautification, etc.), elders (aging-in-place workdays, visiting, transportation help, etc.), more vibrant neighborhoods (neighbor potlucks, sharing resources -- e.g. neighborhood-owned lawncare or snow removal appliances, etc.), or any other project for which enthusiasm already exists or can be generated.

The value of the City's sponsoring and involvement in the Neighborly Barre Initiative cannot be overstated. Showing concern for **all** our residents and proposing a positive plan of action to address the problems all of us can see demonstrates our commitment to a safe and good Barre for all. Treating the Neighborly Barre Initiative as an important quality-of-life improvement strategy for the entire City, including regular progress updates to Council on its efforts and goals, and periodic evaluation of its programs and priorities will keep the Initiative relevant and responsive to new needs as they arise. While the Neighborly Barre Initiative will require effort and resources to establish and maintain, it is the right thing to do, and will carry benefits that will positively affect neighborhoods, businesses, and visitors, as well as the marginalized and unhoused members of our community.