

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, February 10, 2026 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 and Approval of the Agenda
	3. Visitors & Communications
	4. Consent Agenda
4 8 25	A. Approval of Minutes i. Meeting of 2/3/26 B. Clerk’s Office Licenses & Permits C. Certify 2025 TIF annual report D. Approve 2026 coin drop schedule E. Authorize the Manager to execute contract(s)
	4-a. Approve City Warrants i. Approve week of 2/11/26
	5. City Clerk Report
	6. Liquor/Cannabis Control Boards
	7. City Manager’s Report
	8. New Business
26 27 28 29 31 55	A. Warned for 6:15PM: Public Hearing for CDBG-DR application B. Resolution #2026-01: North End/Gateway project – elevations/buyouts CDBG-DR application approval C. Resolution #2026-02: North End/Gateway project – acquisitions CDBG-DR application approval D. Volunteer appointment – JEDIB, PAC E. FY27 Budget – DPW and survey results F. Discuss changes to US Post Office postmark procedures G. Flood Resiliency Plan update (Gustin)
	9. Upcoming Business
	10. Round Table
	11. Executive Session – litigation
	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

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www.barrecity.org

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

MEMO

TO: City Council
FROM: The Manager
DATE: February 8, 2026
SUBJECT: Packet Memo re: 2/10/2026 Council Meeting Agenda Items

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

Adjustments to the Agenda

I will request that the Council remove agenda item #8-G Flood Resiliency Plan update from the agenda. Due to an error on my part, I had forgotten that the CDBG-DR hearing discussion would count as the update for this meeting.

4(D) Contract(s) for approval

None.

8(D) Volunteer appointments – JEDIB and PAC Committees

Aurora Flynn has applied for a seat on the Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging Committee. The committee has one vacant seat with a June 30, 2027 expiration date. Alex Pastor has applied for a seat on the Police Advisory Committee. The committee has one vacant seat with a June 30, 2027 expiration date.

8(E) FY 27 Budget (DPW review and budget survey)

The packet includes the budget survey results. The Streets Department and general update will be available later tonight and will be posted on our website before the Council meeting on Tuesday night..

To be approved at the next Barre City Council Meeting

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council – draft
Held February 3rd, 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 5:59 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, Councilors Don Routhier and Michael Deering. City staff members present were City Manager Nicolas Storellicastro, Clerk Cheryl Metivier, Finance Director Christina Kimball and Police Chief Brad Vail, Fire Chief Keith Cushman

Adjustments to the Agenda –Pull warrants from consent agenda and move to 8E in New Business
Move PD Budget proposal to 8A
Interim policy to 8F

Motion to approve of the agenda dated 2/3/2026 moved by Councilor Deering, Seconded by Councilor Hilgartner, approved.

Visitors & Communications – none

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

- i. Meeting of 1/27/2026

B. Clerk's Office Licenses & Permits-none

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

Motion to approve of the consent agenda dated 2/3/2026 moved by Councilor Bergeron, Seconded by Councilor Deering, approved.

4-a. Approve City Warrants-(moved to 8E)

- i. Approve week of 1/7/26
- ii. Ratify week of 12/24/25 and 12/31/25

Motion to approve city warrants-Move made by Councilor _____, seconded by Councilor _____ – approved. Councilor Spaulding abstaining

City Clerk & Treasurer Report –

Liquor/Cannabis Boards-

Barre Social Club-1st class

Motion to approve the 1st class liquor license renewal submitted by Barre Social Club was moved by Councilor Gustin, Seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

Managers' Report-

The budget survey has currently had 191 participants. We are currently compiling the data to share with the Council and the results will be read at the February 10rd Council meeting.

Skate Rentals are available at the BOR thanks to some generous donated adjustable skates. The cost is \$3 to rent. If you have some gently used skates to donate reach out to the Recreation Department.

Kudos to the DPW staff for the snow removal efforts. Side note, a DPW staff member was injured because while plowing sidewalks he had to physically move a residents trash can and fell. Please keep the cans off sidewalks and pull out of plowable areas.

Round (2) of the CDBG-DR grant with a focus of acquisitions or elevation of properties in the north end. Learning the restrictions placed on the funds for elevations has lead to some residents interested to give it a second thought.

Warming shelters are operating on the 6th-10th, and closed Wednesday the 4th & Thursday the 5th. If you would like to make a meal that feeds (15) and donate to the shelter, they would eagerly accept that gesture. Volunteers for all shifts are welcome. The shifts are 7pm-11pm, 11pm-3am and 3am-7am. If you are interested call organizer, Tess Taylor at 802-522-7818.

New Business-

New Business;

A. Volunteer appointment – JEDIB – deferred Ms. Flynn was not in attendance

Aurora Flynn has for the Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging Committee. The committee has one vacant seat with a June 30, 2027, expiration date.

B. Approve Parks & Rec Committee charge

Draft charge proposed by members of the committee. Michelle La Barge-Burke, the staff liaison to the committee, has participated in development of the process.

The charge was read by committee member Rhodelene Premont. Other committee members in attendance included Joshua Piascik.

Mission; To enrich the lives and empower Barre City residents by providing safe, welcoming parks, open spaces, and recreation programs that support health, community connection, and lifelong enjoyment.

Vision; A vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable Barre where every individual - regardless of age, background, or ability - has access to quality spaces and opportunities to play, connect, relax, grow together, and build relationships that reflect the heart, pride and resilience of our city – today and for generations to come.

A motion to approve the mission statement for the Parks & Rec committee was moved by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Deering, approved.

To be approved at the next Barre City Council Meeting

C.FY27 Budget - Department Reviews (PD, FD)

With Fire Chief Keith Cushman and Police Chief Brad Vail present to answer questions, the Manager outlined these department fixed expenses including wages, benefits etc. and the future revenue from contractual work for other municipalities, collection of parking ticket fees and late fees, and other potential revenue for these departments. The budget is a constantly changing document with focus on getting as close to maximum 5% increase.

This presentation gave the bottom-line budget for the City, an amount of \$15,818,869.

D. ICE preparedness-(Hilgartner)- Would like an interim statement of the state of the city in regard to a 287(g) stance.

287(g) agreements are voluntary partnerships between U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and state/local law enforcement agencies.

Mayor Lauzon does not know of any Vermont municipality that has issued a policy and prefers not to issue a policy on a fire when nothing is burning. Will not take a stand on the situation until asked. There will be continued review and monitoring but will not make blanket statements. Wants to react to give the matter the seriousness it deserves and consideration it deserves, but also react in a way that is in the best interest of the City. We have policies in place already for fair and impartial policing.

E. 4-a. Approve City Warrants-(moved to 8E)

i. Approve week of 2/4/26

Motion to approve city warrants-Move made by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Gustin – approved. Councilor Spaulding abstaining

F. Flood Resiliency Plan update (Gustin) North End Gateway

Create a series of shared ideas with resident consensus specifically targeted for the North End.

The North End of the city was most damaged in both the 2023 & 2024 floods. Since the 2023 flood, the City Council has engaged residents citywide and in the North End specifically during flood recovery town hall (Barre Opera House/Barre Up), ward-based neighborhood meetings, North End forum and a resident survey. The City has applied for funding to implement North End visions with EPA Communities Change Grant and the CDBG-DR Rounds I and II.

The goal is to develop a well-attended public engagement process in hopes to identify resident priorities.

Review existing plans for citywide action, with a focus on the North End and eventually coming to an agreement to move forward approving a Master Plan. Stating this is what we are going to do in the short term with the funds we have, in addition to having conversations and updates at the council level. Engaging with north end residents and providing support and city level services for them in continued clean up

The funding for necessary improvements is lacking, and not for the lack of trying. The city is at the mercy of federal and state funding.

Up Coming

Mayor Lauzon – Legislature-grants to fund Tess Taylors position

-Legislature lobbyist work

North End funding sources

To be approved at the next Barre City Council Meeting

Councilor Gustin & Councilor Bergeron – Ward II meeting-Sat. Feb 7th at 1pm to be held at the Aldrich Library.

Round Table

Councilor Bergeron- Fire Marshal Nick Copping & Fire Chief Keith Cushman will be training the concession stand volunteers in crowd control. Using the basketball tournaments and venue as a training site.

Councilor Gustin – Neighbors in Barre are super. While away, her neighbors went above and beyond to assist her with a failed furnace and the repair of such. Trusting and helpful

Councilor Hilgartner – Has been volunteering at the warming shelter covering late night/early morning shifts and encourages others to reach out.

Councilor Deering- BCEMS Talent show is Thursday, Feb. 5th at 530pm. Proceeds will be used to fund field trips, and donations to the Peoples Health & Wellness Clinic.

BUUSD Art Show – Feb. 13th 530-630pm

Executive Session-none

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm

Next regular meeting is scheduled for February 10th, 2026, at 6pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Metivier, City Clerk



City of Barre, Vermont

"Granite Center of the World"

ACTION ITEM BRIEFING MEMO CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM CITY COUNCIL AGENDA: 02-11-25

Consent Item No.: 4C **Discussion Item No.** _____ **Action Item No.** _____

AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION:

Certify 2025 TIF Annual Report

SUBJECT: *Same*

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT/PERSON:

Carol Dawes, TIF Administrator

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve certification of report

STRATEGIC OUTCOME/PRIOR ACTION: *NONE*

EXPENDITURE REQUIRED: *NONE*

FUNDING SOURCE(S): *NONE*

LEGAL AUTHORITY/REQUIREMENTS:

24 VSA § 1901. Information reporting

Every municipality with an active tax increment financing district shall:

(3) Annually:

(B) On or before February 15 of each year, on a form prescribed by the [VT Economic Progress] Council, submit an annual report to VEPC...

BACKGROUND/SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

Attached is the 2025 annual TIF report, submitted to the Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC) for preliminary approval. They reviewed it and sent it back for presentation to - and certification by - the Council. Certification is due to VEPC by February 15th.

LINK(S):

Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS:

- *2025 annual TIF report as presented to VEPC (spreadsheet and narrative text)*
- *Certification form (to be completed by Assessor, Manager, and TIF Administrator)*

INTERESTED/AFFECTED PARTIES:

TIF Administrator, Planning Director, Assessor, Manager, VEPC, VT Legislature

RECOMMENDED ACTION/MOTION:

Approve certification of the 2025 TIF annual report.



Tax Increment Financing District
Vermont Economic Progress Council
Vermont Department of Taxes

VEPC Staff Contact Information:
Ellie Beckett, (802) 622-4674, ellie.beckett@vermont.gov

Reports are due on or before January 1, 2026
Please submit reports to acd.vepctifannualreport@vermont.gov

Please submit GL24 TIF Proceeds Report with the District Annual Report

I. District Information:

Municipality & District	Barre: Downtown TIF District	Reporting Period:	July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025
Name of Person Completing Report	Carol Dawes	Grand List Year:	2024
Title	Barre City TIF Administrator		
Email Address	TIFAdmin@barrecity.org		
Telephone	(802) 279-6126		
Date Report Completed	December 23, 2025		

NOTE: All information reported on this form by the municipality must be for the Reporting Period and Grand List Year identified above.

II. TIF District Data:

Base Data (Original Taxable Value)				
Municipal	\$	50,203,270	OTV Total Acres	90.57
Homestead- Education	\$	585,890	OTV Total Parcels	223
Non Residential- Education	\$	50,460,980		
Total Education	\$	51,046,870		
Taxable Values as of April 1				
Municipal	\$	62,610,760		
Homestead- Education	\$	670,110		
Non Residential- Education	\$	61,931,933		
Total Education	\$	62,602,043		
Increase (Decrease) in Taxable Values (auto-calculated)				
Municipal	\$	12,407,490		
Homestead- Education	\$	84,220		
Non Residential- Education	\$	11,470,953		
Total Education	\$	11,555,173		
TIF Increment Revenue Retained for Reporting Year				
Municipal	\$	197,307		
Homestead- Education	\$	895		
Non Residential- Education	\$	156,191		
Total Education	\$	157,086		
Total TIF Revenue	\$	354,393		
Parcel Information				
Current Acres		90.28		
Current Parcels		223		
Tax Rates Applied to the April 1 Grand List				
Municipal (General Fund)	\$	2.1147		
Homestead	\$	1.4167		
Non Residential	\$	1.8155		
List Special Municipal Tax Rates				
1	Local agreement	\$	0.0056	
2		\$	-	
3		\$	-	
4		\$	-	
5		\$	-	
6		\$	-	
Total Special Municipal Tax	\$	0.0056		
Total Municipal (General Fund) & Special Rates	\$	2.1203		
Other TIF Fund Income				
	Source	Education	Municipal	Total
1	Interest Earnings	\$ 2,196	\$ 2,757	\$ 4,953
2	Parking Revenue*		\$ -	\$ -
3			\$ -	\$ -
4			\$ -	\$ -
5			\$ -	\$ -
	Total:	\$ 2,196	\$ 2,757	\$ 4,953

* Per the Final Determinations, VEPC conditioned the approval the Finance Plan requiring "Any parking revenue generated by the new Keith Street/Pearl Street parking structure, in excess of revenues required for operational and maintenance costs of the structured parking facility, shall be maintained in a separate TIF escrow account, and obligated to TIF debt principal and interest payments prior to utilization of incremental property tax revenues, until such time as all TIF District debt is retired," (Page 40).

Changes to Individual Parcels		
	SPAN Number	Describe Change
1	036-011-13025	property now tax exempt due to change of usage
2	036-011-12759	property no longer tax exempt due to sale
3	036-011-10717	property no longer tax exempt due to sale
4	036-011-12269	property now inactive and merged with abutting parcel. No change in acreage or value
5	036-011-12834	property now inactive and merged with abutting parcel. No change in acreage or value
6		

Additional Information

There continues to be a slight discrepancy on acreage between the certified OTV and the current grand list. This is due to minute changes made throughout the years based on actual surveys performed on TIF district properties, which more accurately reflect the total acreage within the district.

The City is performing a city-wide reappraisal, begun in 2024, scheduled for completion in spring 2026, which will go into effect with the Tax Year 2026 grand list. The last city-wide complete reappraisal was performed in 2002, with a statistical reappraisal performed in 2006, so we're expecting significant changes in property values.

III. Votes and Financing:

Public Vote Information

- ☒ No public votes or debt obligations occurred during this reporting period.
- ☐ Yes there were public votes and/or debt obligations during this reporting period.
- ☐ Vote and debt obligation documents were submitted to VEPC. (Enter date submitted)
- ☐ Vote and debt obligation documents are uploaded with this report.

Debt Instruments									
Infrastructure and Debt	Term in Years	Period (ie. 1/1/2016-12/31/2026)	Interest Rate	Principal	Interest	Total	Total Payment for Reporting Period	Remaining Principal Balance	Date Approved by Voters
Existing Debt:									
1 Various parking projects, and initial TIF application reimbursements	25	8/11/15 - 11/1/40	3.76%	\$ 2,200,000	\$ 1,092,522	\$ 3,292,522	\$ 143,541	\$ 1,408,000	11.05.2013
New Debt:									
Example: Main Street Lights - General Obligation Bond	11	1/1/2016-12/31/2025	5.60%	\$ 3,250,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 3,750,000	\$ 340,909	\$ 2,950,000	08.01.2023
2	0		0.00%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
3	0		0.00%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
4	0		0.00%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total				\$ 2,200,000	\$ 1,092,522	\$ 3,292,522	\$ 143,541	\$ 1,408,000	

Debt Ceiling Approved by VEPC	\$ 12,513,056
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Annual Debt Service	
Principal Paid	\$ 88,000
Interest Paid	\$ 55,541
Fees/Other Costs Paid	\$ -
Total Paid	\$ 143,541

Refinancing: Was any portion of TIF District debt refinanced during this reporting period?

- ☒ No
- ☐ Yes, please provide details.

Direct Payments: Enter the total amount of any TIF direct payments made during this period.	\$ -	Date Approved by Voters:	
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Additional Information

NOT APPLICABLE

IV. Improvements and Funding:

Improvement Expenditures				
Name of Improvement		Of the Total Expenditure listed:		Total Improvement Expenditure for this report period
		The amount paid with TIF Revenues	The amount paid with Non-TIF Revenues	
1	Structured Parking between Keith and Pearl Streets (Includes land acquisition): Ormsby lot and Twombly lot between Keith and Pearl Streets.			
	street level parking complete. No planning, design or construction of structure parking is expected to be done.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2	Merchants Row & Enterprise Alley Streetscape - Step 1A: Enterprise Alley and Merchant's Row (area between Granite Street and Prospect Street).			
	complete	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
3	Merchants Row & Enterprise Alley Streetscape - Step 1B & Step 2A: Enterprise Alley and Merchant's Row (area between Granite Street and Prospect Street).			
	construction completed - ongoing environmental mitigation	\$ -	\$ 8,474	\$ 8,474
4	Merchants Row & Enterprise Alley Streetscape - Step 2B: Enterprise Alley and Merchant's Row (area between Granite Street and Prospect Street).			
	no work on this step during reporting period	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5	Merchants Row & Enterprise Alley Streetscape - Step 3: Enterprise Alley and Merchant's Row (area between Granite Street and Prospect Street).			
	no work on this step during reporting period	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
6	Campbell Place - Real estate acquisition, environmental assessment, demolition and remediation, site prep and paving for parking. (TIF Plan amended to add this development in 2014)			
	complete	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total		\$ -	\$ 8,474	\$ 8,474
			Check	\$ 8,474

Sources of Non-TIF Revenues		Total Amount Secured for Each Source	Total Amount Spent to Date	Total Amount Spent this Period	Closed
1	City of Barre match for D&K 5/50 grant award (2014)	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000		x
2	Dubois & King In-Kind Grant (planning & design) (2014)	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000		x
3	VTRANS DTF Design Grant (2015)	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000		x
4	DTF Implementation Grant (2015)	\$ 38,000	\$ 38,000		x
5	DTF Implementation Grant (2015)	\$ 62,000	\$ 62,000		x
6	Barre City Capital Funds (2015)	\$ 12,349	\$ 12,349		x
7	VCDP DR 1 & DR 2 HUD pass-through Grants (2015)	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,267,452		x
8	EPA Brownfields Grants (2015)	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000		x
9	Semprebon Annuity (2015)	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000		x
10	Semprebon Fund Bike Path Allocation (2015)	\$ 96,000	\$ 96,000		x
11	VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation (2016)	\$ 627,560	\$ 580,615	\$ 8,474	☐
12	Downtown Transportation Grant (2017 - Keith Ave parking lot)	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000		x
13	CVRPC Brownfields Grant (2017 - Keith Ave parking lot)	\$ 26,638	\$ 26,495		x
14	Municipal Planning Grant (2017 - Merchant's Row)	\$ 16,204	\$ 11,241		x
15	General Fund - grant matching funds in Planning Department budget	\$ 1,621	\$ 1,621		x
16	Semprebon Bequest Fund (2020 - for pedestrian way granite artwork)	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000		x
17	\$1.15 M Non-TIF Bond	\$ 260,000	\$ 235,701		x
18	Downtown Transportation Grant	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000		x
19		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	☐
20		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	☐
21		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	☐
22		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	☐
Total		\$ 3,412,372	\$ 3,303,474	\$ 8,474	
Non-TIF Revenues Reported under Improvement Expenditures				\$ 8,474	

Grant Applications				
Grant Type & Project Name	Granting Entity	Application Date	Application Amount	Application Status
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	
			\$ -	

Related Costs				
List and describe the related cost(s)	Vendor	The amount paid with Education Revenue	The amount paid with Municipal Revenue	Total Cost for this report period.
1 TIF administration	Carol Dawes	\$ 2,412	\$ 3,028	\$ 5,440
2 public notice publications	Times Argus	\$ 212	\$ 266	\$ 478
3 FY24 audit/AUP prep	Sullivan Powers	\$ 3,036	\$ 3,813	\$ 6,849
4 Legal fees	Primmer Piper	\$ 825	\$ 1,035	\$ 1,860
5 Development advisors	White + Burke	\$ 8,222	\$ 10,325	\$ 18,547
6 Reimburse Barre City capital fund	Barre City Capital Fund	\$ 5,541	\$ 6,959	\$ 12,500
		Total	\$ 20,247	\$ 25,427
			Check	\$ 45,674

V. Performance Indicators:

Standard

Real Property Development		
1	Merchants Bank and Aldrich Block Phase 1: Placement of a 3600 sq ft bank facility with drive-thru and amenities on a previously vacant lot and development of 4000 sq ft of restaurant space in a previously vacant building. completed previously. Aldrich Block (47 N. Main Street) current assessment: \$1,050,500. Community Bank (355 N. Main Street - previously owned by Merchant's Bank) current assessment: \$1,500,000. Total assessment of both properties listed at right.	\$ 2,550,500
2	Aldrich Block Phase 2 and 20 Summer Street: Development of 8000 of office/residential in a previously vacant building and development of office/subsidized housing in an underutilized/vacant lot. completed previously. Aldrich Block (47 N. Main Street) current assessment included above. 22 Keith Avenue (formerly 20 Summer Street) current assessment: \$860,400. NOTE: Assessment of 22 Keith Avenue reduced from \$1,585,200 due to statutory formula used to calculate taxable value of restricted housing, based on income.	\$ 860,400
3	City Place and Blanchard Block: Construction of retail/commercial/office five-story bldg at Depot Square and renovation of retail/office 32,000 sq ft of historic, vacant downtown bldg. Completed. City Place (219 N. Main Street) current tax assessment: \$8,000,000. Tax stabilization completed - ran thru FY23. Blanchard Block (14 N. Main Street) current tax assessment: \$2,125,000. Tax stabilization completed - ran thru FY23. Amount at right is total of tax assessments following completion of tax stabilization agreements.	\$ 10,125,000
4	Worthen Block and JJ Newbury Block: Development of 32,000 sq ft of residential units in a vacant/underutilized building; 32000 sq ft (est. 32 housing units) and rehabilitation of 16,000 of retail/office in a currently vacant building. Projects on hold while potential developers research financing options and development incentives. There is no known timeline for redevelopment of these properties. Worthen Block (123 N. Main Street) current assessment: \$507,100. JJ Newbury Block (143 N. Main Street) current assessment: \$325,800. Amount at right is total current assessment of two properties	\$ 832,900
5	Rouleau Plant: Development of hotel/conference/office/retail complex on a underutilized 9 acre lot; riverfront pedestrian walkway; adjacent to Main Street. Development as hotel/conference center/retail complex on hold. The complex is currently home to an environmental clean-up company, a high-end woodworking shop, and a cannabis cultivation/manufacturing/retail business. There is no known timeline for additional redevelopment of this property. Rouleau Plant (21 & 31 Metro Way) current assessments: \$1,607,300	\$ 1,607,300
		Total \$ 15,976,100

Employment Opportunities

Several new establishments opened during the reporting year, along with one that relocated to the TIF district. New businesses include: Dames VT (cannabis dispensary); Dance and Movement Studio; Foxy's (coffee shop and restaurant); Hinterland Tattoo; Tasty Bites (breakfast & lunch diner); Barre Social Club (shared workspace and social gathering site); Amy's Annex (used clothing); Aranda's (Mexican food – relocated from Berlin); Granite City Market (retail packaged foods and supplies); Suite 100 Salon (hair salon); and Talmo Hair Co LLC (hair salon). Jerry's Sports Tavern changed ownership and name (now Summer Street Tavern), but no changes in the number of employees. These new and relocated businesses brought approximately 31 new jobs to the TIF district.

Five businesses moved within the TIF district, from one location to another: Vermont Bicycle Shop; Bob's Salon (hair salon); Grakles (antiques); Paige &

Additional Information

NONE

Mandated

Vermont Firms						
NAICS Code	Increase or (Decrease)	Previous Location (if known)		NAICS Code	Increase or (Decrease)	Previous Location (if known)
1	11			11	53	
2	21			12	54	1
3	22			13	55	
4	23			14	56	
5	31-33			15	61	
6	42			16	62	
7	44-45	9	10 new (Dames, Amy's Annex, Granite City Mkt); 1 decrease	17	71	5
8	48-49			18	72	8
9	51			19	81	
10	52			20	92	
Total Jobs Increase (Decrease)						23

Identify Source/Method for Obtaining Jobs Information

Job numbers are based on zoning, building & parking permits; data provided by economic development and downtown promotional organizations such as Barre Area Development Corporation and the Barre Partnership; media reports and advertising; presentations to the Barre City Council; and word-of-mouth in the community.

Vermont Firms						
Name of Vermont Firm		Total amount of work performed		Name of Vermont Firm		Total amount of work performed
1	Barre City Water Dept.	\$ 295		11		\$ -
2	Green Mountain Power	\$ 409		12		\$ -
3	Sullivan Powers Co.	\$ 6,849		13		\$ -
4	Carol Dawes	\$ 5,440		14		\$ -
5	Times Argus	\$ 478		15		\$ -
6	Primmer Piper	\$ 1,860		16		\$ -

7	White + Burke	\$ 18,547
8	City of Barre Capital Fund	\$ 12,500
9		\$ -
10		\$ 0

17		\$ -
18		\$ -
19		\$ -
20		\$ -
Total Amount of Work Performed		\$ 46,377

Additional Information

The related costs chart and VT firms chart include \$12,500 paid from TIF increment to the City of Barre Capital Fund. This represents reimbursement of real estate deposits paid in 2013 through an interfund transfer from the Capital Fund. Reimbursement was intended to be made out of the proceeds of the \$2.2M bond approved by voters in 2013. However, the reimbursement was never made, and the interfund loan remained in the accounting records as a due to/due from until the City's auditors called it to our attention during the FY24 audit. The City of Barre submitted a Substantial Change Request to VEPC in October 2024, and was granted approval at the December 12, 2024 VEPC board meeting to use increment funds to reimburse the City's Capital Fund. The fund transfer was completed in January 2025.

TIF District Specific**Transportation Enhancements**

Parking improvements made since the beginning of the district have included a net increase in the number of available parking spaces; increased signage; streetscape improvements, better lighting and crosswalks for pedestrian and driver safety; and improved connectivity between the North Main Street shopping district and municipal parking areas located behind the buildings. An unexpected benefit of the downtown parking improvements was an increase in the number of overnight parking spaces available for people who live in the downtown, making downtown housing more attractive to those looking to rent.

The City has experienced a significant decrease in usage of downtown public parking by shoppers and employees as a result of the shift to remote working and online shopping during and following the COVID pandemic. Some employees have returned to their offices, at least on a part-time basis, but it's clear there are long-term impacts on future parking needs driven by changing work and shopping patterns. Such changes have been taken into consideration as part of our explorations on potential future TIF projects. See "Current TIF District Activity" section for more information.

Business Development

Business development was outlined earlier in this report under Employment Opportunities, including information on new businesses, business relocations within the district, and business closures.

Housing Changes

	Affordable Housing	Market Rate Housing	Total
New	0	4	4
Eliminated	0	0	0
Net Total	0	4	4

Unforeseen Events: Please describe any unforeseen events (such as flooding) that have impacted the TIF District, its improvement projects, or private developments. Also detail how the municipality is working through those challenges.

While it's been more than 5 years since the COVID pandemic, the community continues to experience lingering negative impacts, including reduced foot traffic in the downtown due to shifts to remote working and online shopping. With a usual staff complement of 100 employees, the City of Barre had 6 openings in various departments as of the end of FY25. Statewide low unemployment rates, the cost of housing, and rising compensation packages being offered by the private sector continue to impact the City's ability to hire employees to provide the levels of service residents have come to expect. The lack of available contractors and supplies continues to hinder the implementation of infrastructure improvements, planning initiatives, and equipment purchases, and tariffs make materials scarce and expensive. Contractors are experiencing the same impediments to private development projects. Due to reduced housing inventories caused by flood damage and the lack of private development, real estate sales continue at a brisk pace, with sales prices running well above assessed values in spite of high mortgage interest rates.

Barre City, like a number of other municipalities in the state, experienced significant flooding twice in FY24, and again at the beginning of FY25. The most severe damage was in the north end of the City, outside the TIF district, however there was basement and first floor flooding along the North Main Street portion of the district. The hardest hit areas in the TIF district included Depot Square and Granite Street. These areas were flooded three

Current TIF District Activity: Please provide details regarding FY26 activities. This can include updates regarding specific projects, potential substantial change requests, etc.

Beginning five years ago, the City's focus shifted to reviewing the 2012 TIF plan, and what the emerging demands are for public and private development in Barre City. There is additional capacity in Barre City's TIF finance plan, and the VT Legislature's actions over the past few sessions have extended the debt incurrence window to 2028, and extended Barre City's increment retention to 2039. The City has been working with White + Burke Real Estate Advisors, who assisted with drafting the original TIF plan and application, to assess the viability of public and private projects included in the 2012 TIF plan, and identify needs and opportunities that have shifted in the intervening decade. Through our explorations, housing has risen to the top of the priority list for future development in the TIF district, and the City in general.

To that end, and in light of reduced parking demand caused by changing remote work and online shopping patterns, a number of City-owned properties were identified as being suitable for housing development. Two such properties are the underutilized abutting Rinker and Campbell Place parking lots located in the TIF district. The City solicited letters of interest in developing said parking lots, and received a response from DEW Properties LLC, on behalf of Downstreet Housing & Community Development, for potential development of 31 housing units on the site. The City has executed a development agreement with White + Burke, DEW, and Downstreet related to the public infrastructure needs necessary to bring the project to completion.

The Stevens Branch Apartments Project details were finalized during winter 2024-2025; a substantial change request was submitted to VEPC in early spring 2025, and approved by the VEPC board in September 2025. Voters approved a \$2.4M bond in November 2025, with construction scheduled to begin in spring 2026, with completion in 2027. More details will be included in the 2026 annual TIF report.

The narrative cells in the FY25 TIF annual report spreadsheet pdf do not expand to reveal all entered text. The blocks below are entered into each of the identified cells.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (under TIF district data)

There continues to be a slight discrepancy on acreage between the certified OTV and the current grand list. This is due to minute changes made throughout the years based on actual surveys performed on TIF district properties, which more accurately reflect the total acreage within the district.

The City is performing a city-wide reappraisal, begun in 2024, scheduled for completion in spring 2026, which will go into effect with the Tax Year 2026 grand list. The last city-wide complete reappraisal was performed in 2002, with a statistical reappraisal performed in 2006, so we're expecting significant changes in property values.

Percentages in this section updated/corrected 12/30/25

NOTE: The percentage breakdown of municipal (55.67%) and education (44.33%) increment is used to calculate the education and municipal breakdowns of earned interest and related cost expenses. The percentages are based on the amounts of increment included on the NEMRC TIF increment report for Tax Year 2024 (FY25).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (under Votes and Financing)

NOT APPLICABLE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES (under Performance Indicators)

Several new establishments opened during the reporting year, along with one that relocated to the TIF district. New businesses include: Dames VT (cannabis dispensary); Dance and Movement Studio; Foxy's (coffee shop and restaurant); Hinterland Tattoo; Tasty Bites (breakfast & lunch diner); Barre Social Club (shared workspace and social gathering site); Amy's Annex (used clothing); Aranda's (Mexican food – relocated from Berlin); Granite City Market (retail packaged foods and supplies); Suite 100 Salon (hair salon); and Talmo Hair Co LLC (hair salon). Jerry's Sports Tavern changed ownership and name (now Summer Street Tavern), but no changes in the number of employees. These new and relocated businesses brought approximately 31 new jobs to the TIF district.

Five businesses moved within the TIF district, from one location to another: Vermont Bicycle Shop; Posh Salon (hair salon); Grakles (antiques); Paige & Campbell (insurance); and Times Argus (newspaper). These relocations did not change the number of jobs in the district.

Unfortunately, a few local businesses closed their doors during the reporting period: Magnifique Salon (hair salon); Electrolux (vacuum cleaner sales/service); Field & Field, PC (law office, closed due to retirement); and Si Aku Ramen (Thai restaurant and store). The estimated loss of jobs from these establishments is 8. The total net change in the number of jobs in the TIF district for the reporting period is an increase of 23.

Since the COVID pandemic, the Vermont Agency of Transportation employees housed at City Place have settled into a mixed on-site/remote work schedule. There's been no reduction in the number of overall employees, but the number of employees in the office on any given day is much lower than when they were at their high of 400+. This has had an impact on local businesses and parking demand, especially those in the vicinity of City Place, where daily foot traffic has been reduced. However, the state government has issued a directive that will require employees to return to in-person work on a part-week basis, beginning towards the end of calendar year 2025. This would benefit local businesses by bringing more people into the City on weekdays. [N.B. This change was scheduled to go into effect 12/1/25, but full implementation has been delayed.]

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (under performance indicators)

NONE

NAICS codes for 2025 annual TIF report

<u>Code</u>	<u>Industry Title</u>	<u>Estimated # employees change</u>
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	
21	Mining	
22	Utilities	
23	Construction	
31-33	Manufacturing	
42	Wholesale Trade	
44-45	Retail Trade	9 net increase (Dames 4, Amy's Annex 3, Granite City Market 3, Electrolux (1))
48-49	Transportation and Warehousing	

51	Information	
52	Finance and Insurance	
53	Real Estate Rental and Leasing	
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1 net increase (Suite 100 Salon 3, Talmo Salon 3, Magnifique (3), Field & Field (2))
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	
61	Educational Services	
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	5 net increase (Dance & Movement 2, Hinterland Tattoo 1, Barre Social Club 2)
72	Accommodation and Food Services	8 net increase (Foxy's 4, Tasty Bites 3, Aranda's 3, Si Aku Ramen (2))
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	
92	Public Administration	

IDENTIFY SOURCE/METHOD OF OBTAINING JOBS INFORMATION (under NAICS codes)

Job numbers are based on zoning, building & parking permits; data provided by economic development and downtown promotional organizations such as Barre Area Development Corporation and the Barre Partnership; media reports and advertising; presentations to the Barre City Council; and word-of-mouth in the community.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (under VT firms)

The related costs chart and VT firms chart include \$12,500 paid from TIF increment to the City of Barre Capital Fund. This represents reimbursement of real estate deposits paid in 2013 through an interfund transfer from the Capital Fund. Reimbursement was intended to be made out of the proceeds of the \$2.2M bond approved by voters in 2013. However, the reimbursement was never made, and the interfund loan remained in the accounting records as a due to/due from until the City's auditors called it to our attention during the FY24 audit. The City of Barre submitted a Substantial Change Request to VEPC in October 2024, and was granted approval at the December 12, 2024 VEPC board meeting to use increment funds to reimburse the City's Capital Fund. The fund transfer was completed in January 2025.

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS

Parking improvements made since the beginning of the district have included a net increase in the number of available parking spaces; increased signage; streetscape improvements, better lighting and crosswalks for pedestrian and driver safety; and improved connectivity between the North Main Street shopping district and municipal parking areas located behind the buildings. An unexpected benefit of the downtown parking improvements was an increase in the number of overnight parking spaces available for people who live in the downtown, making downtown housing more attractive to those looking to rent.

The City has experienced a significant decrease in usage of downtown public parking by shoppers and employees as a result of the shift to remote working and online shopping during and following the COVID pandemic. Some employees have returned to their offices, at least on a part-time basis, but it's clear there are long-term impacts on future parking needs driven by changing work and shopping patterns. Such changes have been taken into consideration as part of our explorations on potential future TIF projects. See "Current TIF District Activity" section for more information.

During the 2025 reporting period, the Merchants Row parking lot was repaved and striped as a City project; not funded through TIF funds.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Business development was outlined earlier in this report under Employment Opportunities, including information on new businesses, business relocations within the district, and business closures.

UNFORESEEN EVENTS Please describe any unforeseen events (such as flooding) that have impacted the TIF District, its improvement projects, or private developments. Also detail how the municipality is working through those challenges.

While it's been more than 5 years since the COVID pandemic, the community continues to experience lingering negative impacts, including reduced foot traffic in the downtown due to shifts to remote working and online shopping. With a usual staff complement of 100 employees, the City of Barre had 6 openings in various departments as of the end of FY25. Statewide low unemployment rates, the cost of housing, and rising compensation packages being offered by the private sector continue to impact the City's ability to hire employees to provide the levels of service residents have come to expect. The lack of available contractors and supplies continues to hinder the implementation of infrastructure improvements, planning initiatives, and equipment purchases, and tariffs make materials scarce and expensive. Contractors are experiencing the same impediments to private development projects. Due to reduced housing inventories caused by flood damage and the lack of private development, real estate sales continue at a brisk pace, with sales prices running well above assessed values in spite of high mortgage interest rates.

Barre City, like a number of other municipalities in the state, experienced significant flooding twice in FY24, and again at the beginning of FY25. The most severe damage was in the north end of the City, outside the TIF district, however there was basement and first floor flooding along the North Main Street portion of the district. The hardest hit areas in the TIF district included Depot Square and Granite Street. These areas were flooded three times in a year. The historic depot building, which is owned by the Vermont Granite Museum, experienced several feet of mud left behind by the flood waters, as did the Barre Historical Society's Socialist Labor Party Hall on Granite Street. At least a couple businesses in the district have closed permanently due to flood damage, and it would be difficult and expensive to redevelop these properties under flood zone building requirements.

The City is working with hydrologists, engineers, and federal and state agencies to determine the causes of flooding of this magnitude, and possible mitigation efforts related to river flows and storm water systems. The larger impacted area in the north end of the City saw significant damage to 300+ housing units, many of which will not recover. The loss of these properties has a negative impact on the City's grand list, and subsequently on property tax rates, along with making an already tight housing market even tighter. The current TIF district activity explained in more detail below is in direct response to changing economic factors, flood recovery, and the growing housing shortage throughout the City, and state.

CURRENT TIF DISTRICT ACTIVITY: Please include details regarding FY26 activities (this can include updates regarding specific projects, potential substantial change requests, etc.)

Beginning five years ago, the City's focus shifted to reviewing the 2012 TIF plan, and what the emerging demands are for public and private development in Barre City. There is additional capacity in Barre City's TIF finance plan, and the VT Legislature's actions over the past few sessions have extended the debt incurrence window to 2028, and extended Barre City's

increment retention to 2039. The City has been working with White + Burke Real Estate Advisors, who assisted with drafting the original TIF plan and application, to assess the viability of public and private projects included in the 2012 TIF plan, and identify needs and opportunities that have shifted in the intervening decade. Through our explorations, housing has risen to the top of the priority list for future development in the TIF district, and the City in general.

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The City was contacted by the State Auditor's Office in November 2024 with regards to an error in how the NEMRC grand list module calculated increment on properties in the district that have tax exemptions through tax stabilization agreements, veterans' exemptions, or voter-approved exemptions. The error caused the amount of education increment to be undercalculated, with more taxes being sent to the education fund than should have been for these specific categories of properties.

Two such properties in Barre City were under tax stabilization agreements (TSA) in the early years of the TIF district: 14 N. Main Street (SPAN #036-011-11835) and 219 N. Main Street (SPAN #036-011-10097). The stabilizations impacted municipal taxes, which were reduced over the life of the TSA's, however, as per statute, the education taxes are to be calculated based on the full, post-improved values of the properties. But the NEMRC grand list module did not treat the increase in value as increment, and the entire education tax increase was paid to the state education fund. As per TIF statute for the Barre City TIF district, 25% of the increment of education taxes should have been paid to the state education fund, with the 75% balance being retained in the Barre City TIF increment fund to be used for debt service and related costs.

The Vermont State Auditor's Office – working in conjunction with NEMRC and the Vermont Department of Taxes' Property Valuation and Review Division - reviewed the data for fiscal years 2016-2020, which was the period of time covered in the SAO July 2021 Barre City TIF audit report, and issued a revised audit report on December 20, 2024 indicating an amount of \$437,028 was overpaid to the Vermont Education Fund by Barre City, and is due to the City's TIF increment fund as a refund from the state education fund. The revised report is available on

the state auditor's website or from the Barre City TIF Administrator. The City of Barre received legislative approval during the 2025 session for reimbursement of these funds in Act 57 (2025). The funds were received by the City in September 2025.

Please note the state auditor's corrective calculations ran through FY20, which coincided with the dates of their Barre City TIF audit, however, the NEMRC calculation errors continued through FY24. Another property in the district is now under a TSA, and calculations of education tax increment for that property were also being negatively impacted by the error. (51 Church Street, SPAN #036-011-10177). In addition to the increment calculation errors associated with education taxes, it has also been discovered that the information on this property's TSA was incorrectly entered into NEMRC, which caused a miscalculation in municipal increment for FY2022 – 2025. This data entry error was corrected through the Errors & Omissions process in December 2025 for Fiscal Year 2026 and beyond.

Barre City is working with NEMRC, PVR, VEPC and the State Auditor's Office to correct the miscalculations for all three properties. Once the calculations are confirmed, the City will make the necessary in-house adjustments associated with municipal increment, and will request additional reimbursement from the Vermont Education Fund. The City will work with its legislative delegation during the 2026 session to seek legislative approval of the refund.

CERTIFICATION OF INCREMENT AND ANNUAL REPORT

STATUTORY REQUIREMENT: (24 VSA §1895) "As of the date the district is created, the lister or assessor for the municipality shall certify the original taxable value and shall certify to the legislative body in each year thereafter during the life of the district the amount by which the total valuation as determined in accordance with 32 VSA Chapter 129 of all taxable real property located within the tax increment financing district has increased or decreased relative to the original taxable value."

RULE REQUIREMENT: (SECTION 903) "Increase/Decrease in Assessed Valuation: Each year following the year of creation, the listers or assessor shall certify to the municipal legislative body the amount by which the total assessed valuation of taxable properties within the TIF District has increased or decreased compared to the municipal and education OTV. Prior to providing the certification to the municipal legislative body, the listers or assessor shall have the calculation of the increase or decrease, including an examination of the disposition and tax status of each parcel within the District, verified by a second party. Selection of the second party is up to the municipality and may be an individual within or outside of the municipal government. However, the individual should be familiar with parcel listings and valuation, property tax status, and the concepts of OTV and District increment. A copy of the certification of the value and the increase or decrease must be included in the Annual Report required by Section 1004.2 of this Rule along with a certification that a second party reviewed the information. The Council will provide a form on which to provide this certification."

SECTION 1: Certification of Increment by Assessor or Lister and 2nd Party Reviewer

Check both certification boxes and sign this form. If the boxes or signatures are not completed, this form will be considered incomplete. The second party reviewer should be familiar with parcel listings and valuation, property tax status, and the concepts of OTV and District increment.

- ☐ We certify that, per TIF Rule Sections 903 and 1004.2, we have examined and verified the current value, the calculation of the increase or decrease in property values, the disposition and tax status of each parcel within the District, and any other issues relevant to the parcels listed in the Certified OTV Property Report.
- ☐ We have certified to the municipal legislative body, at a regular or duly warned meeting that the information provided in this report represent true and accurate statements.

Signature of Assessor or Lister

>>

Name:

Title

Date

Signature of 2nd Party Reviewer

>>

Name:

Title

Date

SECTION 2: Certification of Annual Report

Provide the date the annual report was presented to the municipal legislative body. Check both certification boxes and sign this form. If the boxes or signatures are not completed, this form will be considered incomplete.

Date report presented to the municipal legislative body:

- ☐ I certify that I am an official of the reporting municipality with the authority to report on this TIF District on behalf of the municipality.
- ☐ I certify that the annual report data entered and all documents attached in support of this annual report are true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Authorizing Official*

>>

Name:

Title

Date

* Authorizing Official is the Chief Executive Officer of the municipality as defined by 10 VSA § 683(8) such as a Select Board or City Council Member, Town or City Manager, or Town Administrator.

Agenda Item #4-D February 10, 2026

2026

revised policy adopted 12/3/19

2026 COIN DROP LOG*

***Notes:**

- a. 3 week intervals required by Policy. Available dates pre-set based on 3 week interval
- b. 6 event maximum (+ Council December event)
- c. Requests accepted after January 1st each year. Priority given based on date/time of receipt, and whether the applicant had a coin drop the previous year
- d. Project Graduation permanently approved for an annual coin drop - 1st Saturday in May unless rescheduled
- e. Review Policy for each request - approved coin drops must coordinate safety, signage and location with PD
- f. must fall between March 31 & December 20
- g. Location must be lower Washington Street or N. Main Street in front of Domino's
- h. Organizations that receive voter-approved funding cannot have a coin drop in the same fiscal year

Drop #	Date	Organization	Location	Time	Contact	email	Phone Number	Notes
2026								
1	05/02/26	Project Graduation	N. Main Street	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Michaela Martin			1st Saturday in May permanent
2	05/30/26	Lions Club	N. Main Street	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Lucas Herring			
3	06/27/26	Friends of Aldrich Library	N. Main Street	9:00 AM-2:00PM	Nancy O'Leary			
	07/27/24	Heritage Festival - no coin drops						
4	08/01/26	Rotary Club	N. Main Street	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Tony Campos			
5	09/05/26	BYSA Football	N. Main Street	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Kate Forsell			
6	10/03/26	Barre Figure Skating Club	N. Main Street	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Melissa Cadorette			
7	12/05/26	City Council - Xmas for Kids	N. Main Street	8:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Michael Boutin			1st Saturday in December-permanent

council approved

council approved

Agenda Item #8-A February 10, 2026

Notice of Public Hearing

The City of Barre is considering making application to the State of Vermont for CDBG Disaster Recovery Implementation/CDBG Disaster Recovery Planning Grants under the Vermont Community Development Program. A public hearing will be held at 6:15 PM on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 6 N Main Street, Barre, VT 05641 to obtain the views of residents on community development, to furnish information concerning the amount of funds available and the range of community development activities that may be undertaken under this program, the impact to any historic and archaeological resources that may be affected by the proposed project, and to give affected residents the opportunity to examine the proposed statement of projected use of these funds. The proposal is to apply for up to \$20 million in CDBG-DR funds which will be used to accomplish the following activities through separate applications to ACCD. These are listed in no particular order:

1. North End/Gateway Elevation and Buyout Project: Up to \$10 million to be used for structural elevations of residential properties to mitigate future damages caused by flooding and buyout of properties to be demolished and perpetually turned into green space and flood plain.
2. North End/Gateway Acquisition and Redevelopment Project: Up to \$10 million to be used to acquire properties for the purpose of redevelopment of flood-safe housing.

Copies of the proposed application are available at 6 North Main Street, Barre, VT and may be viewed during the hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Mondays through Friday when City Hall is open. Should you require any special accommodation, please contact the City Manager's office at (802) 476-0241 to ensure appropriate accommodation is arranged. For the hearing impaired please call (TTY) # 1-800-253-0191.

City Council for the City of Barre

Agenda Item #8-B February 10, 2026

Resolution #2026-01

VERMONT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM RESOLUTION FOR
Grant Application

SINGLE APPLICANT

RESOLUTION FOR VCDP GRANT APPLICATION AUTHORITY

Single Applicant

WHEREAS, the City of Barre (hereinafter "Applicant") is applying for a Grant under the Vermont Community Development Program North End/Gateway Elevations & Buyouts; and WHEREAS, it is necessary that an application be made and agreements be entered into with the State of Vermont. Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. that Applicant possesses the legal authority as defined in the State Act [10 VSA §683(8)] to apply for the grant and to administer the program; and
2. that Applicant apply for a grant under the terms and conditions of said program and agree hereby to enter into Certifications and Assurances there of; and
3. the Applicant has a duly adopted and current Municipal Plan September 15, 2020 (Date Adopted) and that the project is consistent with said plan; and
4. the Applicant has received documentation from the Regional Planning Commission that the project is consistent with the "Regional Plan; and
5. that the City Manager is hereby authorized to be Contact Person and as such to provide, on behalf of Applicant, all documents and information necessary for the completion of said application and to provide such coordination as may be necessary for said application; and
6. that (Name) Nicolas Storellicastro Title City Manager who is either the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), as defined by 10 VSA §683(8), or is the Town Manager, the City Manager, or the Town Administrator, is hereby designated to serve as the Municipal Authorizing Official (MAO) for the Grants Management On-line System, Intelligrants; and
7. that it is understood that, if the application is funded, the receipt of CDBG funds, as federal funds passed through the State of Vermont, may require that an audit of the Applicant be conducted under the provisions of the Single Audit Act, as amended, and that CDBG funds may be used to fund only a limited portion of the audit cost.

Passed this 10th day of February, 2026.

LEGISLATIVE BODY

Thom Lauzon, Mayor

Sonya Spaulding & Beth Hilgartner, Ward I Councilors

Amanda Gustin & Jeff Bergeron, Ward II Councilors

Don Routhier & Michael Deering, Ward III Councilors

The above resolution is a true and correct copy of the resolution as adopted at a meeting of the Legislative Body held on the 10th day of February, 2026, and duly filed in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 10th day of February, 2026.

Cheryl Metivier

Clerk

Signature

Agenda Item #8-C February 10, 2026

Resolution #2026-02

VERMONT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM RESOLUTION FOR
Grant Application

SINGLE APPLICANT

RESOLUTION FOR VCDP GRANT APPLICATION AUTHORITY

Single Applicant

WHEREAS, the City of Barre (hereinafter "Applicant") is applying for a Grant under the Vermont Community Development Program North End/Gateway Acquisitions & Redevelopment; and WHEREAS, it is necessary that an application be made and agreements be entered into with the State of Vermont.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. that Applicant possesses the legal authority as defined in the State Act [10 VSA §683(8)] to apply for the grant and to administer the program; and
2. that Applicant apply for a grant under the terms and conditions of said program and agree hereby to enter into Certifications and Assurances there of; and
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Cheryl Metivier

Clerk

Signature



Volunteer Application Form

Full Name Aurora Flynn

Home address 111 Allen St, Apt 2, Barre, VT 05641

Barre City Resident? Yes

E-mail Address

Cell/Home Phone Number

Position(s) you are applying for?

1. JEDIB Committee

2.

3.

Have you attended a meeting of the public bodies you are applying for? Yes

Please describe why you are interested in the positions you are applying for. Include any special skills or qualifications that may be beneficial for the position.

I am interested in joining the Barre City JEDIB committee because I am committed to making Barre a more equitable and inclusive city. As someone who recently moved to Vermont, I want to get more involved in my community and I feel as though the JEDIB committee could use a voice of someone who is trans and under 30 years old.

By signing below you acknowledge that all information provided is accurate and complete to the best of your ability, and you understand the City Council has the authority to remove members appointed to any City-created public bodies in accordance with the City Charter and Vermont State Statute, as applicable, for misrepresentation of any statement made on this application

Aurora Flynn

1/21/2025

Sign here (or type your name for an electronic submission)

Date

For City Manager's Office Use Only

Appointed?

Term of Appointment: From

To



Volunteer Application Form

Full Name Alexandra Pastor

Home address 73 Park Street

Barre City Resident? Yes



E-mail Address

Cell/Home Phone Number

Position(s) you are applying for?

1. Member Police Advisory Committee

2.

3.

Have you attended a meeting of the public bodies you are applying for? Yes



Please describe why you are interested in the positions you are applying for. Include any special skills or qualifications that may be beneficial for the position.

I care about public safety, accountability, and clear communication between police and community. I'm comfortable asking thoughtful questions and am observant, analytical, and fair-minded. This role could be practical way to strengthen trust and problem-solving between residents and law enforcement. I also have a masters in public administration.

By signing below you acknowledge that all information provided is accurate and complete to the best of your ability, and you understand the City Council has the authority to remove members appointed to any City-created public bodies in accordance with the City Charter and Vermont State Statute, as applicable, for misrepresentation of any statement made on this application

Alexandra Pastor

1/26/26

Sign here (or type your name for an electronic submission)

Date

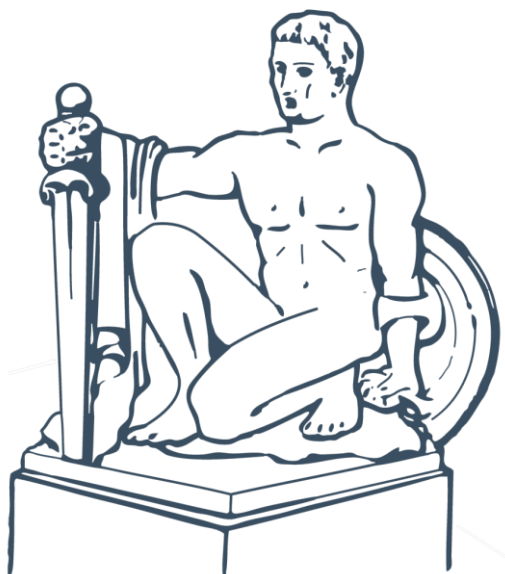
For City Manager's Office Use Only

Appointed?



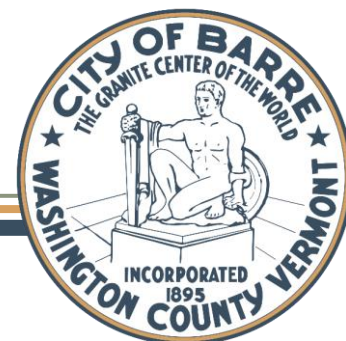
Term of Appointment: From

To

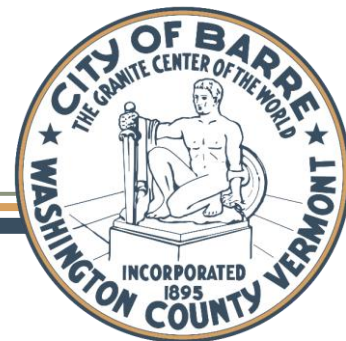
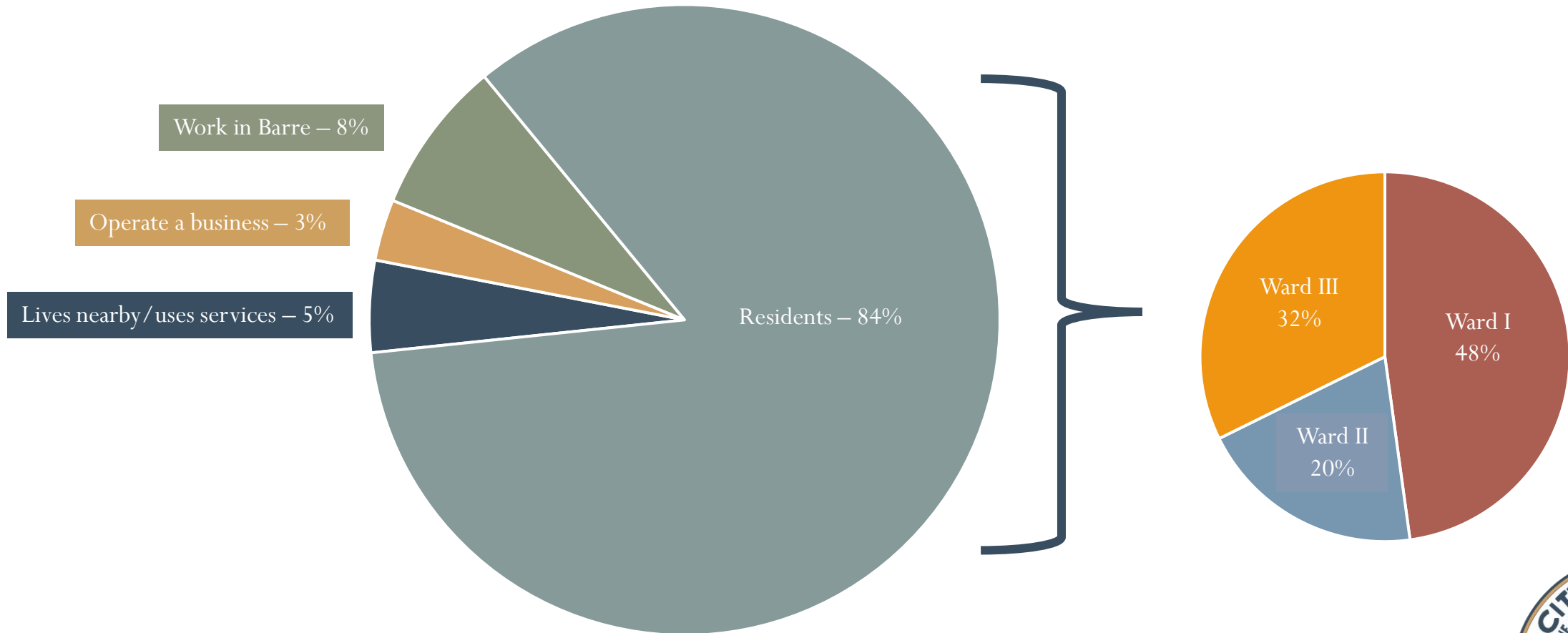


FY27 BUDGET SURVEY RESULTS

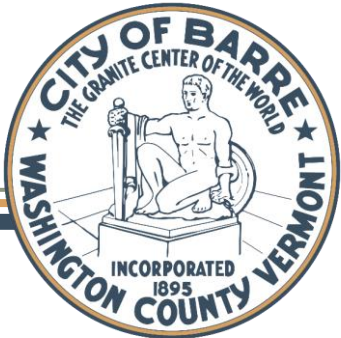
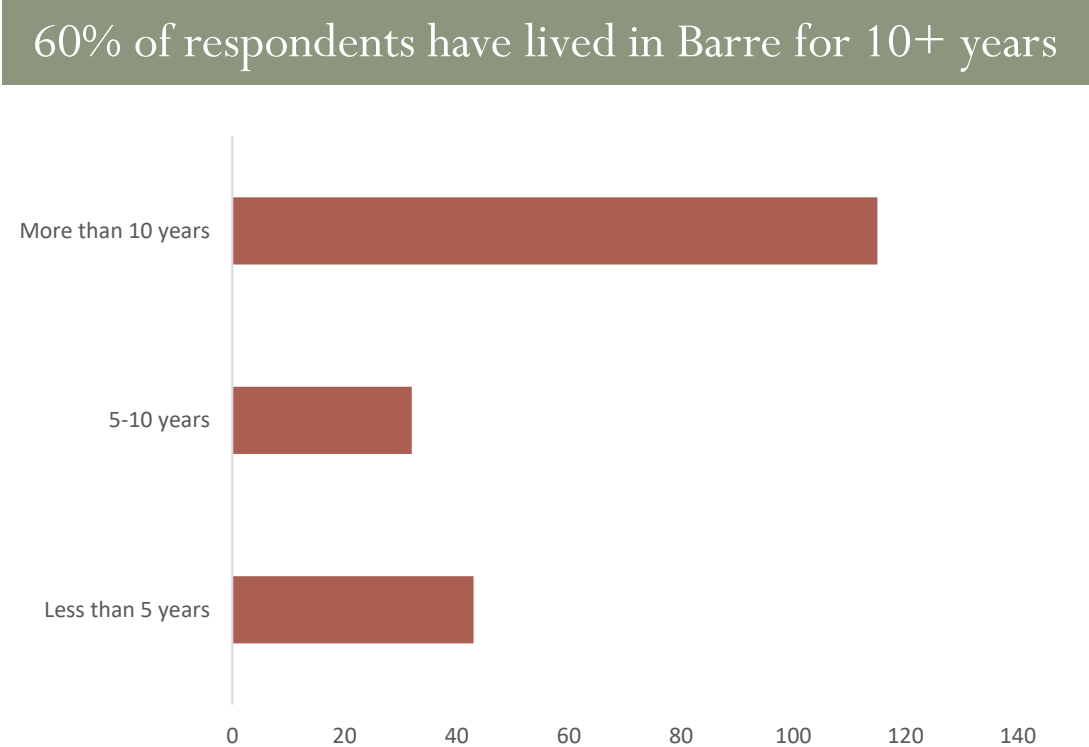
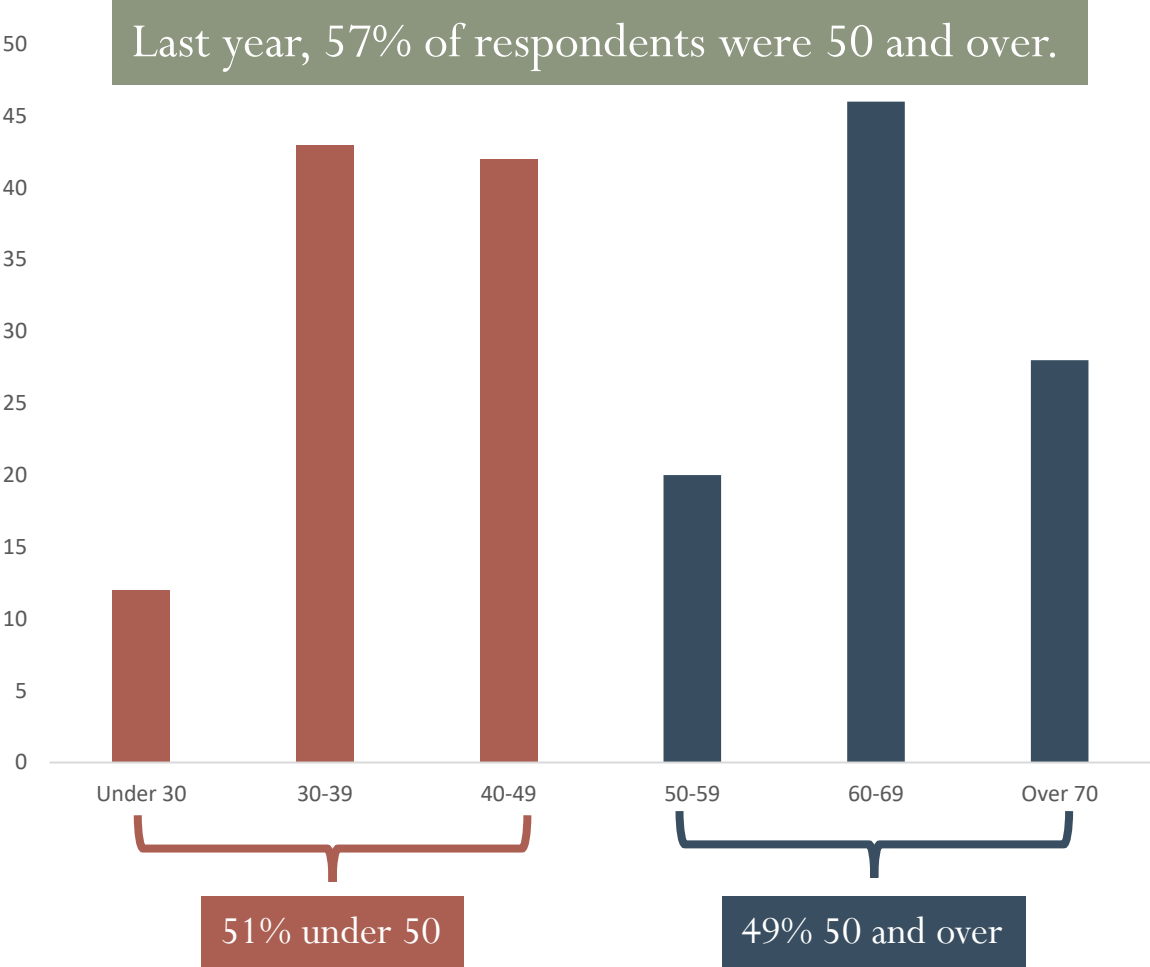
NICOLAS STORELLICASTRO
CITY MANAGER
FEBRUARY 10, 2026



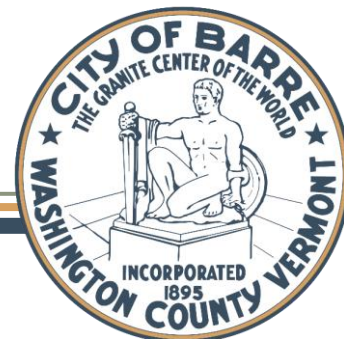
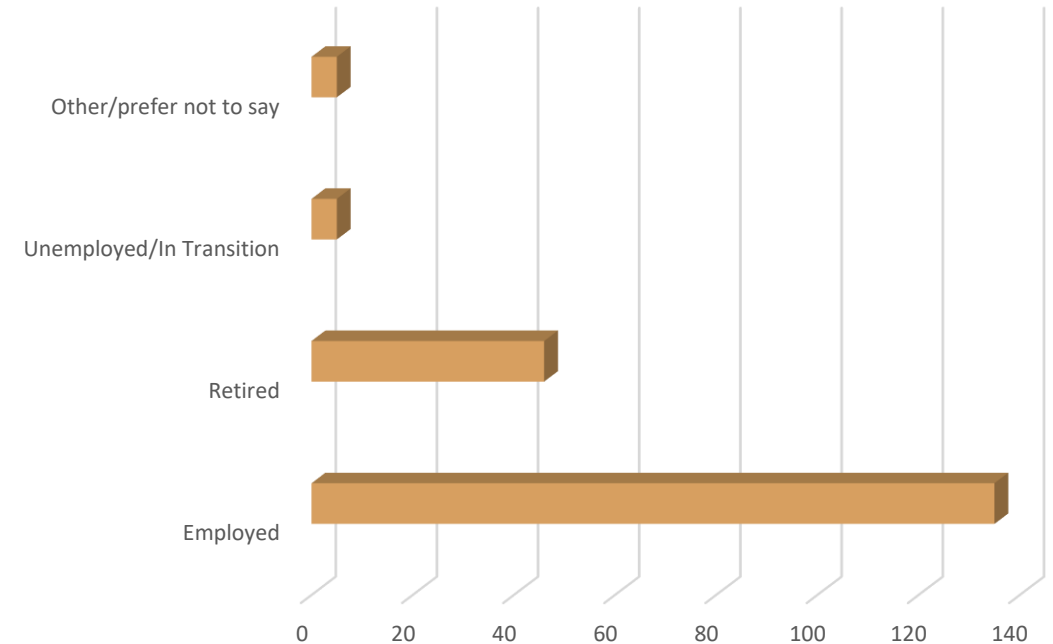
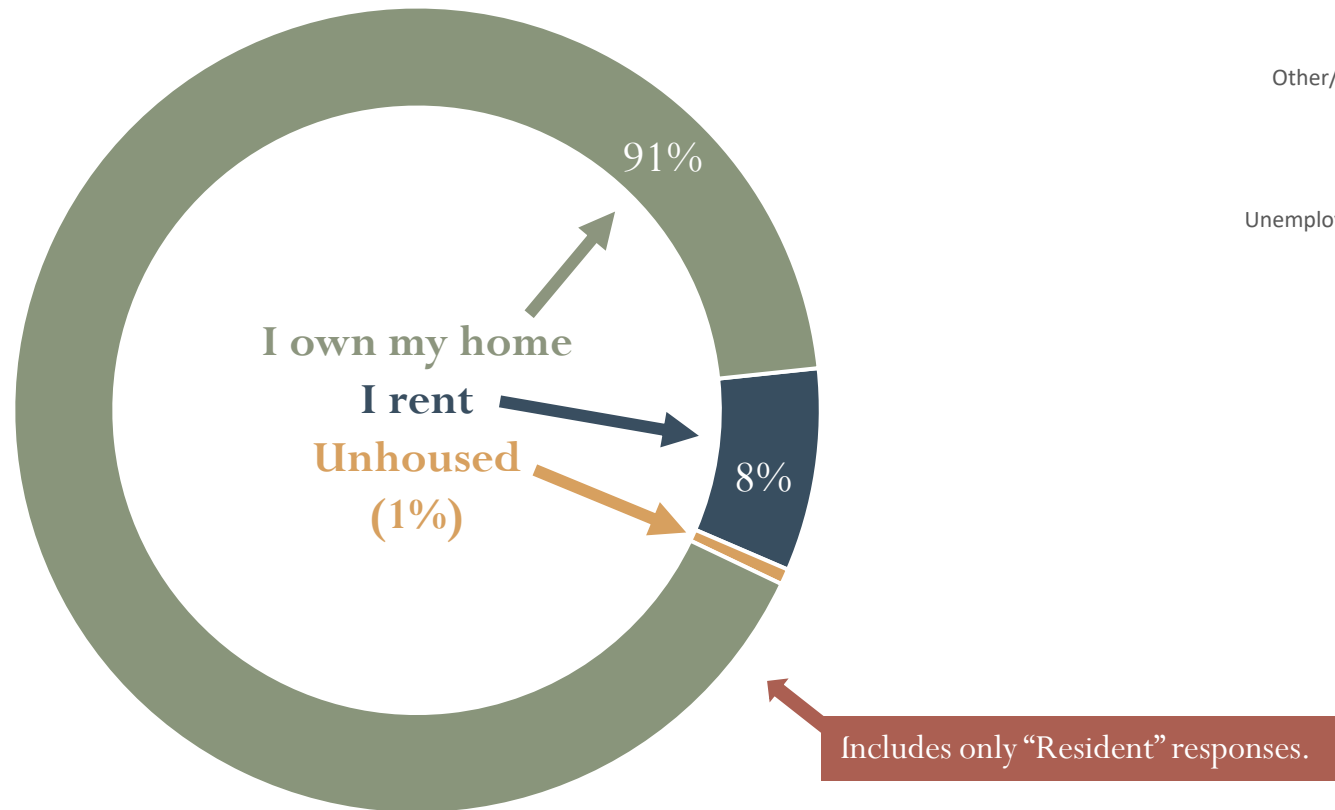
84% OF RESPONDENTS WERE RESIDENTS



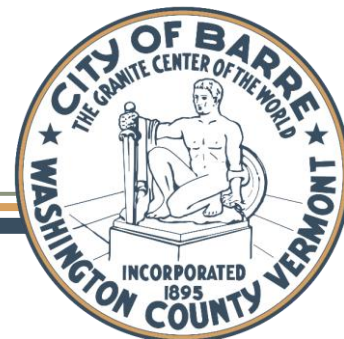
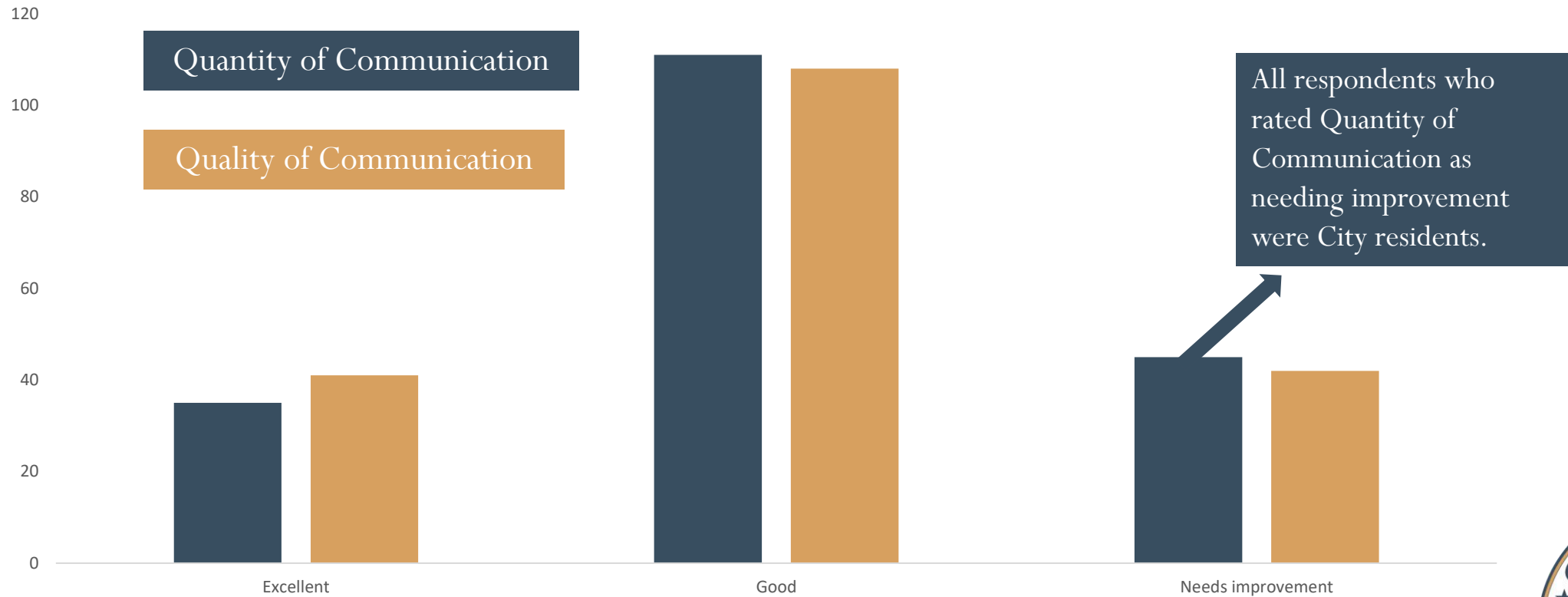
MOST RESPONDENTS UNDER 50 YEARS OLD AND HAVE LIVED IN BARRE OVER 10 YEARS



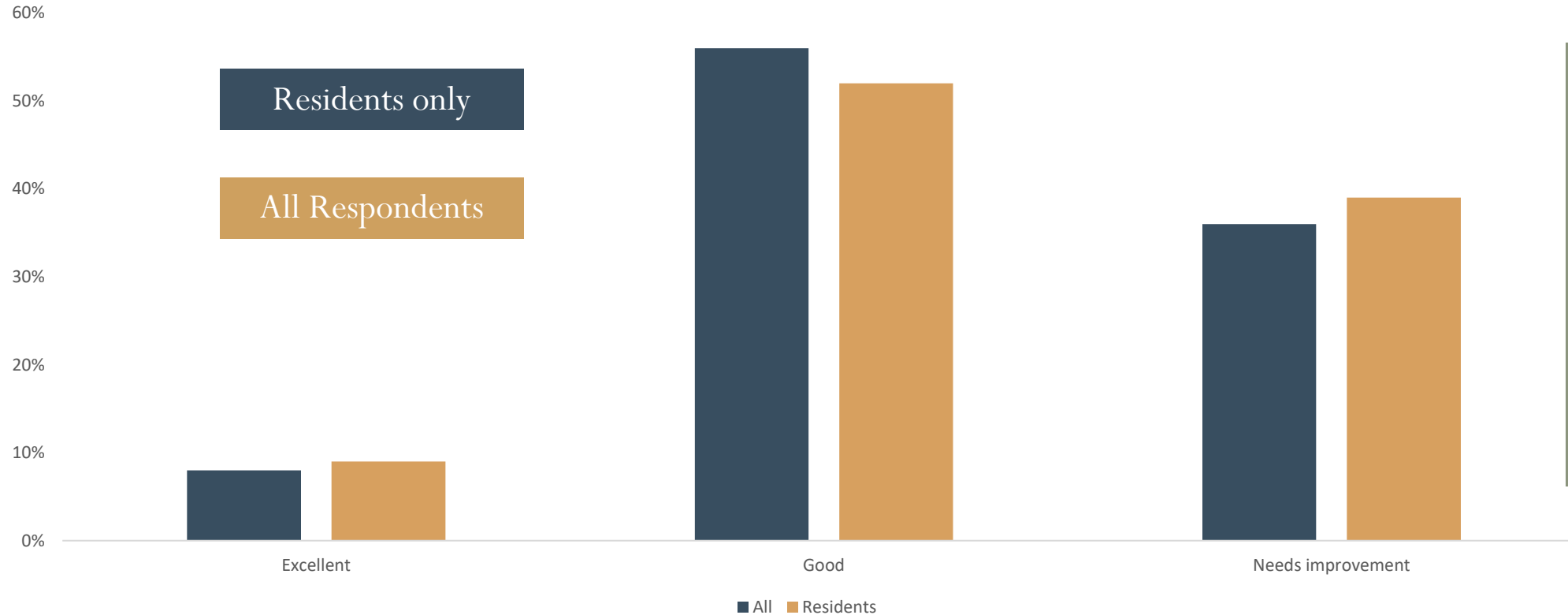
RESPONDENTS OWN THEIR OWN HOME AND CURRENTLY EMPLOYED



~75% OF RESIDENTS RATE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF COMMUNICATIONS AS EXCELLENT OR GOOD

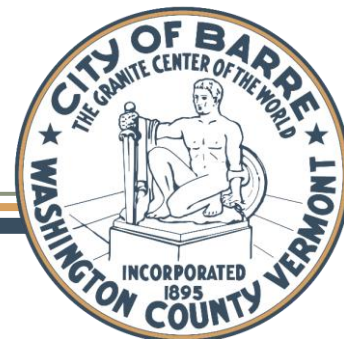


~60% OF RESPONDENTS RATE CITY SERVICES AS EXCELLENT OR GOOD



61% of Residents rate services highly.

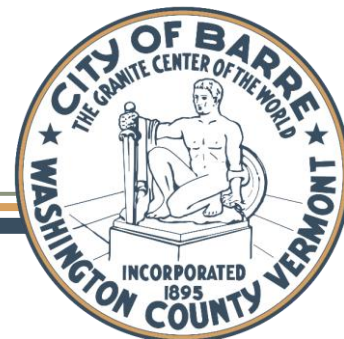
64% of Non-Residents rate services highly.



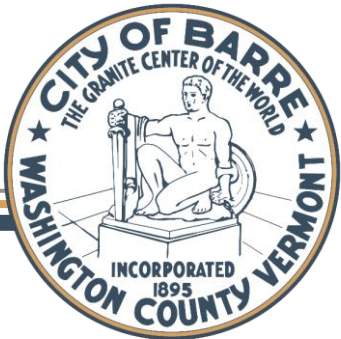
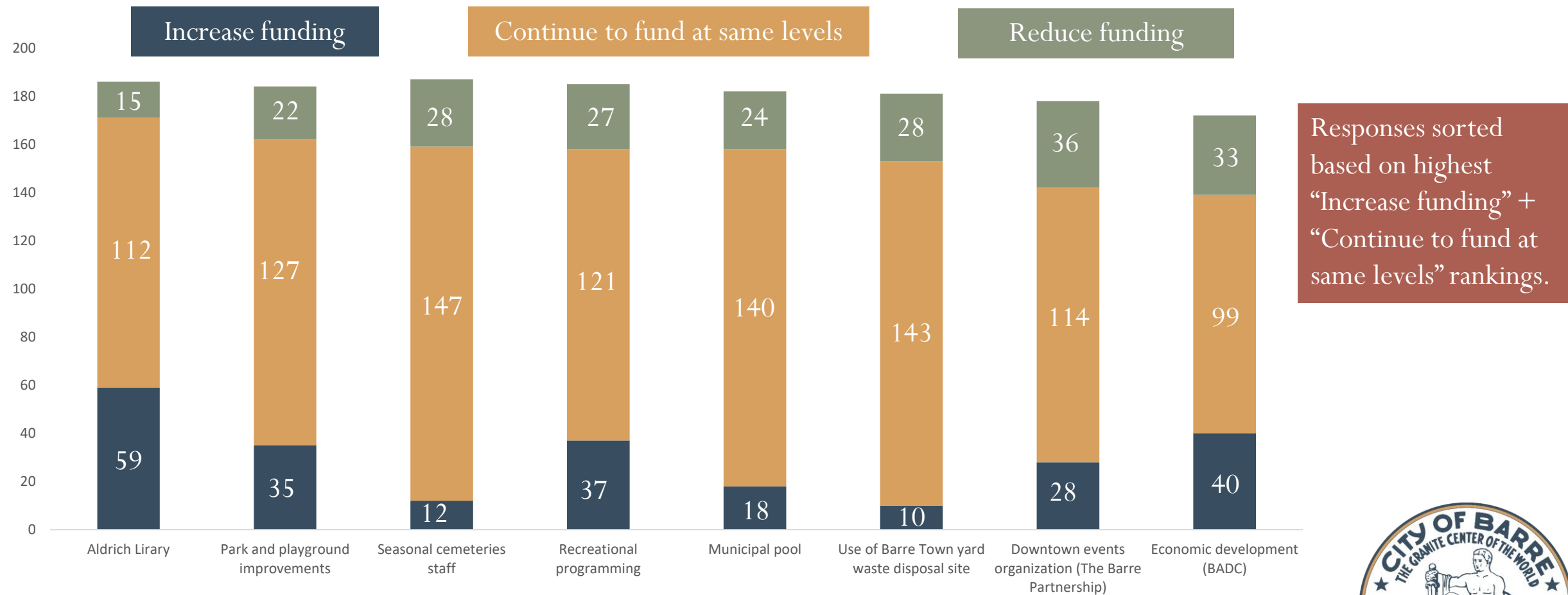
VIEWS OF DEPARTMENT SERVICES AND FUNDING LEVELS

Key:
Greener hues are more favorable;
Redder hues are less favorable.

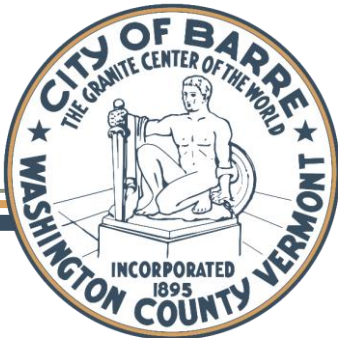
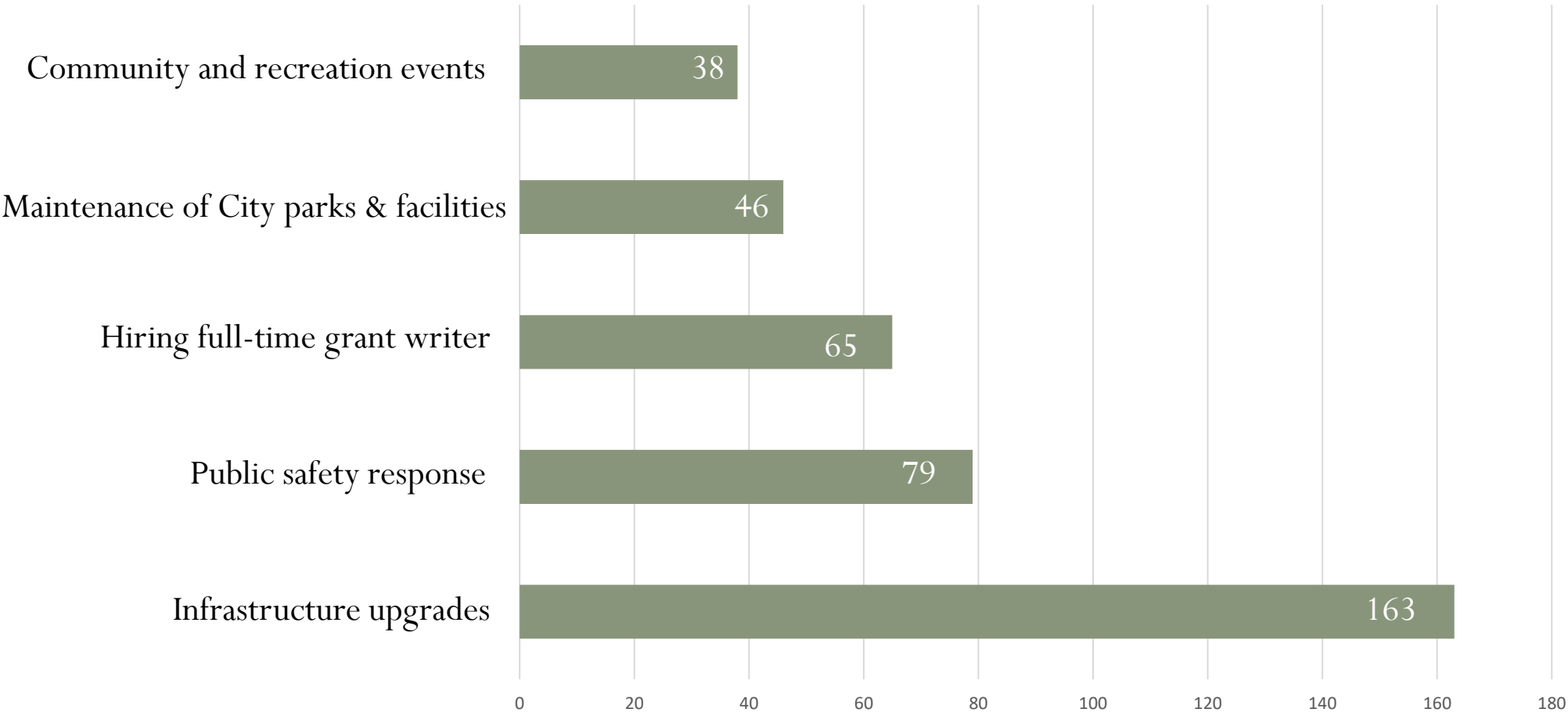
Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Service/Amenity	Increase	Maintain	Decrease
70	111	10	Fire/emergency medical services	64	123	4
38	115	38	Police	66	97	28
18	115	58	Parks and playgrounds	35	130	26
29	61	101	Street maintenance and plowing	112	69	10
26	137	28	Recreational facilities (BOR/Auditorium)	25	152	14
17	128	46	Zoning/permitting/planning/Clerk	20	150	21
26	142	23	City pool	14	151	26
53	121	17	Cemeteries	14	157	20
12	75	104	Capital improvement projects/public works upgrades	73	98	20
12	90	89	Traffic control/calming	62	111	18
10	69	112	Economic and housing development	101	55	35



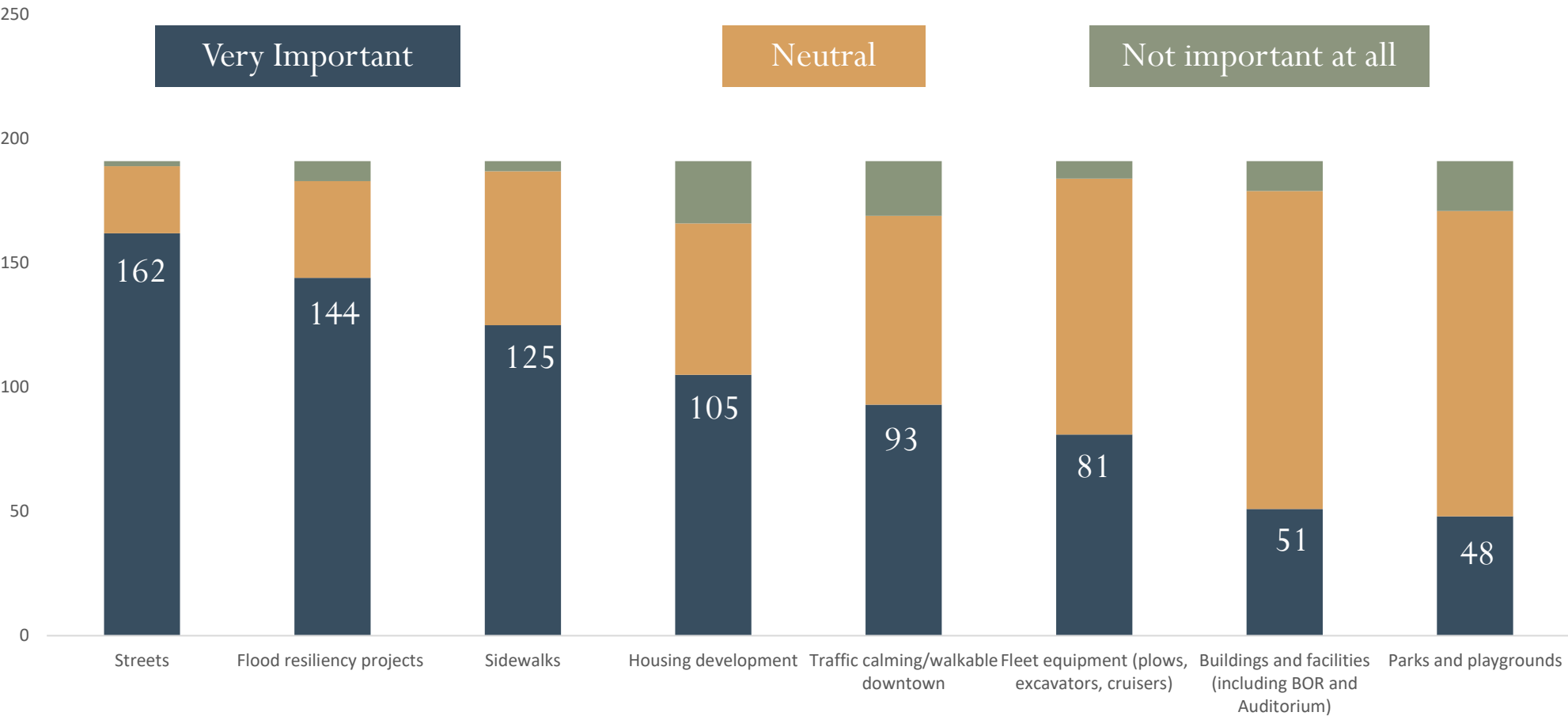
RESPONDENTS GENERALLY SUPPORT FUNDING NON-MANDATORY AMENITIES AT HIGHER OR SIMILAR LEVELS



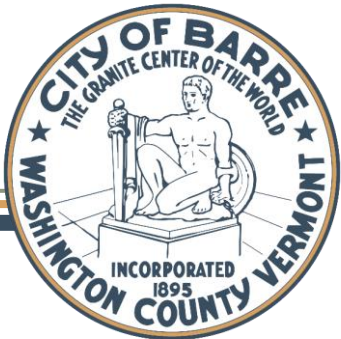
THE CITY SHOULD SPEND MORE ON INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES



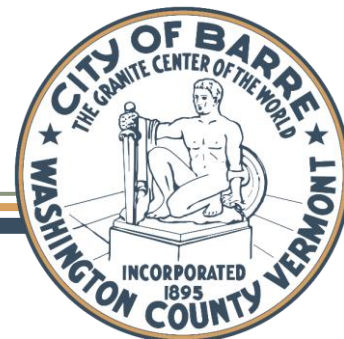
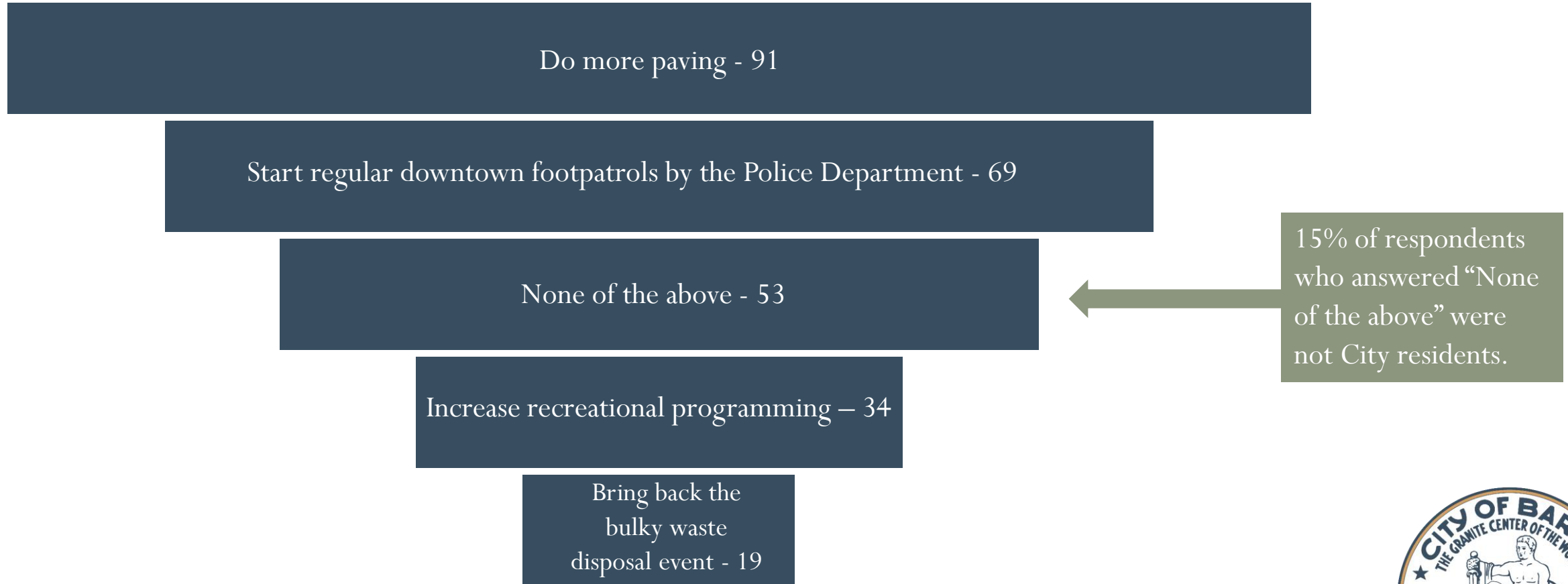
85% OF RESPONDENTS RATE STREETS INVESTMENTS AS “VERY IMPORTANT”



Responses sorted based on highest “Very Important” ranking.



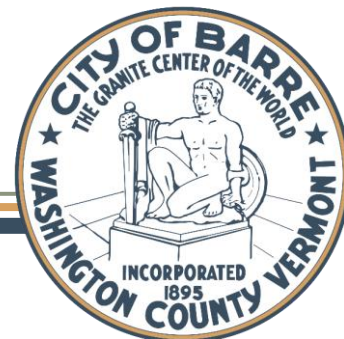
RESPONDENTS ARE WILLING TO PAY HIGHER TAXES FOR MORE PAVING AND DOWNTOWN FOOTPATROLS

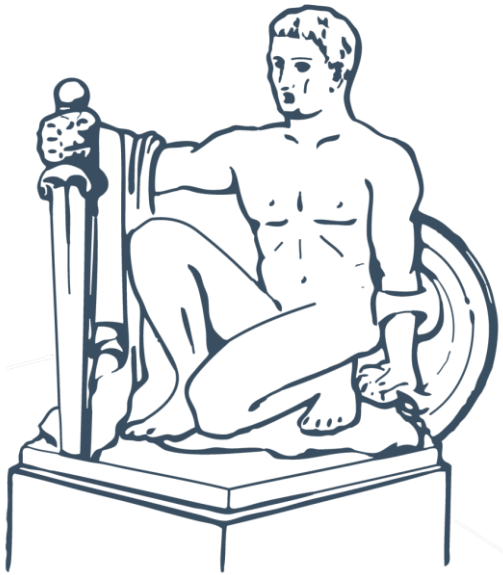


FY27 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- January 2026
 - 1/6: Baseline FY27 Budget presentation
 - Week of 1/13: Staff budget congress
 - 1/27: Partner presentations, Department Head presentations (Admin, Facilities & Grounds, Recreation, Revenue)
- February 2026
 - 2/3: Department Head presentations (PD, FD)
 - **2/10: Department Head presentation (DPW), budget survey results**
- March 2026
 - 3/17: Proposed Budget
 - 3/24: Budget Seminar
 - 3/31: Final Review
- April 2026
 - 4/7: Warn budget for Town Meeting Day
- May 2026
 - 5/12: Town Meeting Day

You are
here





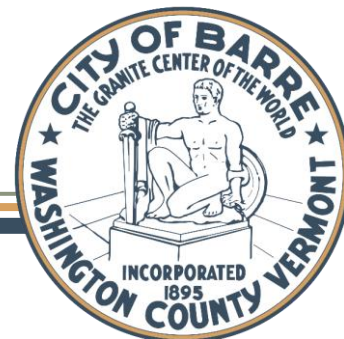
THANK YOU

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION?

WWW.BARRECITY.ORG



@BARRECITYVT



If not listed above, which services would you be willing to pay higher taxes for?

Resident/Non-Resident

I am not willing to support higher taxes. Property taxes in Barre are already very high, and ongoing increases are unsustainable for property owners like us who own multiple rentals in the City. If the tax burden continues to rise, we will be forced to either significantly increase rents to cover operating costs or reconsider whether we can continue owning property here at all. Neither of those outcomes is good for long-term housing stability in Barre. The City should focus on responsible budgeting, improving public safety, and accountability for nuisance and criminal activity — not placing additional strain on taxpayers.
1. The Aldrich Public Library - which puts on a majority of the free community events offered. 2. Flood resiliency projects backed by thorough environmental review - and without the conflict of interest among certain local officials conducting personal business while in office - to reduce further potential downstream flood damages. 3. Pedestrian focused traffic projects - installing sidewalks, painting the sidewalk crossings, slowing traffic with signage.
3rd space community gathering places. Art and creativity. Youth programming. Community building events that focus on relationship, not patriotism or alienating civic pride.
ADA compliance throughout the city
Adding EMS personnel to the fire department to help cover EMS calls. Which would allow for paid cross trained EMS & Fire. Ability to fully staff one ambulance with EMS personnel which would allow cross trained firefighters to staff a second EMS call when/if necessary.
Additional funding for the library and their outreach and educational programming in connection with recreation.
Affordable and safe housing and utility options, programs (like downstreet) for renters and first time home buyers. If i could afford to pay more taxes for other things i would, but i work for 23\$ an hour and this only goes so far after healthcare expenses.
AFFORDABLE housing projects for neighbors
Assessors office Assistant city mgr Planning personnel i
Barre Bees
Barre firefighters and EMS services.
Before increasing taxes, I would like to see improvements in efficiency and maintenance of the services we already have.
Better salaries for teachers
City events, maybe. You already charge insane taxes, I'm tired of funding other people's children to go to school. I'd love for that money to go to the city and not schools, as a lesbian I'll never have kids and never see any benefit from it, so stop taxing us on it.
Education
EMS-Firefighter position to meet the increasing needs of the community. Mental health services. Less on supporting addiction and more on supporting recovery. More support for community events, including partnering with the local schools.
Fire and EMS.
FIRE/EMS and School supplies for students
Fix traffic lights so sensors and timers are actually working. Currently Main St thru traffic gets shortest duration green at Elm/Main/Washington and Main/Maple/62; seems opposite of what it should be. Left turn green from South Main to North Main is ridiculously long, seems like 3 minutes, at 7-8PM at night when there's little traffic. Also left turn greens are always triggered often with no traffic waiting at

Main/Elm/Washington. Lots of unnecessary pollution going into the air with traffic idling for extended periods because lights are not timed correctly or sensors do not work.
Flood mitigation, infrastructure improvements and traffic calming citywide. Striping on streets should be done first thing in spring, then pothole filling. Traffic throughout our city is problematic and unsafe for pedestrians. Much of this can be alleviated with more flashing speed limit signs, stand up "pedestrian crossing" signs in the middle of ALL crosswalks and line striping done early and kept up with all season long. Promotion of the Citywide speed limit could also help as education is key.
Flood resiliency projects, housing development, street maintenance
Flood resiliency, public infrastructure upgrades. Items that will pay off and save the city money in the long run. Putting in a roundabout in downtown Main Street to drastically help with traffic flow.
Flood resiliency, public infrastructure, items that will save the City money in the future. Roundabout in downtown Main Street to help drastically with traffic flow.
Funding for conservation including supporting and enhancing the Cow Pasture and critical access points to it that are unconserved and vulnerable to development. Would also love to see a buyout of properties in the flood zone and creation of a recreational greenway with trails and parks. I understand this is a hugely expensive and complex undertaking, but also an incredible opportunity. Hiring a grant writer for the city, as suggested above, would be imperative for getting something like this off the ground.
Getting all the homeless and or drug users that wander the streets mandatory help or relocation for the sake of our children and citizens who reside here. I personally feel very strong about this as my children seeing this behavior terrifies them. While I understand the situation at hand, those people chose the life to get where they are but can't seem to choose better to help themselves or our community, don't deserve free hand outs.
Home owners are taxed beyond belief now. I feel you need to learn to budget accordingly and stop relying on property tax payers to pull you out of your debt issues. Meanwhile, youve payed close to one million dollars for the Newburys building so realtor friends of a crooked mayor can get richer.
Housing and shelter
Housing Centers for the homeless. Warming centers. Soup Kitchens. Programs designed to help people get back on their feet and into affordable housing. Affordable housing projects. It's 12/11, just the beginning of winter and someone in Barre has already died from being homeless and in the cold and there are EMPTY buildings on main street? It's disgraceful. I see more people going above and beyond in the Barre resident Facebook group than the city/town does for it's resident's. Instead of just police officers, social workers and crisis managers- we need people who can work with our homeless, mentally ill populations and try to get them the services they desperately need, when they need them.
housing for homeless mental health access for people that need it
Housing solutions services, unhoused services, improved street cleaning
I am not willing to pay higher taxes. This state continues to tax the tax payers while not reviewing and fixing the state assistance programs. I have lived in THIS city for 34 years! I personally know way too many people who play the system and continue to get away with it while me and all other tax payers are forced to work harder to help pay for these programs through being taxed.
I don't know what the "bulky waste disposal event" was, so I do not know whether I would consider paying higher taxes for this line item. A clearer police presence toward drivers abiding by traffic laws as well as a more productive relationship between citizens and police officers / business owners and officers would be good developments. I would support increased taxes for recreational events if they are geared to drawing in people from other communities and/or are marketed to visitors to the state as well as for residents.
I would be willing to pay higher taxes for a vastly improved downtown business development and economic development authority. In actuality, an effective full time grant writer/grant manager could

replace the need for separate downtown partnership and area economic authority entities, saving the City's taxpayers some of the staff overhead. That we do not have an individual on staff writing grants like nobody's business is profoundly puzzling. The residents of Barre do not get enough in return for our taxpayer dollars, and we need a more smartly run city government.
I would not be willing to pay higher taxes for anything. Our taxes are already out of control.
I would pay more taxes to increase the workforce on the maintenance crew with the expectation that they focus in on detailed maintenance. Think of the city as their own yard. Keeping city grounds (parks, side walks, projects) clean, mowed, edged, weeded, well kept! I feel like city workers now have the mindset to get the job done instead of doing the job well. We need care to be put back into the look of the city to help increase others wanting to live here. People care about how things look.
I'm not willing to pay higher taxes, I want my taxes used more effectively on things that actually affect citizens of barre on a day to day basis. I ABSOLUTELY would not pay more taxes for more cops and surveillance rather than actually addressing the material needs of residents and the disrepair of sidewalks, streets and facilities.
I'm less concerned about which specific services, more concerned about the benefits of these taxes going to everyone who lives here instead of some selfish asshole developer and his friends.
Improvements to infrastructure.
Increase on firefighting personal
Increased Fire department and EMT staffing. Both departments sound under staffed.
Increased Fire/EMS and Police staffing
Increased staffing for the fire department, specifically additional full time firefighter/emts
Increased staffing of fire/EMS personnel.
Infrastructure
Infrastructure (water and sewer) Sidewalk repair/replacement
Inhave been supportive of recreational programming in this survey. I want to be clear that in my mind, it includes programming across the lifespan, not just for children and families. There is too much emphasis on hockey.
Institute *traffic calming* street infrastructures that fosters traffic slowing, rather than focus on paving to speed traffic.
Investing in simple tent platforms, toilets, and seasonal storage for unhoused folks living in the city. Thanks, I know this is not easy.
It is incomprehensible, that the influx of narcotics into this small city continues to increase, while this year, Hartford Village had a major drug bust that included working with VT State Police. It doesn't look good for Barre, and raises many questions as to who is actually involved and profiting from this degradation of civil society and destruction of human lives, including generations of families in Barre. Every single available dollar should be put to use to stop the trafficking of drugs in Central VT and help return it to a civil society.
It would depend on how much of an increase but my priority would be street and parking lot paving (you didn't make that clear above).
Library
Mobile violent criminal execution squad who also holds judges accountable for the criminals they release.
Monitor and implement rent controls Figure out homelessness issue
More embedded social services in city government, including police department
More staff for Barre City EMS/Firefighters.

My dream is for there to be a splash pad in Barre City, perhaps at the Mathewson Playground as an accessible summertime activity for resident families and that would draw families from the area to recreate in Barre
N/A
None
NONE
None
None, make it work on current budget and eliminate other things.
None.
Nothing, manage the budget and stop pushing out tax payers.
Our infrastructure is crumbling. Everywhere you look in Barre, there is something that the City owns or is responsible for that needs repair, replacement, or upgrade. We have street signs that you cannot even read - check out the stop signs going to Summer Street - they are bleached white octagons that were once red. Fences around ball fields are falling down, leaning. Trash and recycling cans downtown are bent and damaged. Curbs are crumbling, sidewalks are broken and treacherous for everyone, but especially people with disabilities. Can we not fix and care for what we already own before investing and/or building something, anything new?
Our taxes are already ridiculously high, but we definitely need some major improvements in this city, specifically to the water system. I believe I remember taxes already being increased to resolve this, but it is still causing significant problems. This needs to be addressed asap.
Our taxes are already too high
Patrol the south end as well as the northend!
Plowing so called private roads. People pay taxes !
plowing that does not dump the entire street on my side of the road!
preventative maintenance on water and sewage line
PUBLIC SAFETY - POLICE, FIRE & EMS
Public safety. Fire and ambulance. My question is where does the money go from the services provided by the fire department i.e. ambulance calls. Does that money go into the general fund or does it go towards building the fire department up? Increase recreational programming would be great if there was reliable transportation in the area. I feel the improvements already made to alumni hall should bring in some revenue for the recreation department. Perhaps a video tour of the rooms should be made available. One suggestion would be to have pool parties at the pool with lifeguards and music a couple times this summer. Perhaps a \$10 entrance fee, but it would give the young people something to do and look forward to. (Notify the neighbors!)
Removal of bridge structures over the City rivers that are too low and prevent flood water from moving through the city. Flood prone property buyouts should be a priority, it's only a matter of time until the next flood event that devastates our City. Increased trail maintenance at the Cow Pasture and Rotary Park trails. They both become overgrown (especially Rotary Park) and rely on volunteers for much of the maintenance. Increase of recreational programming: would be great to resurrect an outdoor ice skating rink. It was great to use it when I first moved to town, but it hasn't been opened for a few years. A rail trail for walking, running & biking between Barre City and Montpelier should be a priority. This would increase visitors to the city and help our local economy. And, riding a bike on 302 through Berlin is terrifying, even with a bike lane. Fixing our wastewater facility should also be a priority. That place smells and doesn't effectively treat the waste the city produces. If more housing is going to be added, the facility will be easily maxed out.
Safe water to drink and sidewalks for safe pedestrian travel

Services related to public safety; economic development - supporting our merchants to thrive; flood resiliency - North End housing in flood plain needs to be addressed sooner than later
Sidewalks & walkability maintenance improvements; better bus service & bus stop maintenance/improvements; crack down on speeding/traffic violations (this generates desperately needed revenue and increases driver & pedestrian safety!); supporting construction of housing - give more parking lots to Downstreet!
Sidewalks and other amenities for residents should be the number 1 priority. Invest in things that have the potential to generate real, tangible returns for us instead of expensive, wasteful projects like buying abandoned buildings or renting surveillance cameras.
Sorry, but this City is taxed to death with not much to show for it. Audit. Audit spending and be efficient and effective with the funding allocation. Stabilize our costs. We all have to be mindful of spending. I ask that our beloved City does too.
Stop raising my property taxes and instead trim the fat
taxes are already out of control and we may have to sell our house if they keep going up, i don't want higher taxes to pay for things i want smarter usage of the taxes already paid.
Taxes are already too high.
The Aldrich Public Library - which puts on a majority of free community events offered. Flood resiliency and housing projects backed by thorough environmental review - and without the conflict of interest among certain local elected officials conducting personal business while in office - to reduce potential downstream flood damages. Pedestrian focused traffic projects - such as installing sidewalks, and painting the sidewalk crossings.
The City needs to manage existing funds better, there is no need to increase taxes. We do not take care of what we have ,but we are willing to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on new acquisitions. I know several property owners, myself included, who are considering moving from the city due to property taxes and mismanagement of city funds.
The statement "willing to pay higher taxes for" is misleading you guys know it. We should be cutting funding for BS organizations like BADC and instead use that money to fund things like sidewalks and upgraded plumbing. An increase in services does not inherently imply that taxes will go up. Managing a budget and cutting out things that don't serve the average Barre City resident should be a priority to the city.
Traffic calming and ticketing
Traffic calming measures. I live and work in Barre City and walk to work. The number of people who speed through the crosswalk when people are in it is unacceptable.
WE NEED AFFORDABLE HOUSING IT IS NOT RIGHT TO CHARGE ONE PERSON MORE THSN \$600/m FOR AN APARTMENT. I am 24, and will NEVER be able to move out if my parents house if we dont put a cap on single income apartments. No i dont want roomates. No i dont want to kill myself eorking 100 hours a week i want safe afforable housing.

Additional comments.

Resident/Non-Resident

A friend tells me about city alerts, but soon Ill have regroup.
Aldrich Public Library is an absolute asset to this community. They don't get enough of our budget to begin with and if cuts are made to it, then I think it is absolutely clear what the City's agenda is and it isn't for the average resident. Also the inability to put a proper response to the Police budget question up top is frustrating. We need to move money away from policing and towards housing and food security. Police should gradually be defunded while funding for other necessities to human life are given the funding they deserve. Housing and food security are human rights we should all have access to regardless of our contribution to this violent system of capitalism we live under.
As to river maintenance mentioned above, for me that includes all waterways within the City such as Edgewood Brook that runs right by my home that has been severely affected by the recent flood events.
Collaboration with other municipalities for shared services or jobs that can be bid on together as a larger project - possibly better pricing with scale; with school districts to support youth and team sports - bring more people into the area to support local businesses while they are visiting the area to watch their children play sports
CONTROL THE PET PROJECTS LETS KEEP A FOCUS ON ESSENTIAL SERVICES WHO AFFECT POSITIVELY ON QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES
Eliminating or even decreasing any funding to the library is a incredibly poor city management decision. Studies show public libraries improve civic life, lower crime rates, act as retail anchors, and provide a ROI of up to \$5 for every tax dollar spent. Fix the waste water treatment facility.
Eliminating or even decreasing any funding to the library is an incredibly poor city management decision. Studies show public libraries improve civic life, lower crime rates, act as retail anchors, and provide an average ROI of \$5 for every tax dollar spent. Fix the waste water treatment facility.
Getting over taxed and nothing is getting done, the city is ignoring what the taxpayers are saying!
Help our most vulnerable populations, FIRST. Residents can live without the pool, recreation facilities, playgrounds, and pristine cemeteries. Resident's CAN'T live without housing, food and basic necessities, especially in the winter.
Honestly, before we build new housing, why don't we service this existing community. If you're replacing housing, that's one thing, but if you're trying to increase the population, the existing population is already being underserved. How is building more housing not going to strain the already strained municipal services?
I am one of the hundreds (perhaps thousands) of Barre residents who live on a fixed income, so increases in property taxes are always fearful, especially when Green Mountain Power is approved for a more than a 5% rate increase every year. I also encourage finding ways to reduce waste and improve efficiency in how our tax dollars are spent. Please adopt the principle of "getting more bang for the buck." I don't use all the amenities that Barre offers so i couldn't really answer some of your questions above. You should have included a "don't know" option. I answered neutral or keep the same in some cases because leaving no answer wasn't an option.
I have a single income and can not afford any more taxes without having to get a second job.
I really appreciate you soliciting feedback from the community and recognize what an enormous challenge you have during these difficult financial times. Thank you all for serving your community. Lastly, I am not sure where the fire hydrant upgrades/maintenance falls in the budget, but I hope that is fully funded for FY27. I was happy to see the hydrant replaced recently at Hersey Dr and Tremont but there are many others that need it, and it's concerning to think about all these old houses with old wiring

and wood heat (mine included) that have diminished access to fire hydrants. And the orange bags are an eye sore. Thanks for your consideration!
I really hope we aren't relying on the opinions of citizens for how we should be investing in flood resiliency. I understand doing this in some circumstances, but when it comes to complex issues like river dynamics, stream geomorphology, and stormwater science, we should be trusting experts, not soliciting opinions from everyday people that likely know very little about the topic, just what they've heard from their friends or what they've experienced anecdotally. That's why we use science - to tease out the noise and subjectivity.
I understand that the Fire Dept is critically understaffed and should be budgeted to hire more firefighters and EMTs. More staff means a safer working environment for everyone employed there, and better service for city residents. This is the most important part of the budget to me. I don't believe that more police patrols are the solution to issues people have been having downtown. People need support, housing, and to have their basic needs met, not to be penalized for their behavior. I always want to see more investment in parks and public recreation spaces, as a parent of a young child and a home childcare provider in the city. Thank you so much for making this survey!
I was extremely disappointed in the way councilor Routhier was allowed to share false claims and conspiracy theories while interrupting the library's budget presentation.
I work for the state in Retirement, retirees are taking their income and leaving because this state is too expensive to live in. The increase of Vermonters leaving will continue to increase if things don't change and the changes cannot be increase taxes.
I'd like to know that we are finding ways to promote home ownership, and that out of town landlords, or companies, invest in bettering housing stock. Landlords may think they pay, but they also make profits when turning over property, and should pay a tax for the privilege of doing business that is supported by community investments. Developing shared housing opportunities. Get the Governor to pay for services rendered on behalf of the many who come to Barre in need. I appreciate the challenges we face and while folks can tighten their belts, they need to have a belt. Advocate for federal funding through our Congressional delegation, and ask for citizen help to do advocacy. Maintain our precious wetlands. Collaborate to develop more child care.
If more tax money goes into paying for low income housing, the police budget should be equally adjusted for the increase of calls and issues that come with those developments.
I'm glad that recreation spending is higher in the proposed budget. How can we expect new people to want to move here unless there is good quality recreation to offer them? Along those lines, programming by the Aldrich Library is ALSO recreation. Please fund their requested increase so that they can continue to provide excellent resources for our entire community.
In key functions --assuming we pay competitive salaries-- city is not receiving requisite value from personnel. Council has authorized more committees than city can staff with qualified personnel.
Increasing road and sidewalk maintenance will increase traffic and business. This should be prioritized.
It is important to be clear about what the 75% is paying for as it relates to basic services. These services should be highlighted and promoted. If there is contractual obligations, these should be highlighted as to why an increase is necessary. Also, define the contracts with vendors and what they are paying for. Define any state or grant funds and what they are paying for. Only focusing on the changes does not show the entire picture of the city budget and what residents are paying for.
It would be helpful to provide a breakdown of how much taxpayer money is spent on public safety (police, fire, ambulance) versus everything else.
It's hard work you do

Just took a class through VTrans about how designing bridges for flood control also improves aquatic organism passage and wildlife connectivity that was really eye opening. If they open up the class for municipalities you should take it.
Keep Barre affordable. Let's not become Montpelier. I relocated to Barre from Montpelier (after 25 years as a resident) to avoid the ridiculous waste and property taxes. That's what makes Barre so desirable. As a fairly new resident of the city, I think Barre is run better than Montpelier. I think the quality of life is better than in Montpelier. Life is expensive enough right now as it is. You guys are doing a fantastic job running this city, and I will stay here as long as Barre remains affordable. Let's not make the same mistakes as Montpelier and keep Barre affordable and great. I am a high earner, remote tech worker, and I can pick up and move anywhere. I bought a home in Barre because I love the community, and I would prefer to stay here. Keep up the great work.
Last time we did this, people overwhelmingly said they wanted more sidewalks and yet the city government didn't seem at all interested in responding to that.
my husband and I are talking about moving from Barre next year We are senior citizens and still working part time. We have lived in Barre for 19 years and love it and it will be heartbreaking to have to leave. We just can't afford the taxes and cost of living. Prices need to be brought down somehow.
Need to review and eliminate programs that only provide/support to a small number of people.
NO TAX INCREASE
None
North end of Barre needs to be re-developed, and measures taken to mitigate flood risk.
Not sure why we need all these new apartments. The only increase in population that I can see is in the homeless. Are the new apartments government subsidized which will just attract more non contributing residents. Build some decent housing for the elderly and maintain strict control about an age limit.
Other than the fire and police department, I think the past budget we had was very well thought out. Maybe think about every other year doing the bulk trash somehow. Are we losing money because we don't have enough fire medics to cover the increase in ambulance calls and having to call in mutual aid?
Our community would benefit from increased support and investment in first responders to ensure adequate staffing and response capability. At the same time, I believe the City should consider consequences or deterrents for individuals who misuse emergency services for personal or neighbor disputes, as this wastes public resources and places unnecessary strain on emergency response teams.
Our little city has a lot to offer if offered to the right people that care for it, want to give back, and respect it. Enforce a high standard! The look of the city is very important. I think over all our city needs to have higher expectations and respect for the grounds and the building/ homes within it. We have a gem here if we up our standards.
Pave the roads...
Please give young adults apartments or tiny homes or something and stop letting people die on the street
Please incorporate healthy living communities strategies into your expenditures for infrastructure, housing, and recreation.
Please see above statement
Please send the homeless and repeat offenders to Los Angeles or Columbia.
Several questions needed a n/a option if they are going to be required. You may want to include a text field below some questions so folks can elaborate on why they answered the way they did. Several of the questions are more complicated and require a more nuanced response then checking a box can capture.
Some of the areas you are asking the public to respond to require increased insights to make an informed response - especially around flood mitigation.

Sorry, but this City is taxed to death with not much to show for it. Audit. Audit spending and be efficient and effective with the funding allocation. Stabilize our costs. We all have to be mindful of spending. I ask that our beloved City does too.
Stay within it!!!!
Stop wasting money buying buildings that landlords don't take care of. Beef up the requirements for vacant buildings and enforce them. Use our tax dollars to maintain infrastructure, and systematically, over time, fix aging systems. Mitigate future flooding disasters with the plan. Stop asking us to spend money on low priority things like the project with the lead pipes, which has gone silent. I'd like to hear where it's at and how it's making a difference. Or not. Seems a bit of a nuisance rather than an important project, especially considering you've placed the burden on residents, rather than the City taking responsibility for what the city pipes connecting to our homes look like.
Street maintenance -- we have an amazing array of potholes, some that appear annually. I avoid some streets entirely if there's an alternative. Is Nelson Street to remain blocked off forever or is there a plan to repair the culvert and re-open? Presumably there was a program to repair/replace deficient fire hydrants, but many are still out of service -- is this still going on? Does this affect the city's firefighting capacity? Cemetery maintenance needs improvement, especially in cemeteries other than Hope.
Thank you for all your work to make Barre City a vibrant place to live!
Thanks for putting this together! I think it's a great opportunity for the community to voice their opinions. If only more people had the opportunity to fill it out.
That the mayor, city manager and council continue doing the excellent job they have done since the floods. They have done an excellent job in all aspects.
The average taxpayer cannot absorb anymore. I understand we need to invest in the future but for a while we need time for incomes to catch up with all the increased expenses heaped upon us the last few years
The City is doing a good job with limited resources. This is a challenge as our fiscal capacity is limited. Maintaining existing facilities and equipment is a must in order to protect the investments that we have already made.
The condition of the streets in Barre is a disgrace. I understand there are great challenges around weather, heavy truck traffic, and the substrata of the streets where granite cobblestones have been paved over but these street conditions are dangerous and detrimental to attracting new residents and businesses. I live close by the high school and it amazes me that there is not greater concern for the safety of young people and teachers driving on Ayers, Boynton, and Circle Streets. The Bellavance truck yard and remaining granite sheds in this neighborhood add to the issue. Truck traffic in this neighborhood and down street should be better directed to mitigate the wear created by these heavy vehicles. For example, why can't trucks be routed down Summer Street instead of Main Street? At least during regular business hours, this would spread the load out and reduce wear on Main Street. I have entered my email address in the raffle primarily to identify myself to you in the event you feel motivated to reach out to me directly. Thank you.
The fire department has been promoting increased staffing, but I do not understand why the roll a fire truck every single time an ambulance is called out. This appears to use unnecessary additional staff. The City website is useless for public announcements and current events. The dates on nearly every announcement are incorrect. Please fix that.
The floors in the upstairs at the aud are a mess and desperately need to be replaced. They are a trip hazard that I myself have fallen on and seen others fall over. The tiles are very old and broken and a lot are loose or missing. This building is used a lot so it would be a good investment.
The library IS our social safety net. It literally saves lives, in addition to providing access to resources to everyone, regardless. Please grant their request for funding.

The Newberry building buyout was a boondoggle and massive gift to a property owner who let their building become a blight on our downtown. The property should have been surrendered to the city, not purchased. Very disappointing that the owner is receiving a massive payout after letting the place fall apart for years. Do better!
The number one area that needs more funding is adequately staffing our EMS services.
The pool has seemed to be a money pit for a number of years now. Curious on the actual numbers of people that utilize it each year. Eliminating this seems like a very easy way to reduce needless spending.
There are many facilities/categories listed in this survey that i have not yet engaged, like the pool or parks or cemeteries and i've yet to need fire services, because i've only lived here two years. however i had to give responses in order to to complete the survey. personally i would love for the library to have increased funding but we are living in difficult times and i think that projects of immediate survival regarding work, health, and affordable housing (new and old) probably need to be a priority for people in Barre. If funding was abundant i would love to see public educational resources from the library expanded for adults and children, and that career center improved and expanded. But man, times are tough. I just hope that Barre continues to support the lives of its residents practically, and not by increasing punishments for people struggling to make it on minimum wage and no healthcare or basic human rights protections, as is happening all over the country. I am grateful for the care, competency, and service i have seen the city of Barre provide in my time here thus far.
This is a tough question. Having recently relocated from Iowa where my annual property taxes were ~\$5800/yr to Barre City where my taxes are nearly DOUBLE, I am not entirely sure those funds are being spent wisely when I compare quality of life amenities and services. Yes, salary is important, but we're not paying people to get paid; we're paying to have a better place to live. Same complaint as we had in Iowa. As such, my kids live minutes up the street in Barre Town, and their streets are markedly in better condition than ours in Town. AND they pay less in taxes than we do.
To request input from City residents at 8:45a ON A WORK DAY with a 3.25-hour deadline is a farce. How can I consider the request to be of integrity with a few hours notice? How can I take the City government seriously when what goes into broadly gathering feedback for the budget process is given 3.25 hours on a day most residents are at work? I'd love to see a monthly state of the City address by the mayor. I'd love to see the mayor. I'd love to know who the hell was elected and what they are doing to improve the lives of all of Barre's residents. I'd love to know where he stands on various City-related issues as well as State-level issues that will particularly affect Barre City. I'd love to know what is being done to diversify Barre City's economic base, make the City attractive to businesses that would draw visitors from beyond Barre, and increase the base of residents that can afford to patronize our businesses more lucratively. Without regular periodic communication on these issues, all we have is a poor, social services city without mission, dream, or hope. I am grateful for the work of the City Manager, City Clerk, and every person who serves with good intent the City through public service.
We need a downtown that feels alive and cared for—not hollowed out by empty, decaying buildings. A downtown that reflects the people who live here and celebrates community, creativity, and connection. We signal a very right-wing, republican presence with so many American flags. That's not welcoming, and not safe. We need places where people actually belong. Spaces for gathering, listening, and being together—meetings and events that welcome many kinds of voices, not just the loudest or most comfortable. We need a teen center. We need places that say to young people: you matter here, and this city is yours too. Barre is asking for safety, and what we've been offered isn't working. Fear is rising, trust is eroding, and people are hurting. This is a leadership failure, not a community failure. Barre needs new leadership—leaders willing to invest in people, listen deeply, and rebuild a city rooted in care, accountability, and shared responsibility.

Where is the mayor? I want to hear from the person in the highest elected office in the city, regularly and not just when the person is interested in a particular issue. What is the "state of the city?" What are Barre City's challenges, as the mayor sees them and/or is informed of them by the City's residents, manager, and employees? What does the mayor see as the practicable mitigation measures to address those challenges? Where are we, as a city, making gains as well as where are we losing grounds? Are there partnerships, grant applications, or other alliances being developed and what are the goals of those efforts? How is the mayor working on behalf of all residents and business, and not just those with whom the person agrees? I would love to hear from the city manager regularly, too. A once-a-month review via ReGroup or Front Porch Forum on city works could be informative and community-building.

While the Barre Partnership is good for its members, I don't believe the city gets their money's worth - I think a part time consultant could do work for significantly less money and I have no idea what BAD brings to the table.



City of Barre, Vermont

"Granite Center of the World"

ACTION ITEM BRIEFING MEMO CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM CITY COUNCIL AGENDA: 02-10-26

Consent Item No.: _____ **Discussion Item No.** 8F **Action Item No.** _____

AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION:

Discussion on city acceptance of payments based on US Post Office postmarks

SUBJECT: *Same*

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT/PERSON: *Carol Dawes, treasurer*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt policy eliminating acceptance of US Post Office postmarks for payment receipts.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME/PRIOR ACTION: *Not applicable*

EXPENDITURE REQUIRED: *None.*

FUNDING SOURCE(S): *Not applicable.*

LEGAL AUTHORITY/REQUIREMENTS:

BARRE CITY CHARTER, Chapter 3. Sec. 307. {Powers of City; policy matters; appointment of certain officers.}

All powers of the City and the determination of all matters of policy shall be vested in the City Council except as otherwise provided by this act or by general law.

BACKGROUND/SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

Barre City has traditionally accepted US Post Office postmarks as proof of timely payment for any payment that has a deadline (taxes, water/sewer, delinquencies). The following information is printed on tax bills when they're mailed out. It's also included in notices published in the newspaper:

Tax payments must be received in the City Clerk/Treasurer's office before close of business on the due date (4:30 PM), or bear a clearly legible U.S. Post Office postmark containing a date on or before the due date. The safest way to guarantee a letter bears a U.S. Post Office postmark is to have the stamp hand-canceled by a postal worker. **PLEASE NOTE:** A personal or business **postage meter mark IS NOT** a U.S. Post Office postmark, and any payment received after the deadline bearing a postage meter mark will be considered delinquent. **ALSO NOTE:** Most financial institutions do not use postmarks on payments authorized through on-line accounts, and any such payment received after the deadline will be considered delinquent.

Recently the US Post Office changed its practice with regards to postmarks, noting that most mail is now postmarked when it arrives at a regional processing facility, not when it is first dropped off. This means postmarks may be dated days later than the actual mailing date, potentially

impacting deadlines for receipt of payments. The only way to ensure that a piece of mail bears a postmark for the actual day it's mailed is to bring it to the counter in the post office and have the envelope/stamp hand canceled with the specific date.

Due to the change, a US Post Office postmark is no longer an accurate indication of when a payment was mailed.

Barre City staff members frequently hear from payers that a check was mailed before or on the due date, but when the payment is received the postmark is dated after the due date, the postmark is illegible, or there's no postmark at all. This leads to arguments with payers about whether the payment is delinquent or not, and how to prove payment was made timely. Additionally, we're finding that mail delivery is quite slow, with pieces mailed locally taking several days – or even more than a week – to be delivered. This slows down our processing, and our ability to close a collection quarter and send out timely delinquent notices.

As US Post Office policies and postmarks are out of our control, Barre City staff members suggest we change our procedures to require payments be received by the due date, regardless of postmarks. Payments would need to be “in hand” by the close of the office on the due dates. The drop box by the front door would be checked at closing time, and any payment received afterwards would be considered late. Any payment received in the mail after the due date would be late. All online payments already bear a date and time stamp, so we're able to clearly note which ones were made timely.

We understand this would be a significant change, and propose the following to help with the transition:

- *The transition goes into effect July 1, 2026 with the mailing of the 2026-2027 tax bills.*
- *An informational insert is sent out with the March and June water/sewer bills.*
- *Information is sent out with delinquent bills.*
- *An information postcard is mailed to all property owners this spring.*
- *Information is printed on the new tax bills, and inserted with the tax bills.*
- *Notices are posted multiple times on social media (website, Facebook, Front Porch Forum).*
- *Local media is used to help spread the work (Times Argus, Talk of the Town, The World)*

According to the Thursday, 2/5 Times Argus, the Barre Town clerk has started similar conversations with the Barre Town Selectboard. I reached out to her to discuss the advantages of making such an adjustment in both municipalities so as to minimize any confusion throughout the Barre area.

LINK(S): *None*

ATTACHMENTS: *None*

INTERESTED/AFFECTED PARTIES:

Taxpayers, water/sewer customers, other bill payers, City staff

RECOMMENDED ACTION/MOTION:

Approve procedural change to no longer accept US Postmarks for timely receipt of payments.