

To be approved at the 12/16/2025 Council meeting.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, Dec. 9th, 2025, 6PM
IN PERSON LOCATION: Council Chambers, City Hall
6 N. Main St., Barre, VT

Item 1. Call to Order; 6pm

2.Adjustments to and Approval of the Agenda -none

*Motion to approve of the agenda dated 12/09/2025 moved by Councilor Spaulding -
Seconded by Councilor Bergeron, approved.*

3. Visitors & Communications –

Bern Rose- Thankful the warming shelter was opened to the unhoused during the record low temperatures. If you need this service, contact Tess Taylor.

Regroup notice helped get the work out to a larger audience.

Mayor Lauzon – Christmas for Kids has collected over \$18,000 in donations to date.

4. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

- i. Meeting of 11/18/25 (corrected) and the Special Meeting of 11/25/25

B. Clerk's Office Licenses & Permits-none

C. Ratify Council's 11/18/25 decision to grant free downtown holiday parking

At the request of The Barre Partnership, the City Council approved free downtown holiday parking at its November 18, 2025, meeting. Since this item was not warned on the agenda, it requires ratification.

D. Approve Errors & Omissions Correction for Tax Year 2025 Grand List: 51 Church St

E. Approve lease with State of Vermont for use of Elm St Parking Lot

The State reached out to City officials seeking additional parking spaces to accommodate employees returning to in person days at City Place. The City has negotiated a short-term lease of fifteen parking spaces at the Elm Street Parking Lot. Five spaces will remain as shared-use spaces (i.e., overnight parking spaces). The State will pay the prevailing daytime rate for rental of these spaces, which amounts to \$12.50/space from December 10 through December 31, and \$242.69/space from January 1 through the end of the lease on December 10, 2026.

F. Authorize the Manager to execute contract(s)

Approximately \$5,000 total (\$1,000) per month to retain Atlas Government Affairs for legislative advocacy services during the upcoming legislative session

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Seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

4-a. Approve City Warrants

- i. Approve week of 12/10/25
- ii. Ratify week of 12/3/25

*Motion to approve the city warrant dated 12/10/2025 and ratify the city warrant for 12/3/25 was moved by Councilor Bergeron, Seconded by Councilor Deering, approved. *Councilor Spaulding abstained.*

5. City Clerk Report

Beginning Dec. 15th- Daytime and overnight Parking Permit will be available for purchase for the 2026 calendar year. Overnight permits are limited to specific lots with limited and clearly marked spaces in each lot, so for best location closest to your residents please purchase early, first come first serve. Daytime permits are limited to green topped meters throughout the city.

2026 dog licenses are also available for purchase after January 1st; an updated rabies certificate is required at the time of purchase. Spayed or neutered - \$19, non-spayed \$23

6. Liquor/Cannabis Control Boards

Summer Street Tavern – 1st class

Summer Street Tavern – 3rd class

Reviewed and approved by Chief Brad Vail and Fire Marshal Nick Copping.

Motion to approve the Liquor licenses up for renewal was moved by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

7. City Manager's Report

Winter parking ban will be in place. This parking ban is determined by weather predictions and current conditions. Stay aware by signing up for ReGroup notifications.

The warming shelter at the Congregational Church was set up for (12) individuals, (10) were occupied the night of record-breaking low temperatures. The shelter when available will be open from 7pm to 7am. It was noted that the shelter is not funded by the City.

A marker for the Lafayette trail tour arrived for placement in City Hall Park later this spring. This marker acknowledges the visit to Barre City back in June 1825.

The Public Safety building is undergoing building maintenance.

8. New Business

A. Public Hearing Warned 6:15pm: Closeout of the VCDP Implementation Grant 07110-IG-2021-Barre C-21 Granite City Apartments (Downstreet Housing)

To be approved at the 12/16/2025 Council meeting.

Opening the hearing at 6:25pm, representatives of Downstreet Housing confirmed and validated the funding has been completely allocated in the manner it was intended. The housing located at 4 Humbert Street in Barre, this transformed schoolhouse, once known as Ward 5 school, has now become a home to (9) residents.

B. Barre City River Access Master Plan public feedback

Members from the Friends of the Winooski River Task Force, Michele Braun, Taylor Litwin and from the Barre River Collective – Danielle Owczarski, Hannah Towne and Peter Anthhony with Dan Mallock of Dubois & King engineering.

With great detail, after visiting each projected access area, the team came to the table looking for the Council to whittle down the proposed list and name the top (3). Each site was categorized by many criteria including grade of embankment, traffic noise, sites, smells, pedestrian traffic and opportunity for a teaching space and safety to name a few. Each future site could offer picnicking, kayaking, wading or just relaxing on a bench.

Councilors agreed on Spaulding High School for its opportunities to engage students.

Dessereau Machines property was chosen for the current lawn space and future growth.

The Ayer Auto site has great potential with the location and square footage.

C. Citywide reappraisal briefing (Assessor)

Carly and Larry Martin appraisers and Matt Krejeski appraiser have been conducting a City wide reassessment. Collectively the purpose is to level the field within the City for a fair and more equal tax base

D. Discuss state legislative priorities (Legislative Delegation)

State Representative Teddy Waszazak, State Representative Michael Boutin and Senator Ann Watson shared what they felt should be at the top of the list for this legislation session, including education & taxes, health care & budgets.

Mayors list;

- Regional flood mitigation

- Transportation funding for paving Routes 14, 302 & 2

- Create a great action, or a pilot project to bend the housing curve-possible deferring property taxes on new builds. Possibly using the funds to assist new homeowners with the downpayment.

Councilor Gustin;

- housing for the unhoused and funding at the state level

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addressing bank owned property that is left unattended and unkept
regional flood mitigation funds

Manager;

Would like more guaranteed money, even if the funding is less.

Councilor Hilgartner

Suggested pooling with other states for health care to possibly lessen the cost

Councilor Spaulding

Connect with other municipalities for funding

Councilor Deering

Regional flood mitigation

School consolidation in small steps

Have teachers join other communities for health care cost

E. Flood Resiliency Plan update (Gustin)

With a power point to assist the visualization, the buyouts are continuing. Demolition of properties purchased by the city is currently active and will continue throughout the year and coming year.

F. Approve FY27 budget survey

The Council was onboard with the presented FY27 budget survey. The language may change to reflect all reading levels, but the survey was agreed upon.

Motion to approve the FY27 budget survey was moved by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

Upcoming Business;

Mayor;

Final release of the CDBG-DR award is next week.

Round #2 for the CDBG-DR

Legislation awareness

Manager;

Finance Director Christina Kimball will come to the next council meeting to discuss the FY27 budget.

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Round Table;

Mayor- Record amount raised for Christmas for Kids (18,000+) and funds are still coming in!

Thank you to Jason Fleury, Katie Fleury & Jen Charbonneau for all the hard work they put into the project.

Councilor Deering- Christmas for Kids coin drop was a blast.

The raffle for a TV at the Battle of Barre event was successful.

Councilor Hilgartner- The benefit concert held at St. Mary Church in Northfield collected \$1700 for Habitat for Humanity

Councilor Gustin – so happy to have the Warming Shelter option for the unhoused

Councilor Bergeron – Coin drop for Christmas for Kids was fun.

Sunday, Ed Rousse is looking for volunteers for the concession stand at the BOR

Councilor Spaulding – volunteered and attended the Queer Craft Fair thought it was well attended and well run.

Councilor Routhier – Bring your pets in on these cold days and nights.

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

Adjourned at 9:35 pm

Next regular meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2025, at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Metivier, City Clerk