

To be approved at the next Council meeting.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING-Corrected
Tuesday, December 16th, 2025, 6:00pm
IN PERSON LOCATION: Council Chambers, City Hall
6 N. Main St., Barre, VT

1. Call to Order – 6:00PM

2. Adjustments to and Approval of the Agenda

Additional purchase contract F150 - \$42600- Vendor G Stone Motors

*Motion to approve of the agenda dated 12/16/2025 moved by Councilor Gustin
-Seconded by Councilor Bergeron, approved.*

3. Visitors & Communications

Bern Rose – Aldrich- Light Up the Night

Winooski Mentoring Program - *Everybody Wins* Reading mentor

4. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

i. Meeting of 12/9/25

B. Clerk's Office Licenses & Permits -none

C. Approve Downstreet request to be placed on the Town Meeting Day ballot for voter-approved assistance

D. Approve Sno-Bees landowner permission form

E. Authorize the Manager to execute contract(s)

Equipment Trailer

Vendor-Kingdom Equipment- Total Cost: ~\$27,092.80

- To be paid from unspent bond funds The Department of Public Works is seeking to acquire a trailer to transport the mini-excavator. The mini excavator has tracks and this trailer is necessary to transport it from the garage to work sites.

Ford F150

Vendor – G Stone Motors- Total Cost \$42,600.00

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Motion to authorize the approval of the Consent Agenda dated 12/16/2025 moved by Councilor Bergeron -Seconded by Councilor Gustin, approved.

4-a. Approve City Warrants

- i. Approve week of 12/17/25

*Motion to approve City Warrants moved by Councilor Gustin, seconded by Councilor Bergeron, approved. *Councilor Spaulding abstained.*

5. City Clerk Report -none

6. Liquor/Cannabis Control Boards-none

7. City Manager's Report

Budget survey is up and live. 89 participants have completed it so far. The survey will continue through the 28th, with the results to be revealed at the following Council meeting.

Property demolition continues, however the process will pause through the holidays and resume in January.

The winter parking ban is in effect for 12-16-25 so the DPW crews can clear the snow from Main St. and areas to make the parking easier.

Payments for vehicle towing will now be paid at City Hall. The receipt will then need to be brought to the Public Safety Building for release of the auto.

Flagged fire hydrants throughout the city are currently getting repaired or replaced as the DPW crews navigate through road work and other duties.

Facilities Department reported the design build for the Auditorium rebuild has been excepted, however no contract has been signed.

During the City's Holiday gathering some milestones were recognized including;

5 years of service – Anderson Brown – PD

Jamie Herring – DPW

Brian Hoar – PD

10 years of service – Dave Gilbiert – DPW

Brooke Pouliot – PD

15 years of service – Bill Demell – DPW

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Cpt. Brian Farnham – FD

Zachary Tillinghast – FD

25 years of service – Deputy Chief Larry Eastman PD

35 years of service – Jason Fleury – PD

40 years of service – Kathryn Bramman (retired)

Debbie Seaver

8. New Business

A. Volunteer appointments – Neighborly Barre Committee

- Marjorie Strong- generations of family members have enjoyed growing up in Barre, as she has now for 25+ years. She is looking for opportunities to provide assistance in positive events in the city.

Motion to approve the appointment of Marjorie Strong to the Neighborly Barre committee for a (2) year term (through Jun 2027) move by Councilor Gustin, seconded by Councilor Hilgartner, approved.

- Ginger Cloud – looking for opportunities to become emerged in activities and opportunities to help in Barre.

Motion to approve the appointment of Ginger Cloud to the Neighborly Barre committee for a (1) year term (through Jun 2026) move by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Gustin, approved

B. Approve Cozzi Fund allocation to support cemetery records digitization project

Tom Baker, Facilities Director & Executive Director of the Granite Museum, Scott A. McLaughlin, PhD know the records for all cemeteries in Barre are stored securely, but also know in the digital age, they should be also. The ability to research ancestry or locate past residents' documents, deeds, lots and monuments providing decades of information at our fingertips. This is a monumental task, with hopes of completion by the summer of 2026.

Motion to approve the Cozzi Fund allocation to support cemetery records digitization project was moved by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Gustin, approved.

C. 2nd Reading Warned 6:30PM Ordinance #2025-03 Nuisance Properties

Summarizing the changes, corrections and additions to the original read on November 18th, the Manager, Fire Marshal Nick Copping, Police Chief Brad Vail and Fire Chief Keith

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Cushman, the enforcement team, all agreed to the ordinance, which was carefully edited, thoroughly reviewed and the outcome enhances clarity, improves the flow and provides fair practices and enforcement.

Motion to approve the 2nd Reading of Ordinance #2025-03 Nuisance Properties bringing it to adaptation in 30 days was moved by Councilor Deering, seconded by Councilor Bergeron, approved.

D. FY26 budget year-to-date update

Manager Storellicastro and Finance Director Christina Kimball reviewed the upcoming budget roadblocks and shortcomings. Also, pinpointing the track of the current budget trajectory shows we are pretty level with current path. Looking for input on baseline budget, given expenses and broad direction of what you would like to see on priorities and targets with feedback. Future budget presentation will assist with visualizing expenses and revenues. Final budget must be warned by April 7th.

E. Flood Resiliency Plan update (Gustin) – Continue in investing in City staff.

The ability to serve the community properly, efficiently and effectively requires proper staffing levels in each department. The city has held back or scaled back on positions within to keep the annual budget down, thus keeping taxes down. However, it has put a strain on the current staff at all levels, many employees are wearing multiple hats to cover roles and duties. The question remains, should the City try to fill these voids to better serve the residents or stay a status quo. Something to think about and possibly budget for in the future.

F. Discuss CDBG-DR awards announcement and next steps

The first round of CDBG-DR grant results have been released, however the City did not receive all the funding requested. The initial request was \$27,522,653, which included \$23,491,315 for housing, \$3,694,731 for infrastructure, \$336,607 for planning. The results from the awards included only funding for housing was Prospect Heights at a cost of \$5,434,242, for infrastructure was the Harrington Avenue debris rack upgrade at a cost of \$856,428 and finally for the planning grants accepted was the stormwater upgrades at a cost of \$250,000. Round two is coming up with \$14,000,000 up for grabs, but housing projects would be the only projects considered. Preapplication deadline is January 12, 2026, with the date of February 27 of a completed submission date. The Council thinks the North End projects should be the focus.

9. Upcoming Business

Second round of CDBG-DR applications.

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10. Round Table

Councilor Deering- The Parks & Rec Department will host a sliding party at Elmwood Cemetery January 10th from 10am-12pm.

BCEMS will be holding a holiday concert Wednesday, December 17th at 6pm. The band and chorus will be performing.

Mayor Lauzon – The holiday party was a success and fully enjoyed. Thank you to the plus ones for the sacrifices made during the year.

Loves the Christmas season and is proud of all the residents do, to make the season brighter for others.

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was moved by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

Adjourned 8:30pm

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Metivier, City Clerk