

CITY OF BARRE
PUBLIC BODY MEETING MINUTES

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

Date of meeting: Thursday, 9/18/2025 at 4:30pm **Location of meeting:** City Hall Council Chamber

Members in attendance: Art Bombardier, Steve Mackenzie, Jayme Bauer, Kenneth Bauer; Brian May

Members absent: None. *Ken had to leave at 5:15pm for a work-related matter.

Others in attendance: Council Liaison Hilgartner, Alan Rubel

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 4:31 pm
2. **Adjustments to the Agenda:** Item #7: DPW Director Report/Update was provided before Item #6: Ayer Street Traffic Issues because Alan Rubel was running late.
3. **Public Comment:** ((None) (Jayme...A attended as a scheduled Agenda Item)
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the August 21, 2025, meeting were approved with the following minor adjustments: Page 4, Motion 1: add "white paint will be painted over yellow curb." And on Page 5, Motion 2: Art made the motion for approval. Ken made the motion to approve the minutes with the corrections and Art seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
5. **Continuing Agenda item:** none

6. DPW Director Report/Update

The report is attached to the minutes. The following are a few highlights and discussion:

- **Water Main Flushing:** Flushing should be completed next week. The disinfection violation was minor; the threshold is .8 and the line tested at .81. The violation had to be posted online and the higher reading was because the main hadn't been flushed for a few years. Testing and flushing will be better coordinated in the future. In addition, auto flushers are being installed to keep lines flushed on a schedule.
- **U.S. Route 302 Water Transmission Main:** The City is still trying to allocate \$2.24M in congressional designated spending and \$560,000 in DWSRF loan to a

waste water project.

- **Ayers Street Water Distribution Main:** Design and permitting work is complete. Construction set to be completed in 2026 or 2027. Steve asked if this timeline could be sped up. Brian said it wasn't likely due to funding issues.
- **Wastewater Treatment Facility:**
 - The project scored high for the state revolving loan program, however, there are only limited funds available.
 - Staff is hoping to divert \$2.24M from the Rt 302 Water Main to Digesters. Currently, the digesters have to run at a lower than optimal level because of issues with the system.
 - New aerators for the Oxidation Ditches should be able to reduce the load and reduce electricity consumption.
- **Paving:** The City was having problems getting flaggers approved by the rail road for the Quarry Hill Paving. Paving scheduled to be completed next week. They were finally approved this week.
- **DPW Garage:** Project is subject to Act 250 compliance.
- **FEMA Projects:** Designs are complete and the City is seeking funding.

Art asked how the City could prevent salt from leaching into the ground. Brian replied that the Public Works Dept. was putting down a concrete bunker that would be covered.

7. New Agenda Item: Ayer Street Traffic Issues, Alan Rubel et.al.

Discussion

Alan said he was a 40 year long resident on Ayers Street and had been on Barre City Council at one time. He estimated that the street hadn't been paved in 30 years. He understood that the City was facing economic challenges, but asked for Ayers Street to be prioritized for paving in 2025 or 2026 for the following reasons:

- Heavy truck traffic from Bellavance Trucking and other local companies.
- Parking and noise issues.
- The school creates more traffic and noise challenges.
- The street parking narrows the road and makes it difficult for emergency vehicles to get through quickly, which creates a health risk to residents.

He urged the City to look at creative ways to pave Ayers Street before 2027:

- Talk to paving contractors as a group to discuss issues holistically.
- Impose a higher fee or tax on semi trucks to help reduce damage and pay for paving.

Steve asked Alan if eliminating parking on one side of the street could help ease traffic, noise and make it easier for emergency vehicles. Alan said that there is currently only parking on one side and asked about eliminating street parking altogether when it snows. Brian said that there is no overnight parking during a snow storm. Alan asked again if it could be banned altogether.

Alan said that there is also a speeding issue and added that he has called the Police

numerous times because cars park in front of his driveway apron. Steve asked if cars were ever towed and Alan replied no. He added that the situation is unbearable and it's impacting his family's health.

Steve observed that there were two issues- piping and paving and traffic and parking. Brian said that sprinkler service was a high priority for Spaulding High School. He added that a contractor had assessed the piping on Ayer Street and said it was ok, but he was not confident about this assessment because the piping is so old.

Beth asked if the City could undertake a temporary measure like grading, grinding and putting down a gravel matt. Brian responded that he believed a temporary solution would likely add to the problem. Beth added that Nova Scotia uses a special gravel that holds up well to salt and almost all roads are paved with this material.

Beth then asked if there was another route that trucks could take. Alan said it was unlikely because Bellavance takes Circle Street to South Main.

Alan asked if the City could talk to the school about parking and get students to park in the available parking lot. Steve said that you can't control who gets to parking spots first and asked if eliminating street parking would help. Alan said that it would.

Steve asked Brian if the piping was for only for part of the street. Brian said the whole street was getting new piping. Steve then asked if Public Works staff could do the piping work. Brian responded yes, but other projects would go on hold. It would take 8-10 city workers about 2 months to complete the piping work on Ayers Street.

Jayme asked if parking could be eliminated temporarily, say for a year. Brian said he would need to look at ramifications of doing something like that.

Beth suggested that the City could talk to Bellavance Trucking and split the truck traffic between Ayers Street and Circle Street. Alan said there are a number of trucking companies that use Ayers Street.

Steve thanked Alan and said that the committee now has a better understanding of the issues on Ayers Street. He asked Alan to return to the next meeting and that he would take to Brian in the meantime and look for creative solutions, as well as interim solutions to provide relief until the reconstruction in 2027. Alan agreed to come back to the committee in October.

8. Round Table

Art asked why there wasn't a police officer at the meeting. Normally Sergeant Frey attended. Brian said he was only there for the Camp Street discussion. Steve said he would follow up with the police and Art added that he wanted to ask about E-bikes..

Jayme said that Kenneth was now on call for his work the 3rd week of the Month and asked if the Committee would consider rescheduling the meetings so he could attend.

Steve said he could look at another day and Brian was ok with rescheduling it. The Committee decided to hold the next meeting on the second Thursday of the month, October 9, 2025.

Action items (use additional sheets as necessary):

1) Motion NA

Meeting adjourned: 5:43 p.m.

Mover/Second: Jayme filed a motion to adjourn the meeting and Art seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

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

Person filing Minutes:

____Jayme Bauer_____