

Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council – draft
Held January 27th, 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 6:00 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 from Ward III, Councilors Don Routhier and Michael Deering. City staff members present were City Manager Nicolas Storrellicastro, Clerk Cheryl Metivier, Finance Director Christina Kimball and Treasurer Carol Dawes, Facilities Director Tom Baker, Planning & Permitting Director Janet Shatney.

Adjustments to the Agenda –2nd Executive session/personnel

Motion to approve of the agenda dated 1/27/2025 moved by Councilor Bergeron, Seconded by Councilor Deering, approved.

Visitors & Communications – Mayor Lauzon asked the Council to consider supporting a letter be sent to the Governor Scott supporting his stand on actions taking place in Minnesota and neighboring communities. (see attached)

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes

- i. Meeting of 1/6/2026
- ii. Special Meeting of 1/7/2026

B. Clerk's Office Licenses & Permits- (see attach chart)

C. Authorize the Manager to execute contract(s)

Approval of a contract with White + Burke for consulting services related to the 143 N Main Street project. White + Burke – consulting service.

The structure of this contract is a hybrid of hourly fees with a bonus tied to value created rather than sale price. This aligns the agent's and the City's interests, creating an incentive for the agent to focus on the increased property value for the community instead of the sales transactional value, which may not be in the municipality's best interest to be as high as possible. This model has worked successfully in many Vermont municipalities and was used with White + Burke during a previous effort to acquire 143 N Main Street. Due to the potential of a TIF component of any future development, staff recommends contracting with White + Burke to assist with this development project.

Motion to approve of the agenda dated 1/27/2026 moved by Councilor Bergeron, Seconded by Councilor Hilgartner, approved.

4-a. Approve City Warrants

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

To be approved at the next Barre City Council Meeting

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

City Clerk & Treasurer Report –

In light of the weather conditions of the last few days, please think about requesting absentee ballots for the upcoming BUUSD (Barre Unified Union School District)/CVCC (Central Vermont Career Center). Please allow ample time for the return mailing process, the ballots must be in the hands of the election officials by 7pm on the day of the election. We do not accept date stamped ballots after election day.

*Go to/ create your account in the Voter Portal;

<https://vote.vermont.gov/public/dashboard>

*Call the Barre City Clerk's office at 802-476-0242

*Email a request complete with;

Full name

Legal address

Mailing address

Phone number (in case additional information is needed)

Liquor/Cannabis Boards-

Summer Street Tavern – OSC (Outside consumption) permit

Motion to approve the OSC permit submitted by Summer Street Tavern was moved by Councilor Deering, Seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

Managers' Report-

The budget survey has currently had 136 participants. The City's budget survey will remain open for residents until noon on January 28th. The results will be read at the February 3rd Council meeting.

Skate Rentals have begun at the BOR thanks to some generous donated adjustable skates. If you have some gently used skates to donate reach out to the Recreation Department.

Round (2) of the CDBG-DR grant is underway with the focus on (2) projects

Kudos to the DPW staff for the round-the-clock snow removal efforts. Our salt supply is ample currently.

Please note a parking ban will be in effect Thursday night, January 29th for the purpose of snow bank removal from city streets.

Warming shelters are operating through Sunday morning.

New Business-

New Business;

A. Approve RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for 143 N. Main St. development

Stephanie Clarke, from White & Burke Real Estate Advisors, is guiding the city through the process of obtaining a RFQ to kickstart the development process for 143 N Main Street. After a successful

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campaign spearheaded by BADC (Barre Area Development Corporation), the City owns the site as of January 16, 2026.

The objective of this Request for Qualifications and Expressions of Interest ("RFQ") is to identify development partners that are well-qualified and have demonstrated capacity to undertake a complex redevelopment project involving demolition, environmental remediation, and new construction. Housing is the City's highest priority, particularly market-rate and/or senior housing—though hospitality uses will also be considered if well supported by market rationale and project feasibility. Based on responses to this RFQ, the City anticipates inviting a limited number of respondents to participate in a subsequent Request for Proposals ("RFP") process.

Qualification proposals would be due by February 26, 2026. The Council would then be briefed on submissions and approve an RFP distribution list based on the results. A full proposal from the selected applications would be due by April 17, 2026.

The motion to approve the RFQ for 143 N. Main Street was moved by Councilor Deering, seconded by Councilor Bergeron, approved.

B. FY27 Budget

- a. Department Head Reports – Administrative, Facilities & Grounds, Recreation, Revenue
- b. Aldrich Library, BADC and Barre Partnership reports

The City Manager began the presentations with a combination of departments budget proposals for the FY27. The departments included the administration offices (aka Managers, Planning & Permitting/Assessors and Clerks) whose role is based on the valued administrative services, and community support, the behind-the-scenes services, also discussed were, the Facilities & Grounds and Recreation. The bare bones budget of the administration is basically wages & benefits, with the latter mentioned having an additional aspect of growing and promoting revenue. Both facilities and the recreation departments rely on revenue generated by Auditorium, Alumni Hall and BOR rentals, keeping in mind the maintenance of these spaces is on the increase.

With a targeted increase of 5% or less, set by the Council, the budget as proposed for the City came in at 7.24% increase in year-to-year expenses and a 6.6% increase in the amount to be raised by taxes.

The Aldrich Library; Presented by Kristin Baumann, Director/Garrett Grant, Assistant Director/Nancy Pope, Board President/David Sichel, Board Treasurer

The Aldrich Library, the 5th largest in the state, Kristen began her budget proposal with an enthusiastic and engaging presentation of the value in the services, programs, staff, events hosted and community gathering opportunities the library offers the city and surrounding areas. The hub of connection for many whether through face-to-face interaction or through the use of computer services and social services information and assistance. With hopes of continued growth in programs for young children, tweens and teens to engage their interest in activities that will spark ideas and increase community connections. All these ideas require additional staffing and program materials, updates to technology and staffing to maintain safety for all users.

The budget proposed is \$312,000, a 5% increase from the FY26 budget.

BADC-Barre Area Development Corporation; Presented by Josh Jerome, Executive Director

The BADC has play vital roles in recent projects within the downtown and surrounding communities, including the 143 N. Main St. fund raising initiative, Prospect Heights project, assistance with the CDBG-DR grant writing, promotion and growth of local businesses and promotion of area commercial opportunities. With plans

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to grow and update marketing platforms, the BADC hopes to expand outreach capacity. Over the past fiscal year, BADC has reached out to businesses to reintroduce ourselves and strengthen relationships. This work will continue and be a consistent part of our work in the community. As a result of this work, we have engaged with property owners, business owners and some individuals looking to start-up businesses

The budget proposed is \$65,000, an increase of 6.8%

The Barre Partnership; Presented by Tracie Lewis Executive Director/Shannon Alexander, Marketing Director/Alicia Calcagni, Board President

Together the presentation began with a review of activities from CY25. With colorful photos of residents and business owners participating in the many events promoted and sponsored by the Barre Partnership. The focus of these events has always been to bring residents out into the community to engage with neighbors, but also to draw folks from surrounding communities in hopes they will shop, eat and explore at local business, restaurants and sites. Coming to the table with some participation survey results, the Partnership would like to expand on the data and continue asking questions.

New initiatives are being created using our best resource, granite. A new walking museum like tour through the city with narratives offered at each site about the artist, the history and purpose of the piece. Another project in the early stages of creating is tapping into the touring during foliage season and beyond.

The budget proposed is \$74,263, an increase of 3%

C. Authorize retention of Semprebon annuity transfer in the general fund – Carol Dawes, Barre City Treasurer

Motion to Authorize retention of Semprebon annuity transfer in the general fund was moved by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Deering, approved.

D. Approve FY27 allocation of \$10,000 from Brusa Trust to general fund to support recreation programs – Carol Dawes, Barre City Treasurer

The motion to approve FY27 allocation of \$10,000 from Brusa Trust to general fund to support recreation programs was moved by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Spaulding, approved.

E. Flood Resiliency Plan update (Gustin)

The Manager hopes to promote the Regroup notification app through as many venues as possible. Through public outreach and collaboration with existing events the Manager hopes to increase the participation. The Regroup is strictly limited to events and notices within the Barre city limits, although anyone from surrounding communities may sign up.

Any ideas for outreach are welcome.

Up Coming

Mayor Lauzon - CDBG-DR second round application
FY27 budget
Legislature

To be approved at the next Barre City Council Meeting
Councilor Spaulding – more listening sessions, possibly with students and youth.
More updates from committees.

Round Table

Councilor Deering – SHS hockey this weekend.

Councilor Hilgartner -guidance on the response the city with provide to an email distributed by Danielle Owczarski. (The Mayor responded, a thought-out and well-meaning response will follow in the near future)

Councilor Bergeron- Having a conversation with Michelle Department would be welcome.

Councilor Spaulding – Sledding party held at the Elmwood Cemetery looked successful.

Councilor Routhier – Outdoor rinks would be nice

Mayor Lauzon – Thank you Council for the support of the letter to be sent to Governor Scott in support of his stance on actions happening in Minnesota.

Executive Session-Litigation & Personnel -9:35pm

Motion to move findings for executive session by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Spaulding- approved

Motion to enter executive session moved by session by Councilor Spaulding, seconded by Councilor Hilgartner- approved

Motion to exit executive session moved by session by Councilor Hilgartner, seconded by Councilor Bergeron- approved

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

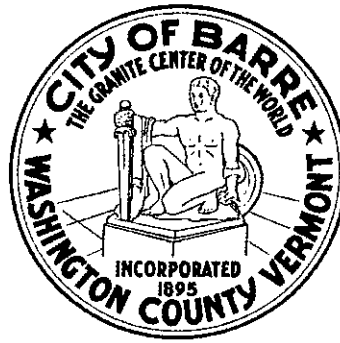
Meeting adjourned at 9:28pm

Next regular meeting is scheduled for February 3rd, 2026, at 6pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Metivier, City Clerk



Office of the Mayor
t.lauzon@barrecity.org

January 26, 2026

The Honorable Philip B. Scott
Governor of Vermont
109 State Street
Pavillion Office Building
Montpelier, VT 05609

Dear Governor Scott,

I write – on behalf of myself and the Barre city council – to thank you for your statement in the wake of the unnecessary and tragic deaths of American citizens in Minnesota.

The city of Barre joins you in demanding that all Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity be paused, de-escalated and refocused on truly criminal illegal immigrants. We also agree that absent immediate and decisive Executive branch action to this end, the Legislative and Judicial branches of government need to exercise their constitutional responsibility and authority.

In closing, thank you for your courageous and thoughtful leadership. We stand with you.

Very truly yours,

Thomas J. Lauzon, Mayor

**6 North Main Street
Barre, VT 05641**

TYPE	BUSINESS	ADDRESS	FEE PAID	APPROVAL*
Entertainment				
	Barre Partnership/Traci Lewis	PO Box 1032-Barre	Y	X
	Ladder 1 Grill	8 South Main St.	Y	X
	American Legion Post 10	320 N. Main St	Y	X
	Gusto's	28 Prospect St.	Y	X
	Mulligans Pub	9 Maple Ave.	Y	X
	Vermont Granite Museum	7 Jones Bros. Way	Y	X
	Summer Street Tavern	30 Summer St.	Y	X
	Old Labor Hall	46 Granite St.	Y	X
	Barre Opera House	6 N. Main St.	Y	X
	Barre Lodge of Elks #1535	10 Jefferson St.	Y	X
Firework				
	Barre Partnership/Traci Lewis	PO Box 1032-Barre		
Vehicle for Hire				
	Payless Taxi-Dale Kew	52 Addison Dr-Berlin	Y	X
Driver for Hire				
	Dale Kew - Payless Taxi	52 Addison Dr-Berlin		
Waste Disposal				
Pick Up	Myers Red Can Family	PO Box 38-Winooski, VT	Y	X
Pick Up	Casella Waste Systems	408 E. Montpelier, VT	Y	X
Drop off	MK Trucking LLC	322 N. Main St.	Y	X
Food Truck Vendor				
	REZ Me Energy	Harry & Lloyd - Granite St.	Y	X
	Rise-Up Bakery	Granite St.	Y	X
	Cornerstone Burger Co.	PO Box 538	Y	X