

COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 6:00pm
IN PERSON LOCATION: Council Chambers, City Hall
6 N. Main St., Barre, VT

Item 1. Call to Order at 6:00 PM

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, Councilors Amanda Gustin and Jeff Bergeron; 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, Treasurer Carol Dawes, and Public Works Director Brian Baker.

Item 2. Adjustments to and Approval of the Agenda:

Removed item 4(B) Clerk's Office Licenses & Permits, 4(E) Authorize Manager to execute contract(s), and remove item 8(G) Flood Resiliency Plan update because the CDBG-DR hearing will double as the plan update for this Council meeting.

Motion to approve the agenda as amended moved by Councilor Hilgartner and seconded by Councilor Bergeron, approved.

Item 3. Visitors & Communications

None.

Item 4. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes of the 2/3/2026 Council meeting
- C. Certify 2025 annual report
- D. Approve 2026 coin drop schedule

Motion to authorize the approval of the Consent Agenda moved by Councilor Bergeron and seconded by Councilor Deering, approved.

Item 4a. Approve City Warrants

Approve City Warrants;

- i. Approve week 2/11/2026

Motion to approve City Warrants moved by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Deering, approved.

Item 5. City Clerk Report

Clerk Metivier reminded residents that City Hall is closed Monday February 16, 2026 in recognition of Presidents Day. As a result, the due date of the third quarter tax payment. The due date will now be Tuesday, February 17, 2026 by 4:30pm.

The Clerk's office has sent out 256 absentee ballots for the school district election. Requests for ballots must be renewed every year.

Dog license renewals are due April 1, 2026. It is good practice to bring an updated rabies certificate on hand when renewing.

Item 6.Liquor / Cannabis Control Boards

Forget-Me-Not Flowers – renewing 2nd class liquor license

Walgreens – renewing 2nd class liquor, tobacco and tobacco substitute licenses

Granite City market – 2nd class liquor license

Motion to approve City Warrants moved by Councilor Gustin, seconded by Councilor Hilgartner, approved.

Item 7.City Managers Report;

The individual hosting an unauthorized fishing tournament at the Dix Reservoir on Sunday, February 8, 2026 was a no-show and the event was cancelled. The City continues to seek legislation to protect the reservoir and the land around it to keep drinking water safe.

The overnight warming shelter has been open for 24 nights this winter, as compared to 10 all of last winter. The shelter has been full most nights with 12 guests.

The RFQ for Prospect Heights developers closes on Wednesday. One submission has already been received.

The City was notified of two Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) grant awards, one for Prospect Heights and another for Gunners Brook. Both projects have since been fully funded from CDBG-DR Round I so the City is exploring next steps.

During the Manager's absence for a prolonged family vacation overseas, Police Chief Brad Vail will be designated Acting City Manager.

Item 8.New Business;

New Business;

A. Warned for 6:15 P.M.: Public Hearing for CDBG-DR applications

At 6:18PM, with approximately 15 persons in attendance in-person and via the Zoom platform, Mayor Lauzon opened the hearing.

The Manager provided an overview of the applications being prepared by the City.

Councilor Routhier asked about the provisions related to project income, which has resulted in 7 elevation candidates backing out of the application.

Mayor Lauzon described efforts to negotiate with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development to ease those restrictions, which are unfair to homeowners.

Councilor Gustin asked about whether the rules were required by federal or state law. Mayor Lauzon indicated that it was a combination.

At 6:28PM, seeing nobody else wishing to speak on the applications, Mayor Lauzon closed the hearing.

- B. Resolution #2026-01 North End/Gateway project – elevation buyouts CDBG-DR application approval

A motion to approve the Resolution #2026-01 was moved by Councilor Gustin, seconded by Councilor Deering, approved.

- C. Resolution #2026-01 North End/Gateway project – acquisitions CDBG-DR application approval

A motion to approve the Resolution #2026-02 was moved by Councilor Bergeron, seconded by Councilor Gustin, approved.

- D. Volunteer Appointments

The candidate for the Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging Committee did not attend. The Council will consider the application at its next meeting.

The candidate for the Police Advisory Committee, Alex Pastor, introduced herself to the Council and was asked questions about her participation on the committee.

A motion to appoint Alex Pastor to the PAC for term ending June 30, 2027 was moved by Councilor Gustin, seconded by Councilor Bergeron, approved.

- E. FY27 Budget (DPW and survey results)

The Manager, Finance Director and Public Works Director presented the proposed FY27 Streets Department budget. The increases in the budget are primarily driven by personnel and fringe benefit costs. Additional funding was included for sand and pothole repair. Savings were reflected to account for moving to the new garage in the fall.

At its next budget meeting on March 17, 2026, the Council will hear from Green Mountain Transit (which is proposed to be reduced) and the proposed increase in the rental registry fee.

No action required.

- F. Discuss changes to US Post Office procedures

Treasurer Dawes updated the Council about changes to postmark procedures and its impact on due dates for payments to the City. She laid out a detailed plan to transition away from

accepting payments by postmark date and instead requiring payment be received by the due date.

Several Councilors raised questions and made suggestions about how to provide maximum flexibility for tax and ratepayers.

No action required.

Item 9. Upcoming Business

Mayor Lauzon:

Special meeting may be called in first week of March

Item 10. Round Table

Councilor Deering

Encouraged Councilors to attend the upcoming BUUSD art show.

Councilors Hilgartner and Spaulding

Invited residents to a Ward I budget meeting at the Aldrich Library on Wednesday, February 18 at 5:30pm

Mayor Lauzon;

Wished the Patriots had performed better during the Super Bowl, and appreciated the lights on City Hall celebrating the team.

Item 11. Executive Session

None.

Item 12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn moved by Councilor Bergeron. approved

Adjourned at 8:15pm.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2026, at 6pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Metivier, City Clerk