

COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, August 22, 2023 6:00 PM

Council Chambers or Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88982525535?pwd=VzIXOU5taldoYkgySUdTcldqSUVGQT09>

Meeting ID: 889 8252 5535 Passcode: 675736

One tap mobile: 929-205-6099

Page Item

1. Call to Order – 6:00 pm
2. Adjustments to the Agenda
3. Visitors and Communication
4. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approval of Minutes
3.
 - i. Regular City Council Meeting of Tuesday August 15, 2023
 - B. City Warrants
 - i. Approval of City Warrants from Week of August 23, 2023
 - C. Clerk’s Office Licenses and Permits
 - D. Authorize the Manager to execute contract(s)
5. City Clerk & Treasurer Report
6. Liquor/Cannabis Control Boards
7. City Manager’s Report
8. New Business
 - A. Authorize the Manager to execute contract(s)
 - i. Flood Repair Paving Bid
9. Upcoming Business
10. Round Table
11. Executive Session – Personnel
12. Adjourn

The next meeting of the City Council is scheduled for Tuesday 29, 2023.

The portion of this meeting starting at 7:00pm will be taped for re-broadcast on Channel 192 CVTV and will be re-broadcast on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon CVTV Link for meetings online – cvtv723.org/

NO OTHER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Ground Rules for Interaction with each other, staff, and the general public

- Rules may be reviewed periodically
- Practice mutual respect
 - Assume good intent and explain impact
 - Ask clarifying questions
 - If off course, interrupt and redirect
- Think, then A.C.T.
 - Alternatives – Identify all choices
 - Consequences – Project outcomes
 - Tell your story – Prepare your defense
- Ethics checks
 - Is it legal?
 - Is it in scope (Charter, ordinance, policy)?
 - Is it balanced?
- “ELMO” – Enough, Let’s Move On
 - Honor time limits
 - Be attentive, not repetitive
- Be open-minded to different solutions or ideas
 - Remarks must be relevant and appropriate to the discussion; stay on subject
 - Don’t leave with “silent disagreement”
 - Decisions agreed on by consensus when possible, majority when necessary
 - All decisions of Council are final
- No blame
 - Articulate expectations of each other
 - We all deeply care about the City in our own way
 - Debate issues, not personalities
- Electronics
 - No texting, email, or videogames during the meeting

**Special Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held August 15, 2023**

The Special Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order in person and via video platform by Mayor Jake Hemmerick at 5:35 PM at Barre City Hall, Barre, Vermont. In attendance in person or virtually were: From Ward I, Councilors Emel Cambel and Thom Lauzon; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Teddy Waszazak; and from Ward III, Councilors Michael Deering and Samn Stockwell. City staff members present were City Manager Nicolas Storrellicastro and Clerk/Treasurer Carol Dawes.

Absent: NONE

Others Present: NONE

Adjustments to the Agenda:

Councilor Lauzon asked to add an executive session to discuss real estate.

Visitors and Communications

Steve Finner asked that additional porta potties be made available around the City.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Council approved the following consent agenda items on motion of Councilor Cambel, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

- A. Approval of Minutes:
 - i. Regular meeting of August 8, 2023.
- B. City Warrants as presented:
 1. Approval of Week 2023-33, dated August 16, 2023:
 - i. Accounts Payable: \$216,773.77
 - ii. Payroll (gross): \$141,395.51
- C. 2023 Clerk's Office Licenses & Permits:
 - i. Entertainment Licenses:
 - i. Rainbow Bridge Community Center, community cookout in Currier Park, Saturday, August 19th from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

City Clerk & Treasurer Report –

City Clerk/Treasurer Carol Dawes reported on the following:

- The Tax Year 2023 grand list was lodged today, and the tax bill file is scheduled to be created on Thursday. Tax bills will be mailed by the end of August, and the first quarter installment due date is October 2, 2023.

There was a brief period of Zoom bombing, where people logged in for the purpose of being disruptive.

Liquor Control Board/Cannabis Control Board – Council approved a tobacco substitute license for Grab N Go convenience store at 377 N. Main Street on motion of Councilor Stockwell, seconded by Councilor Lauzon. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

City Manager's Report –

Manager Storrellicastro reported on the following:

- Debris collection is continuing through this week. City-provided dumpsters have been removed and will not be replaced. The hazardous waste drop-off site at the Civic Center is closing the end of this week.

- The FEMA disaster recovery center at the auditorium will remain open until September 9th.

There was discussion on the old railroad bed that runs through the City, and was involved in a number of the recent flood-related landslides. Manager Storrellicastro said the current focus is on the areas that still pose a threat, but the entire length of the railroad bed will be evaluated.

The Manager said the City is working to reschedule the tire collection originally planned for mid-July. There was a request to also allow commercial tires to be collected, for a fee.

New Business –

A) Approval of FY24 municipal and local agreement tax rates.

Clerk Dawes reviewed her memo and calculations for the municipal and local agreement tax rates. Support materials included a letter from the state setting the education tax rates, and the 411 report from the lodged grand list. The Clerk’s memo included the following breakdown:

Homestead Taxes	Tax rates
Proposed municipal tax rate	\$2.1094
Proposed local agreement tax rate	\$0.0052
Homestead education tax rate set by state	\$1.4066
TOTAL homestead tax rate	\$3.5212

Non-Homestead Taxes	Tax rates
Proposed municipal tax rate	\$2.1094
Proposed local agreement tax rate	\$0.0052
Non-Homestead education tax rate set by state	\$1.6808
TOTAL non-homestead tax rate	\$3.7854

Council approved the total homestead and non-homestead tax rates as listed above on motion of Councilor Lauzon, seconded by Councilor Cambel, and requested that the calculation sheet and supporting documents be part of the permanent record. **Motion carried.**

Upcoming Business –

- Award paving contract for flood-related paving work at August 22nd meeting.

Round Table –

Members of the Council and the Manager participated in this morning’s tour of flood-damaged area with state representatives including members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Housing & General Affairs. There were also opportunities to offer testimony later in the day.

Councilor Boutin thanked Councilor Waszazak for shutting down the Zoom bombing so expeditiously.

Councilor Stockwell said she volunteered last weekend with the River Conservation Group, making repairs to the river bank and pathways near Rotary Park that were damaged in the flooding.

Councilor Lauzon said the Barre Community Relief Fund is now accepting applications. He encouraged people to make donations or submit applications, and noted there’s a \$50,000 matching challenge available.

Mayor Hemmerick noted the presence of vector trucks from other communities providing service in the City. Manager Storrellicastro said other towns have been offering significant support in the aftermath of the flooding.

Executive Session – Councilor Lauzon made the motion to find that premature general public knowledge of potential purchase of real estate would clearly place the City of Barre at a substantial disadvantage should the discussions be public. The motion was seconded by Councilor Cambel. **Motion carried.**

Council went into executive session at 6:13 PM to discuss potential purchase of real estate under the provisions of 1 VSA § 313 on motion of Councilor Lauzon, seconded by Councilor Boutin. Manager Storlicastro was invited into the executive session. **Motion carried.**

Council came out of executive session at 6:45 PM on motion of Councilor Lauzon, seconded by Councilor Stockwell. **Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM on motion of Councilor Waszazak, seconded by Councilor Stockwell. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk

DRAFT

**CITY OF BARRE, VERMONT
2023-2024 TAX RATE CALCULATION**

APPROVED 8/15/23

DATA INPUT:	
EDUCATION RATE (PROVIDED BY TAX DEPARTMENT)	
Education Homestead Rate	1.4066
Education Non-Homestead Rate	1.6808
GRAND LIST TY23	5,044,032.3400

from PVR 6/30/23
from PVR 6/30/23
lodged 8/15/23 (TY22: 5,022,887.60)

AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXES:

Amount To Be Raised By Taxes (General Fund)	10,066,676
Special Ballot Items:	
Paving / Street Reconstruction/Capital Improv.	403,245
Voter Approved Assistance	136,601
People's Health & Wellness	3,000
Washington County Mental Health	10,000
Barre Area Development Corp. Inc.	20,482
Total Special Ballot Items	573,328
A) TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	10,640,004
B) GRAND LIST (lodged 8/15/23)	5,044,032.34

MUNICIPAL FY24 TAX RATE (DIVIDE A BY B) 2.1094

MUNICIPAL FY24 TAX RATE (approved 8/15/23) 2.1094

LOCAL AGREEMENT COMPONENT:	Grand List Amount	Applicable Education Rate	Taxpayer Cost
Voter Approved Contracts and Exemptions	4,050.00	1.6808	6,807.24
Homestead Veteran Exemptions Beyond \$10,000	11,100.00	1.4066	15,613.26
Non-Homestead Veteran Exemptions Beyond \$10,000	2,100.00	1.6808	3,529.68
TOTAL LOCAL AGREEMENT (IN DOLLARS)			25,950.18
LODGED GRAND LIST (as of 8/15/23)			5,044,032.34

LOCAL AGREEMENT TAX RATE (DIVIDE LA dollars by GRAND LIST) 0.0052

Municipal tax rate plus local agreement rate (approved 8/15/23) 2.1146

FY23 municipal tax rate plus local agreement rate - for comparison purposes 2.0319

MUNICIPAL AND EDUCATION TAX RATE			
MUNICIPAL AND EDUCATION HOMESTEAD		MUNICIPAL AND EDUCATION NON-HOMESTEAD	
Municipal Rate	2.1094	Municipal Rate	2.1094
Local Agreement Rate	0.0052	Local Agreement Rate	0.0052
Education Homestead Rate	1.4066	Education Non-Homestead Rate	1.6808
2023-24 RATE	3.5212	2023-24 RATE	3.7954

FOR COMPARISON ONLY:

FY22-23 Total Rate (Homestead) 3.3506 FY22-23 Total Rate (Non-Home) 3.6156

FY24 Proj. Muni plus LA (pre-election) 2.1313

For Comparison Purposes	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
Municipal tax rate	1.8085	1.8552	1.9141	1.9578	2.0180
Local agreement rate	0.0288	0.0261	0.0234	0.0191	0.0139
Homestead education tax rate	1.2698	1.3002	1.4190	1.4268	1.3187
Non-homestead education tax rate	1.5658	1.6274	1.6893	1.6974	1.5837



State of Vermont
Department of Taxes
133 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-1401

Notice of Education Tax Rates for FY24

As per 32 V.S.A § 5402(b)(1) the Education Property Tax Rates for your municipality have been calculated and set for FY24.

Town/City: Barre City
2023 Reappraisal (blank unless reappraising):
Common Level of Appraisal (CLA): 82.76%
Calculation Date: 06/27/2023

Homestead Education Tax Rate to be Assessed: \$1.4066

for comparison, FY23
rate was \$1.3187

Your Homestead Education Tax Rate is calculated from your city/town voter-approved per pupil education spending adjusted by the common level of appraisal (CLA).

Nonhomestead Education Tax Rate to be Assessed: \$1.6808

for comparison, FY23
rate was \$1.5837

Nonhomestead property, previously called “non-residential,” is any property which is not homestead property. Your city/town Nonhomestead Education Tax Rate is the statewide rate adjusted by the CLA.

Please refer to [Education Property Tax Rates | Department of Taxes \(vermont.gov\)](#) for a summary table of Education Property Tax Rates for all municipalities and/or to review frequently asked questions about Education Property Taxes.

If you have questions about your Education Tax Rates, please call Property Valuation and Review (PVR) at the Vermont Department of Taxes at (802) 828-5860 or email tax.pvr@vermont.gov.

(Taxable properties only - State and Non-tax status properties are not listed below)

REAL ESTATE Category/Code	Parcel Count	Municipal Listed Value	Homestead Ed Listed Value	Nonhmstd Ed. Listed Value	Total Education Listed Value
Residential I R1	2,292	322,441,229	216,668,518	105,772,711	322,441,229
Residential II R2	4	995,900	760,700	235,200	995,900
Mobile Homes-U MHU	0	0	0	0	0
Mobile Homes-L MHL	58	6,067,663	4,773,933	1,293,730	6,067,663
Seasonal I S1	0	0	0	0	0
Seasonal II S2	0	0	0	0	0
Commercial C	274	99,117,549	1,059,180	98,058,369	99,117,549
Commercial Apts CA	92	33,782,190	245,400	33,536,790	33,782,190
Industrial I	55	15,423,600	0	15,423,600	15,423,600
Utilities-E UE	2	14,911,700	0	14,911,700	14,911,700
Utilities-O UO	0	0	0	0	0
Farm F	0	0	0	0	0
Other O	77	10,686,500	9,624,000	1,062,500	10,686,500
Woodland W	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous M	265	4,159,103	0	4,159,103	4,159,103
TOTAL LISTED REAL	3,119	507,585,434	233,131,731	274,453,703	507,585,434
P.P. Cable	1	1,920,600		1,920,600	1,920,600
P.P. Equipment	0	0			
P.P. Inventory	0	0			
TOTAL LISTED P.P.	1	1,920,600		1,920,600	1,920,600
TOTAL LISTED VALUE		509,506,034	233,131,731	276,374,303	509,506,034
EXEMPTIONS					
Veterans 10K	44/44	440,000	370,000	70,000	440,000
Veterans >10K		1,320,000			
Total Veterans		1,760,000	370,000	70,000	440,000
P.P. Contracts	1	1,920,600			
Contract Apprv VEPC	0/0	0	0	0	0
Grandfathered	0/0	0	0	0	0
Non-Apprv(voted)	3/3	405,000			
Owner Pays Ed Tax	0/0	0			
Total Contracts	4/3	2,325,600	0	0	0
FarmStab Apprv VEPC	0/0	0	0	0	0
Farm Grandfathered	0/0	0	0	0	0
Non-Apprv(voted)	0/0	0			
Owner Pays Ed Tax	0/0	0			
Total FarmStabContr	0/0	0	0	0	0
Current Use	3/3	403,500	0	403,500	403,500
Special Exemptions	9		0	675,300	675,300
Partial Statutory	2/2	613,700	0	613,700	613,700
Sub-total Exemptions		5,102,800	370,000	1,762,500	2,132,500
TIF 1 Exemption	155 see footnote		64,946	9,385,493	9,450,439
Total TIFs			64,946	9,385,493	9,450,439
Total Exemptions		5,102,800	434,946	11,147,993	11,582,939
TOTAL MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST		5,044,032.34			
TOTAL EDUCATION GRAND LIST			2,326,967.85	2,652,263.10	4,979,230.95
NON-TAX	217	NON-TAX PARCELS ARE NOT INCLUDED ON THE 411 EXCEPT EDUCATION TIF BASE TOTALS			

highlighted amount is the grand list total used to calculate the tax rates.

(Taxable properties only - State and Non-tax status properties are not listed below)

REAL ESTATE Category/Code	Parcel Count	Municipal Listed Value	Homestead Ed Listed Value	Nonhmstd Ed. Listed Value	Total Education Listed Value
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Status on Personal Property

1) Has inventory been exempted by vote of town/city? Yes XX No

2) Has machinery and equipment been exempted by
vote of your town/city? Yes XX No

3) If yes for #2, what portion is now exempt?
(include percentage) 100.00

4) If no for #2, please indicate below how your town/city is
assessing business personal property (Place "X" by option used)

a) at fair market value b) at depreciated value

Summary of Adjustments to Taxable Values (Local Agreements Etc.)	
Approved (VEPC) Contracts/Exemptions	0
Grandfathered Contracts/Exemptions	0
Non-Approved (Voted) Contracts/Exemptions	405,000
Homestead Non-Approved (Voted) Contracts/Exemptions	0
Nonhmstd Non-Approved (Voted) Contracts/Exemptions	405,000
Municipal Contracts (Owner Pays Ed Tax)	0
Special Exemptions	675,300
Current Use (Use Value Appraisal Program)	403,500
Veteran Exemptions	440,000
Homestead Veteran Exemptions beyond 10K	1,110,000
Nonhmstd Veteran Exemptions beyond 10K	210,000
Partial Statutory Exemptions	613,700
Homestead TIF Exemptions	64,946
Nonhmstd TIF Exemptions	9,385,493

* Municipal TIF payments should be included in the municipal budget when calculating tax rates.

the highlighted amounts are used to calculate the local agreement tax rate

City of Barre Grand List
CONTRACTS - (Town code: 036)
Main District: Listed By Type and Date Voted

DATE VOTED	PARCEL ID	NAME	CAT. CODE	BEGINNING DATE	ENDING DATE	STATUTE TITLE	CODE	VALUE BEFORE EXEMPTION	CONTRACT AMOUNT	ASSMT LESS CONTRACT
04/30/18	036-011-12505	THE REYNOLDS HOUSE, LLC	C	04/01/20	04/01/29	2741		428,900 Nonhomestead	169,800 169,800	259,100 259,100
03/02/21	036-011-11366	GOOD SAMARITAN HAVEN	CA	07/01/21	06/30/26	2741		225,200 Nonhomestead	225,200 225,200	0 0
03/31/21	036-011-10177	51 CHURCH STREET LLC	C	07/01/21	07/01/30	2741		270,000 Nonhomestead	10,000 10,000	260,000 260,000
Non-Approved (Voted) Contracts/Exemptions									405,000	
03/04/97	036-011-10628	PP-33786A-0000SPECTRUM NORTHEAST, LLC	C PC	04/01/97	/ /	3848:3849		1,920,600 Nonhomestead	1,920,600 0	0 1,920,600
Municipal Contracts (Owner Pays Ed Tax)									1920,600	
/ / Partial	036-011-12970	TRUSTEES OF THE BARRE LOD	C	/ /	/ /			506,700 Nonhomestead	379,700 379,700	127,000 127,000
Non-Taxable Church Etc									379,700	
/ / Partial	036-011-10586	STUDIO PLACE ARTS INCORPO	C	/ /	/ /			390,000 Nonhomestead	234,000 234,000	156,000 156,000
Non-Taxable Church Etc									234,000	

green highlights are tax stabilization agreements.
blue is voter-approved exemption.
orange are partially tax exempt.

pink is equipment (personal property) that was previously being taxed but shouldn't have been, as Barre City eliminated equipment taxes in 1997. They will still get a tax bill because they have to pay the education taxes.