

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 6:00pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88982525535?pwd=VzlXOU5taldoYkgvSUdTelldqSUVGQT09>

Meeting ID: 889 8252 5535 Passcode: 675736

One tap mobile 929-205-6099

1. Call to Order – 6:00 p.m.
2. Adjustments to the Agenda
3. Visitors and Communications
4. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approval of Minutes Regular City Council Meeting of Tuesday January 9, 2024
 - B. City Warrants:
 - i. Approval of City Warrants from Week of January 17, 2024
 - C. Clerk’s Office Licenses and Permits
 - D. Ratify the Council’s 1/9/24 approval to move Town Meeting Day to May 14, 2024 and to place this item on the consent agenda
 - E. Ratify the Council’s 1/9/24 approval of resolution 2024-01 expressing support for the flood omnibus bill
 - F. Approve 2024 certificate of highway mileage
5. City Clerk & Treasurer Report
6. Liquor/Cannabis Control Boards
7. City Manager’s Report
8. New Business
 - A. River science presentation by ANR
 - B. Presentation of draft Capital Improvement Plan
 - C. Discuss proposed charter changes
 - D. IAFF OT Grievance hearing (**Note:** Whether the grievance or subsequent deliberations about the grievance will be heard in open or executive session will be determined by the City Council at the meeting).
9. Upcoming Business
10. Round Table
11. Executive Session – Personnel
12. Adjourn

The next meeting of the City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

The portion of this meeting starting at 6:00pm will be taped for re-broadcast on Channel 194 CVTV and will be re-broadcast on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon CVTV Link for meetings online – cvtv723.org/

Other Meetings and Events

Thursday January 18

Cow Pasture Stewardship 5:30 PM ZOOM

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



City of Barre, Vermont

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Barre, VT 05641
www.barrecity.org

R. Nicolas Storellicastro
City Manager
(802) 476-0240
citymanager@barrecity.org

MEMO

TO: City Council
FR: The Manager
DATE: 1/12/2024
SUBJECT: Packet Memo re: 1/16/24 Council Meeting Agenda Items

Councilors:

The following notes apply to packet support materials for the Subject Council Meeting Agenda. As a reminder, the next regular Council after Tuesday will be Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 6:00PM.

4-D Ratify the Council's 1/9/24 approval to move Town Meeting Day to May 14, 2024 and to place this item on the consent agenda

There is no memo in the packet for this agenda item. Assistant City Manager Dawn Monahan, Clerk/Treasurer Carol Dawes, and I strongly agree with the Council's vote at the January 9, 2024 to delay Town Meeting Day until May 14, 2024. We believe that the City and its voters would be best served by delaying consideration of a budget until after we have more certainty about how much, if any, assistance we will be receiving from the State. I urge the Council to ratify this wise decision.

4-E Ratify the Council's 1/9/24 approval of resolution 2024-01 expressing support for the flood omnibus bill

The packet includes the text of the joint resolution approved by the Council at the January 9, 2024 meeting. The draft bill addresses many of our most pressing needs, namely operational funding for communities that suffered lost revenue as a result of the July flood.

4-F Approve 2024 certificate of highway mileage

The packet includes the certificate that must be approved and signed by Council, and submitted to the Agency of Transportation by February 20, 2024. The certificate includes an increase of 0.17 miles of new Class 4, which accounts for the right of ways the City owns on Angela Ave and Cotnoir St, two unapproved streets.

8-A River science presentation by ANR

There is no memo in the packet for this agenda item, but a PowerPoint presentation from the State will be displayed during the meeting and distributed to Council on Monday. Pat Moulton, Recovery Officer for Central Vermont, has been working with the City to arrange a presentation by river scientists of the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). We hope this presentation will be informative for both the Council and public as we embark on our recovery efforts over the next several months.

8-B Presentation of Draft Capital Improvement Plan

The packet includes a presentation highlighting highlights of changes to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) informed both by resources and bandwidth to take on non-flood related capital projects. The City made significant progress in FY23 during the first year of the CIP. Unfortunately, last year's flood prevented progress on the projects we had scheduled. With Department Head input, we have identified key non-flood related capital projects and equipment purchases to prioritize in FY25.

8-C Discuss proposed charter changes

This item was placed on the agenda at the request of Council at the January 9, 2024 meeting. The packet includes the text of proposed charter changes. Please note that if the Council ratifies its decision to delay Town Meeting Day, the first and second hearings on charter changes will not happen until April 9 and April 23, 2024.

8-D IAFF OT Grievance

(Note: Whether the grievance or subsequent deliberations about the grievance will be heard in open or executive session will be determined by the City Council at the meeting)

The union representing Barre City firefighters has appealed to the Council a grievance that would result in exorbitant new overtime costs to the City's taxpayers. Both Chief Cushman and I have emphatically denied this grievance based on long standing past practice and the collective bargaining agreement. This grievance has the potential to exponentially increase overtime costs. If overtime costs increase, the City will be forced to reduce other areas of the Fire & Emergency Medical Services budget to compensate, which could risk reduction of critical services to our residents. At a time when our City is grappling with a grim fiscal picture and fighting for resources in Montpelier to save even the most basic of municipal services, I believe there is a compelling public interest for the union to make its case for more overtime spending in public. However, I recognize and respect that whether this grievance is heard in open or executive session is the sole prerogative of the City Council.

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held January 9, 2024**

The Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order in person and via video platform by Acting Mayor/Ward II Councilor Michael Boutin at 6:00 PM at Alumni Hall, Barre, Vermont. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilors Emel Cambel (arrived 6:04 PM) and Thom Lauzon; from Ward II, Councilor Teddy Waszazak; and from Ward III, Councilors Michael Deering and Samn Stockwell. City staff members present were City Manager Nicolas Storellicastro, Assistant Manager Dawn Monahan, Buildings and Community Services Director Jeff Bergeron, BCS Assistant Director Stephanie Quaranta, Police Chief Braedon Vail, Deputy Police Chief Larry Eastman, Planning Director Janet Shatney, Fire Chief Keith Cushman, Deputy Fire Chief Joe Aldsworth, Public Works Director Brian Baker, Human Resources Director Rikk Taft, IT Specialist Kris Kirby, and Clerk/Treasurer Carol Dawes.

Absent: Mayor Jake Hemmerick

Adjustments to the Agenda:

- Add approval of resolution 2024-01 to the consent agenda; a joint Barre City/Montpelier City resolution in support of flood relief legislation. To be ratified next week.
- Add executive session for litigation.

Visitors and Communications:

Bernadette Rose thanked those who participated in canvassing over the weekend through the flood-impacted neighborhoods in advance of next week's forum on gateway redevelopment.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

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

- A. Approval of Minutes:
 - i. Regular meeting of December 19, 2023.
- B. City Warrants as presented:
 1. Ratification of Week 2023-52, dated December 27, 2023:
 - i. Accounts Payable: \$250,129.14
 - ii. Payroll (gross): \$151,184.70
 2. Ratification of Week 2024-01, dated January 3, 2024:
 - i. Accounts Payable: \$193,899.64
 - ii. Payroll (gross): \$153,274.45
 3. Approval of Week 2024-02, dated January 10, 2024:
 - i. Accounts Payable: \$104,825.53
 - ii. Payroll (gross): \$153,213.39
- C. 2024 Clerk's Office Licenses & Permits: NONE
- D. Approval of resolution 2024-01 (added under adjustments)

City Clerk & Treasurer Report –

City Clerk/Treasurer Carol Dawes reported on the following:

- Accepting absentee ballot requests for all 2024 elections. Information on requesting ballots and registering to vote is on the City's website.

Liquor Control Board/Cannabis Control Board – NONE

City Manager's Report –

Manager Storellicastro reported on the following:

- The North End Public Engagement meetings are scheduled to begin next week. There will be a kick-off meeting at the Labor Hall on January 17th, followed by meetings in the three wards.
- The house at 22 Hill Street has been demolished in advance of a new house being built there by Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity.
- Legislative advocacy has started, with focus on flood recovery and housing.
- Barre City will begin recognizing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, starting next Monday, January 15th. City offices will be closed that day.

New Business –

A) Review list of funding requests for annual meeting ballot.

Clerk Dawes distributed a list of organizations that submitted timely applications and support materials to request placement of their FY25 funding requests on the 2024 town meeting ballot. The Clerk noted due to a change in staffing, Good Beginnings did not submit their application by the deadline, but may ask that the Council place their request on the ballot.

B) Name Councilors to work on charter changes for town meeting consideration.

Councilors Cambel and Stockwell volunteered to work on the proposed charter changes. There was a brief discussion on the proposed sections associated with youth voting and limiting committee membership to City residents.

C) Set legislative priorities.

Manager Storlicastro reviewed the matrix of legislative priorities, and rankings submitted by three Councilors. There was discussion on seeking matching funds for the Sen. Sanders' appropriations, and deadline extensions in light of flooding. Maggie Lenz from Leonine Public Affairs said they are focusing on flood recovery, and many of the other items on the priorities list have ties to this focus. The list of priorities based on rankings:

1. Forgone revenue
2. Housing development/Gateway project
3. Capital infrastructure (Public Works Garage)
4. Transportation infrastructure (bridges, trestle, Barre-Montpelier bike path)
5. Substance abuse/public safety

Council approved the list on motion of Councilor Waszazak, seconded by Councilor Lauzon. **Motion carried.**

D) Budget seminar.

Manager Storlicastro reviewed his Powerpoint presentation, and the proposed reductions and restorations. There was discussion on expanding Friday evening parking enforcement, seasonal cemetery staffing, and sidewalk maintenance. Council restored cemetery seasonal staffing at 50%, which increased the projected tax rate increase to 5.1%.

There was discussion on the benefits of changing the annual meeting date from Town Meeting Day to May 14th to allow additional time to tighten the budget, and have a firmer grasp on potential legislative assistance for operations. Council approved moving the date to May 14th on motion of Councilor Lauzon, seconded by Councilor Waszazak. **Motion carried.**

Councilor Lauzon made the motion to ratify this action on next week's consent agenda, seconded by Councilor Deering. **Motion carried.**

To be approved at 01/16/24 Barre City Council Meeting

Clerk Dawes noted there will still be an election on March 5th for the Vermont presidential primary, Barre Unified Union School District elections, and Central Vermont Career Center School District elections.

Upcoming Business –

- Capital Improvement Plan update next week
- Flood recovery volunteer update next week
- Discussion on safe injection sites at a future meeting
- Vermont Emergency Management/Agency of Natural Resources presentation on river science at a future meeting

Round Table –

Councilors Stockwell and Cambel spoke of their experiences participating in last week's canvassing in the flood-impacted neighborhoods.

Councilor Deering said he recently attended the Welcoming & Engaging Communities cohort, and customer service is of paramount importance.

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

Council went into executive session at 7:15 PM to discuss litigation under the provisions of 1 VSA § 313 on motion of Councilor Lauzon, seconded by Councilor Deering. Manager Storrellicastro, Assistant Manager, and Clerk/Treasurer Dawes were invited into the executive session. **Motion carried.**

Council came out of executive session at 7:45 PM on motion of Councilor Waszazak, seconded by Councilor Lauzon. **Motion carried.**

There was no action taken.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM on motion of Councilor Lauzon, seconded by Councilor Waszazak. **Motion carried.**

The meeting was recorded on the video platform.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk

A JOINT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE OMNIBUS FLOOD RELIEF BILL

WHEREAS, the cities of Barre and Montpelier, Vermont, faced catastrophic flooding in July 2023, resulting in the loss of homes, livelihoods, and, tragically, lives; and

WHEREAS, residents of both communities are grappling with the aftermath of this devastating flood, with some losing everything they had; and

WHEREAS, the Omnibus Flood Relief Bill, introduced by Representatives Peter Anthony, Conor Casey, Kate McCann, and Jonathan Williams, aims to provide critical relief to individuals affected by the flood and \$15 million to municipalities facing budgetary challenges; and

WHEREAS, the bill allocates \$40 million in grant funding to businesses that collectively suffered over \$300 million in economic injury in Central Vermont alone; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation includes provisions to prevent similar levels of damage in the future through substantial investments in mitigation, regional mapping, dam removal, and other essential measures; and

WHEREAS, the Omnibus Flood Relief Bill enhances emergency preparedness, ensuring the State takes a more proactive role in addressing future challenges.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the cities of Barre and Montpelier enthusiastically endorse the Omnibus Flood Relief Bill and urge Governor Scott and the General Assembly to pass it into law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this joint resolution be sent to Governor Scott, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate *Pro Tem*, expressing the unified support of the cities of Barre and Montpelier for this crucial legislation.

BY ORDER OF THE BARRE CITY COUNCIL THIS 9th DAY OF JANUARY 2024

Jake Hemmerick, Mayor of Barre

Carolyn Dawes, Barre City Clerk & Treasurer

Jack McCullough, Mayor of Montpelier

John Odum, Montpelier City Clerk

District 6
Certcode 1201-0

CERTIFICATE OF HIGHWAY MILEAGE
YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 10, 2024

Fill out form, make and file a copy with the Town Clerk, and submit the Mileage Certificate on or before February 20, 2024 to: Vermont Agency of Transportation, Division of Policy, Planning and Intermodal Development, Mapping Section via email to: aot.mileagecertificates@vermont.gov or if necessary via mail to: VTrans PPAID - Mapping Section, 219 North Main Street, Barre VT 05641.

We, the members of the legislative body of **BARRE CITY** in **WASHINGTON** County on an oath state that the mileage of highways, according to Vermont Statutes Annotated, Title 19, Section 305, added 1985, is as follows:

PART I - CHANGES TOTALS - Please fill in and calculate totals.

Town Highways	Previous Mileage	Added Mileage	Subtracted Mileage	Total	Scenic Highways
Class 1	5.531			5.531	0.000
Class 2	4.000			4.000	0.000
Class 3	37.85			37.85	0.000
State Highway	1.585			1.585	0.000
Total	48.966			48.966	0.000
* Class 1 Lane	0.191			0.191	
* Class 4	0.07	0.17		0.24	0.000
* Legal Trail	0.00			0	

* Mileage for Class 1 Lane, Class 4, and Legal Trail classifications are NOT included in total.

PART II - INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES SHOWN ABOVE.

- NEW HIGHWAYS:** Please attach Selectmen's "Certificate of Completion and Opening".
Add 0.12 mi for Angela Ave, Add 0.05 mi for Cotnoir St
- DISCONTINUED:** Please attach SIGNED copy of proceedings (minutes of meeting).
- RECLASSIFIED/REMEASURED:** Please attach SIGNED copy of proceedings (minutes of meeting).
- SCENIC HIGHWAYS:** Please attach a copy of order designating/discontinuing Scenic Highways.

IF THERE ARE NO CHANGES IN MILEAGE: Place an X in the box and sign below.

PART III - SIGNATURES - PLEASE SIGN.

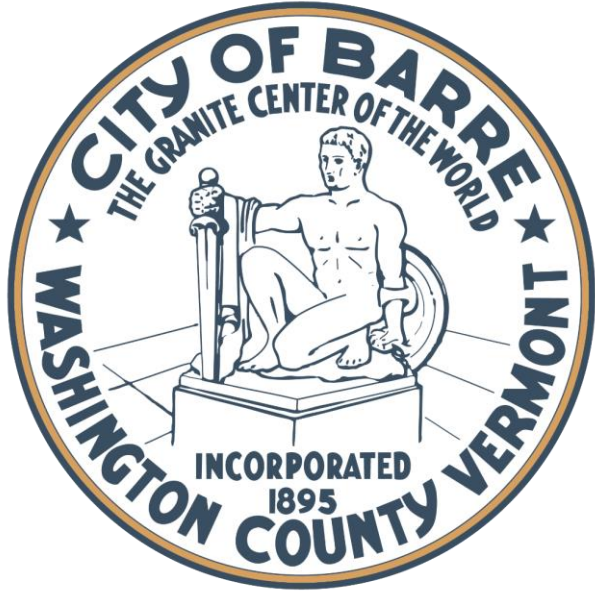
Signatures of Selectmen/ Aldermen/ Trustees: _____

Signature of T/C/V Clerk: _____ Date Filed: _____

Please sign ORIGINAL and return it for Transportation signature.

AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION APPROVAL: Signed copy will be returned to T/C/V Clerk.

APPROVED: _____ DATE: _____
Representative, Agency of Transportation



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

NICOLAS STORELLICASTRO
CITY MANAGER
JANUARY 16, 2024



WHAT DOES THE CHARTER SAY?

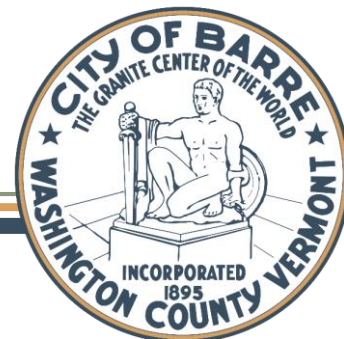
Section 406a. Capital Improvement Plan

(a) Preparation and submission: The Manager, after consultation with department heads, shall submit a proposed five-year capital improvement plan to the council at least three months prior to the annual meeting.

(b) Contents: The capital expenditure plan shall include:

- (1) A clear narrative summary of needs;
- (2) A list of all capital expenditures to be proposed for the next five years with appropriate supporting data;
- (3) Actual cost estimates, proposed methods of financing, and necessary time schedules for each improvement;
- (4) Estimated annual cost of operating and maintaining the facilities to be constructed or acquired.

(c) Revision and update: The above plan shall be revised and extended each year to reflect progress or projects still pending. (Amend. added 3/1/22)



BIG PICTURE - THE CITY HAS MANY ACCUMULATED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT NEEDS

- **End-of-useful life assets:** roofs, boilers, HVAC
- **End-of-useful life heavy equipment:** plows, dump trucks.
- **Revenue-generating assets in need of major upgrades:** Aud HVAC, BOR roof
- **Modernize old infrastructure:** water and sewer mains and facilities
- **Flood impacts:** flood recovery projects are primarily capital, further stretching resources and staff bandwidth.

Bottom line – we are primarily focusing on flood recovery and a few key “must-haves” and “nice-to-haves.”



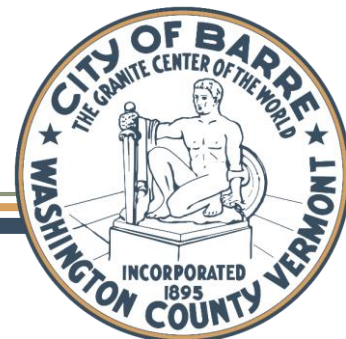
KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON FY23 PROJECTS

- ✓ **\$1M Paving:** Year 1 targets completed
- ✓ **\$53K Pool house roof replacement:** Completed, \$13K under budget
- ✓ **\$57K Garfield Playground structure replacement:** Ordered, installation planned spring 2024 due to supply chain delays
- ✓ **\$250K Granite City Apartments (ARPA funded):** Council approved
- ✓ **\$7K Rotary Park renovations:** Underway (doors, cameras done), interrupted by flood
- ✓ **\$15K Fire & EMS thermal imaging:** 2 additional cameras purchased, \$25K under budget and ahead of schedule



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON FY23 EQUIPMENT

- ✓ **\$66K Police cruiser:** In service, replaced 2015 cruiser
- ✓ **\$350K Ambulance:** Ordered, replacing 2008 vehicle, paid through lease finance
- ✓ **\$15K Events Trailer:** In service – new to fleet
- ✓ **\$449K Two Plow Trucks:** Ordered, replacing 2010 and 2011 vehicles, paid through lease finance, delivery spring 2024
- ✓ **\$37K DPW Truck:** In service, replaced 2009 vehicle
- ✓ **\$17K Message Boards:** Received – new equipment



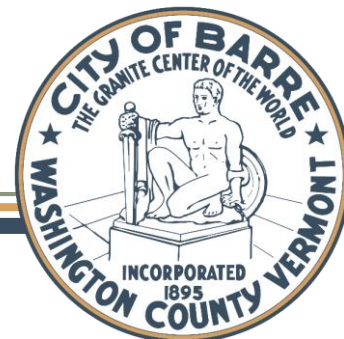
FY25 PRIORITIES

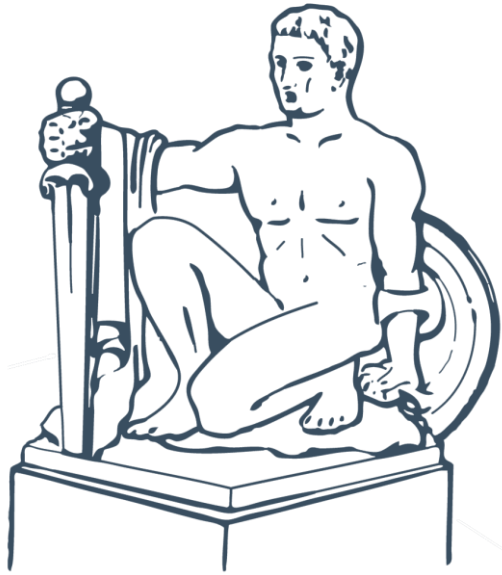
- **Public Works:** New plow truck (\$238K), new excavator (\$360K), garage (TBD)
- **Paving & Sidewalks:** \$512K to be bid out in the Spring
- **Facilities & Recreation:** Zamboni (\$90K), Playground 2000 bathroom (\$7K)
- **Fire & EMS:** New ambulance lease finance (\$82K)
- **Police:** Dispatch Center finance (\$28K), body cameras (\$21K), HVAC upgrade (\$TBD, out to bid)
- **City Hall:** HVAC upgrade (\$TBD, out to bid), servers (\$30K)



WHAT'S NEXT?

- Water/Wastewater update in next few weeks
- Seek finance quotes, finalize bids to complete fiscal outlook
- Determine capacity to take on new projects/borrowing for high profile needs:
 - Public Works Garage
 - Auditorium match for Sanders earmark
 - Wastewater Treatment Facility headworks





THANK YOU

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION?

WWW.BARRECITY.ORG



@BARRECITYVT



1/12/2024														
Project Attributes							Budget Forecast							
Primary Department	Program	Project Name	Project Description	Total Cost	Year	Project Status	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
City Manager	Housing Initiatives	Housing Stock and Preservation Prog	Develop a pilot program for a City revolving loan fund to provide assistance to purchasers of owner-occupied rental units.	20,000	2025		-	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	-
City Manager	Strategic Planning	North Main to Summer Street Plan	Create plan to ensure development of the North Main to Summer Street area in a manner consistent with community needs.	22,000	2025		-	-	22,000	-	-	-	-	-
Planning, Permitting, & Assessing	Strategic Planning	City-wide Access Management Review	City-wide Access Management Review	8,000	2025		-	-	8,000	-	-	-	-	-
Planning, Permitting, & Assessing	Strategic Planning	Barre City Open Space Plan	Create plan to ensure sustainable management of the river and guide access and development and ensure sustainable management of open space within the City	20,000	2025		-	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	-
Community Development	Housing Initiatives		Downstreet Housing - 9 apartments	250,000	2023	Council Approved	250,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Facilities	Auditorium Upgrades	Lighting Upgrades	Replace existing Auditorium lighting with LEDs to reduce operating and maintenance costs. Gym & Lobby.	65,000	2025		-	-	65,000	-	-	-	-	-
Facilities	Auditorium Upgrades	Auditorium Code Upgrades	Upgrading Auditorium for code deficiencies and modernization improvements	251,000	2025		-	-						
Facilities	Auditorium Upgrades	HVAC Upgrades	Air filtration, air conditioning, boiler system, & related mechanical equipment	1,700,000	2025		-	-	1,700,000	-	-	-	-	-
Facilities	Auditorium Upgrades	Electrical Assessment	Electrical code upgrades, meeting power need of emergency uses	1,500,000	2025		-	-	1,500,000	-	-	-	-	-
Facilities	BOR	Turf Project	Purchase Turf to utilize BOR in non-ice seasons	120,000	2024	Active		120,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Facilities	City Hall Upgrades	Restroom Renovations	Upgrade restrooms to be compliant with ADA requirements. Project includes addition of restrooms in certain areas as well as conversion of existing to use-by-all rooms. Men's bathroom will be complete in CY24, ADA compliant bathroom complete in Old PD Space	14,985	2024	Under Contract		14,985	-	-	-	-	-	-
Facilities	City Hall Upgrades	HVAC upgrade	Existing roof-top unit is at end of life, replace in-kind unit. New unit is required but will be dependent upon City Hall upgrades that are implemented.	70,000	2024	Bid Phase	-	70,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Facilities	Park Upgrades	Recreation Area Upgrades	Garfield Park recreation equipment replacement. Current structure has reached end of useful life. Need to determine future use of the park and engage neighborhood to determine upgrades. November Install Schedule	57,000	2023	Under Contract	57,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Facilities	Park Upgrades	Restroom Renovations	Renovate existing restrooms in Rotary Park to be more resistant to damage, possible access control; not currently open to public use. Possible addition of new restroom area to add capacity.	7,000	2023	Active	7,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Facilities	Park Upgrades	Roof Replacement	Replace roof on bath house building at the Pool facility. To be completed 6/7	65,000	2023	Complete	52,425	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Facilities	Public Safety Building Upgrade	HVAC Upgrade	Replace existing HVAC rooftop unit system (and boilers) which is nearing end of life and is not adequately maintaining temperature control. Been referred to a vendor for control panel work	230,000	2024	Bid Phase	-	230,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fire & EMS	Equipment Upgrades	Replace Extrication Equipment	Current extrication equipment has reached end of life and needs to be replaced. Demo in June	45,000	2024	Complete	-	46,100	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fire & EMS	Equipment Upgrades	Replace Rescue Air Bag System	Routine Replacement of the rescue air bag system to ensure adequate level of response. Demo in June	35,000	2024	Complete	-	25,271	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fire & EMS	Equipment Upgrades	Replace Thermal Imaging Cameras	Routine Replacement of thermal imaging cameras to ensure adequate level of response. (4x) Purchasing 6	40,000	2024	Complete	16,439	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Information Technology	IT Upgrades	Network Equipment Upgrades	Upgrade current network equipment (2 new servers -CH & PD) to ensure quality and capacity to manage the City's computing needs.	20,000	2024		-	30,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Police	Equipment Upgrades	Body Camera	Acquisition of body-worn cameras bundled with tasers for all uniformed staff. 5 year contract for storage (\$197k/5 years) June grant application w/ deadline Aug (covers cameras only) Sept disbursement. Add to GF Budget in FY25	416,345	2024		-	20,817	20,817	41,635	41,635	41,635	41,635	41,635
Public Works	Strategic Planning	Waste Processing	Perform study to determine feasibility of instituting new wood, bulky-waste and metals collection. Study requirements include site, equipment and operations. Agreement w/ BT for use of site	-	2024	Complete	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Streets	Mobility Improvements	Sidewalk Install or Replace (FY Annual)	Sidewalk reconstruction in various locations throughout the City that may include: Ayers St. (100 feet); Maple Ave (2200 ft, both sides)	90,000	2025		-	-	160,000	140,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	90,000

Project Attributes							Budget Forecast							
Primary Department	Program	Project Name	Project Description	Total Cost	Year	Project Status	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Streets	Mobility Improvements	Intersection Improvements (Annual)	Install certain improvements at non-Vtrans intersection located within the City to reduce low-angle intersections.	9,000	2024		-	9,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Streets	Safety Improvements	Traffic Signal Programming	Program Traffic Signal Controllers for downtown events to reduce expense of events and increase safety. Requires traffic analysis on multiple intersections.	30,000	2025		-	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	-
Streets	Stormwater System Improve	North-end Stormwater System Upgra	This is a project stemming from the 2011 Spring flood and is a sister project to the Granite Street Storm Sewer Project what was successfully completed. The project objective is to relieve chronic flooding due to an existing undersized storm sewer in the area of 553-567 North Main St.	294,000	2024		-	294,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Streets	Strategic Planning	Complete Streets Policy	Create a policy to ensure development of rights-of-way in a manner that is suitable for multiple modes of transportation (ie. Complete Streets).	20,000	2026		-	-	-	20,000	-	-	-	-

1/12/2024

Capital Improvement Plan	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Grand Total
CAPITAL FUND									
Project									
City Manager	-	100,000	142,000	160,000	110,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	
Planning, Permitting, & Assessing	-	-	28,000	20,000	-	-	-	-	
Community Development	250,000	-	-	80,000	80,000	20,000	-	-	
Information Technology	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Facilities	116,425	527,485	4,450,000	2,857,500	1,090,000	520,000	155,000	160,000	
Fire & EMS	16,439	71,371	-	82,080	34,080	155,080	34,080	34,080	
Police	-	20,817	20,817	231,635	41,635	41,635	41,635	41,635	
Public Works *Doesn't include new facility	-	-	150,000	460,000	375,000	-	-	-	
Streets	403,500	1,193,435	858,500	5,042,000	1,105,000	2,590,000	585,000	825,000	
	<u>786,364</u>	<u>1,943,108</u>	<u>5,649,317</u>	<u>8,933,215</u>	<u>2,835,715</u>	<u>3,426,715</u>	<u>915,715</u>	<u>1,160,715</u>	25,650,862
Capital Equipment Plan									
Facilities	-	-	89,301	140,500	155,000	-	-	20,000	
Police	89,844	85,858	-	98,000	-	-	168,000	85,000	
Fire	14,685	81,928	81,928	201,928	234,928	234,928	332,200	429,200	
DPW	120,883	553,202	174,763	477,297	395,085	309,685	369,685	319,685	
	<u>225,411</u>	<u>720,988</u>	<u>345,992</u>	<u>917,725</u>	<u>785,013</u>	<u>544,613</u>	<u>869,885</u>	<u>853,885</u>	5,263,512
Grand Total Costs	1,011,775	2,664,096	5,995,309	9,850,940	3,620,728	3,971,328	1,785,600	2,014,600	30,914,374

Scenario: Current plan + Lease/Purchase Big Trucks
1/12/2024

Department	Type	Year	Make	Model	ID#	Replacement Cost	Replacement Year	Age @ Replace	Notes	Funding Source	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Facilities	Ice Resurfacers	2002	Zamboni	Ice Resurfacers 550		89,301	2025	23	Jeff to get quote for electric/LP and sponsors		-	-	89,301	-	-	-	-	-
Police	SUV	2016	Ford	Explorer		75,858	2024	8	Received		-	75,858	-	-	-	-	-	-
Police	SUV	2015	Ford	Explorer		65,663	2023	8			65,663	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Police	Speed Cart	2013	AEP	Trailer		10,000	2024	11	Received	GHSP Grant	-	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Police	SUV	2021	Ford	Interceptor	K9	24,181	2023	0	In service		24,181	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fire	Ambulance	2008	Ford	F-450	A3	350,000	2024	16	Ordered Lease Fin - 5 years		-	81,928	81,928	81,928	81,928	81,928	-	-
Fire	Trailer		Nitro	Sport Cargo Trailer	EOC	14,685	2023		In service		14,685	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DPW	Plow Truck	2010	International		7400 24	224,510	2024	14	Ordered Lease Fin - 7 years		-	38,842	38,842	38,842	38,842	38,842	38,842	38,842
DPW	Plow Truck	2007	International		7500 40	238,210	2025	18	Contacted Lease Finance Co (MLC)		-	-	42,878	42,878	42,878	42,878	42,878	42,878
DPW	Plow Truck	2011	International		7400 23	224,510	2024	13	Ordered Lease Fin - 7 years		-	38,842	38,842	38,842	38,842	38,842	38,842	38,842
DPW	Pick-up Truck	2009	Chevrolet	Silverado		30,000	2023	14	In service - purchased F150		36,951	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DPW	Wheel Loader	2023	John Deere	624K		252,495	2024	1	Replaced in Flood	Insurance & FEMA	-	252,495	-	-	-	-	-	-
DPW	Wheel Loader	2023	John Deere	544K		223,022	2024	1	Replaced in Flood	Insurance & FEMA	-	223,022	-	-	-	-	-	-
DPW	Excavator	2000	Volvo	EW170		360,000	2025	25	Brian to get quotes		-	-	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200	43,200
DPW	Trailer	2000	Handmade	26-foot		11,000	2025	25	Will be included in excavator quote		-	-	11,000	-	-	-	-	-
											280,680	720,988	380,992	1,014,825	893,113	1,150,713	1,001,985	942,985

Quantitative Completion Status Summary

Bond/Note	No. of Items	Items Complete	Items Complete (%)	Items Complete (\$)	Dollars Expended (%)
\$1.15M	9	8	89%	\$1,150,000	100%
\$720,000	1	1	100%	\$720,000	100%
\$560,000	6	4	67%	\$337,853	60%
\$900,000	4	1	25%	\$899,300	100%
\$2.5M	10	3	30%	\$1,111,807	44%
\$1.7 M	25	14	56%	\$1,468,338	86%
\$7,495,000	55	31		\$5,687,298	

56%

76%



City of Barre, Vermont

“Granite Center of the World”

**ACTION ITEM BRIEFING MEMO
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA: 12-19-23**

Consent Item No.: _____ **Discussion Item No.** _____ **Action Item No.** 8A

AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION:

Warn 1st and 2nd public hearings on proposed charter changes for January 23, 2024 and February 6, 2024

SUBJECT:

Same

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT/PERSON:

Carol Dawes, clerk/treasurer

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve public hearing dates as presented

STRATEGIC OUTCOME/PRIOR ACTION:

Not applicable

EXPENDITURE REQUIRED:

There will be costs associated with publishing notices in the newspaper, printing charter change articles on ballots, and handouts for voters.

FUNDING SOURCE(S):

General fund

LEGAL AUTHORITY/REQUIREMENTS:

*BARRE CITY CHARTER, Chapter 1. Incorporation and General Provisions.
Sec. 112. Amendment of charter. This charter may be amended in the manner provided for by the laws of the State of Vermont for the amendment of municipal charters.*

STATE STATUTE: [17 VSA §2645. Charters, adoption, repeal, or amendment; procedure.](#)

BACKGROUND/SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

There are three different categories of possible proposed charter changes, as outlined on the attachment:

- 1. Charter changes associated with elimination of school district language;*
- 2. Charter changes to allow 16 & 17 year olds to vote in local elections, except school-related elections, which are controlled by the BUUSD articles of agreement;*
- 3. Charter changes to limit service on committees to Barre City residents.*

The attachment includes changes that have been proposed to date, color-coded by category.

The schedule for charter revisions is laid out in statute. Here is the timeline for the proposed 2024 changes:

Date	Item/action
Dec. 19, 2023	Warn 1 st & 2 nd public hearings for January 25 th & February 1 st , respectively (at least 30 days before first public hearing)
January 13, 2024	Post proposed changes in clerk's office (at least 10 days before first public hearing)
January 18, 2024	Post & publish notice of 1 st public hearing (at least 5 days before first public hearing)
January 23, 2024	1 st public hearing for proposed charter changes (at least 30 days before election) Last opportunity to revise language, as the annual meeting warning will be approved on this date.
February 6, 2024	2 nd public hearing.
March 5, 2024	Annual (Town) Meeting election
Post-election (within 10 days)	Submit voter approved charter changes to the Secretary of State's office for legislative consideration.

Note – the dates shown above are applicable to a March 5, 2024 annual meeting date. Should the annual meeting date be changed, the dates above will adjust accordingly.

LINK(S):

Embedded in documents

ATTACHMENTS:

Memo containing sections of charter that have been proposed for revision

INTERESTED/AFFECTED PARTIES:

Barre City voters, residents, volunteers, staff

RECOMMENDED ACTION/MOTION:

Approval of public hearings dates as presented

NOTE: A charter revision committee should be named to review/revise the language and shepherd it through the process.

11/20/23

Possible charter changes for voter consideration March 2024. There are three categories:

1. Charter changes associated with elimination of school district language
2. Charter changes to allow 16 & 17 year olds to vote in local elections (except school-related elections)
3. Charter changes to limit service on committees to Barre City residents

Changes below are in chapter order, and are color coded to match the three categories above.

CHAPTER 1

Sec. 110. Fiscal year.

The fiscal year of the City [~~and the City School District~~] shall begin the first day of July and end on the last day of June of each calendar year. The fiscal year shall constitute the budget and accounting year as used in this charter. (Amend of 5-8-12)

CHAPTER 2

Sec. 203. Special city [~~and school district~~] meetings.

Special city meetings [~~and special school district meetings,~~] shall be called in the manner provided by the laws of the state and the voting on all questions shall be by the Australian ballot system, except for budget votes as provided in section 207(d). (Amend. of 11/08/83)

Sec. 205. Officers elected.

(a)(1) The legal voters and Barre City youth ages 16 and 17 years old shall elect biennially a Mayor, and one person to serve as Clerk and Treasurer. (Amend. of March 2, 2021)

(2) Annually, the legal voters and Barre City youth ages 16 and 17 years old of each ward shall elect from among the legal voters and Barre City youth ages 16 and 17 years old of their respective wards one councilor for a term of two years.

~~[(3) Annually, the legal voters shall elect three school commissioners to serve for a term of three years, as follows:~~

~~(A) at the 2019 annual City meeting, and each successive three-year cycle after that, three school commissioners;~~

~~(B) at the 2020 annual City meeting, and each successive three-year cycle after that, two school commissioners;~~

~~(C) at the 2021 annual City meeting, and each successive three-year cycle after that, two school commissioners]~~

~~[(b) — The legal voters shall elect annually Spaulding Union High School District~~

School Board members in the manner, number, and term limit as is specified in the Barre City/Barre Town Union High School Agreement, dated November 30, 1986, or any such successor document.]

Sec. 206. Vacancies.

[(a)] In case of vacancy of any elected municipal city officer, except a councilor [-or school commissioner], occasioned by death, removal from the City, resignation or inability to serve, such vacancy, unless herein otherwise provided, shall be filled by appointment by the City Council until the next annual election. In such case, nomination may be made by any member for the Council. (Amend. of 5/09/06)(Amend of 5/8/12)

[(e)] — In case of a vacancy of any school commissioner, occasioned by death, removal from the City, resignation, or inability to serve, such vacancy, unless herein otherwise provided, shall be filled by appointment by the remaining members of the School Board until the next annual election. In such case, nomination may be made by any member of the School Board.]

CHAPTER 3

Sec. 307. {Powers of City; policy matters; appointment of certain officers.}

(a) All powers of the City and the determination of all matters of policy shall be vested in the City Council except as otherwise provided by this act or by general law. The City Council shall annually appoint a City attorney, a library liaison, and may provide for any planning board, zoning board of adjustment, recreation board or personnel board, and may create commissions or other bodies with advisory powers and may appoint personnel to serve on said boards or commissions. (Amend. Of 11/3/98)(Amend. of 3/1/22)

(b) Personnel appointed to serve on committees, commissions, or boards or as a liaison to the library shall be Barre City residents in good standing. When appointing personnel, the City Council shall consider relevant qualifications, expressed interest, and public conduct so that the City enhances and promotes the reputation of the city. The appointment of the City attorney shall be exempt from the requirement to be a Barre City resident.

Sec. 315. {Compensation of City officials.}

Compensation of Mayor, councilors and other appointees and City officers: (Amend of 5/8/12)

(a) The Mayor and councilors shall receive compensation in an amount as may be voted by the voters of the City at a meeting duly warned for said purpose. (Amend of 5/8/12)

(b) The City Council shall fix the compensation of all other appointees, and employees,

except as otherwise provided in this charter.

(c) When the legal voters have authorized an annual City [and school] budget, the City Council[, School Board,] and/or the City Manager shall not authorize appropriations, expenditures or payment in excess of the amount voted. Deficit spending shall be prohibited by the City of Barre[and the City of Barre Schools].

CHAPTER 4

[Sec. 413. School District.

—The City treasurer shall be treasurer of the City of Barre School District and shall have the same duties, powers and liabilities of a treasurer of a town school district, except as otherwise provided.]

CHAPTER 5

[ARTICLE IX. BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

Sec. 516. Powers and duties.

—(a) Except as otherwise provided, the school commissioners, elected as herein before provided, shall have the same duties, powers and liabilities prescribed for school directors of town school districts. They shall compose the board of school commissioners of the City of Barre School District, with the same duties, powers and liabilities of the board of school directors of a town school district. The board of school commissioners shall consist of seven members; each serving a term of three years.

—(b) The board of school commissioners shall have the care and custody of all the property belonging to, or used for, the public schools located in the city. Payments due or to become due on bonds and interest thereon, used by the city of Barre for school purposes, shall be paid by the City of Barre School District.

—(c) No later than 45 days prior to the annual meeting date each year, the board of school commissioners shall present to the city council its budget requests for the next fiscal year.

—(d) The board shall appoint from among its members, a clerk who shall have the same duties and responsibilities as prescribed by statute.

Sec. 517. Appointment of superintendent and principal; compensation; term.

—The school commissioners shall annually appoint a superintendent of schools and a principal of high schools and shall fix their compensation which shall be paid by the school

commissioners in the same manner as other expense for the support of schools; and for cause of incapacity, negligence or misconduct, they may remove such officers and shall by appointment fill any vacancy in such office arising from any cause. The superintendent shall perform all such duties in connection with the public schools of the city as shall be assigned him by the board of school commissioners and as may be prescribed by law. He shall annually report to the city council such statistics as are required by law and such other information as the school commissioners shall direct.]