

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, June 25, 2024 6:00pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88982525535?pwd=VzIXOU5tald0YkgySUdTelldqSUVGQT09>

Meeting ID: 889 8252 5535 Passcode: 675736

One tap mobile 929-205-6099

Page	Agenda Item
	1. Call to Order – 6:00PM
	2. Adjustments to the Agenda
	3. Visitors & Communications
	4. Consent Agenda
4	A. Approval of Minutes i. Regular City Council Meeting of Monday, June 17, 2024
9	B. Clerk’s Office Licenses & Permits C. Ratify appointment of Joshua Piascik to the Parks & Rec Committee D. Authorize the Manager to execute contract(s)
	4-a. Approve City Warrants from Week of June 26, 2024
	5. City Clerk & Treasurer Report
	6. Liquor/Cannabis Control Boards
	7. City Manager’s Report
	8. New Business
11	A. Draft flood resiliency plan (Waszazak/Gustin)
22	B. Project management capacity (Manager)
	9. Upcoming Business
	10. Round Table
	11. Executive Session – as needed
	12. Adjourn

The next regular meeting of the City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, July 2, 2024.

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

6 N. Main St., Suite 2
Barre, VT 05641
www.barrecity.org

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

MEMO

TO: City Council
FROM: The Manager
DATE: 6/21/2024
SUBJECT: Packet Memo re: 6/25/2024 Council Meeting Agenda Items

Councilors:

The following notes apply to packet support materials for the Subject Council Meeting Agenda.

4-C Ratify appointment of Joshua Piascik to the Parks & Rec Committee

There is no memo in the packet for this agenda item. At its June 17, 2024 meeting, the Council appointed Mr. Piascik to the Parks & Rec Committee. The item was not warned for that meeting since Mr. Piascik had originally applied to the Buildings & Facilities Committee.

8-A Draft flood resiliency plan (Waszazak/Gustin)

The draft plan included in the packet was submitted by Councilors Waszazak and Gustin. Upon review of the draft plan, I agree with their proposed guiding principles and find great value in their work to compile current projects and proposed opportunities for next steps.

8-B Project management capacity (Manager)

The packet includes a presentation outlining the staff recommendation about additional capacity. After discussing this with members of my team, we found that our real challenge is that the people who should be focusing on flood recovery are pulled in too many directions as a result of chronic under-staffing. We believe that recruiting for a full-time, flood-recovery-specific role would be unsuccessful and may lead to short- and medium-term strain on staff time to train a new candidate. Our recommendation is to create a general project management position that can assume tasks that department heads have to handle as a result of a lack of “middle managers,” which by extension will free up more time of our existing team to dedicate to flood recovery efforts.

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held June 17, 2024
Council Chambers-Barre City Hall**

The 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 Emel Cambel and Sonya Spaulding; from Ward II, Councilor Amanda Gustin and Teddy Waszazak; and from Ward III, Councilors Michael Deering and Samn Stockwell .City staff members present were City Manager Nicolas Storellicastro, and Clerk/Treasurer Cheryl Metivier.

Absent: none

Adjustments to the Agenda: none

Visitors & Communications: none

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes:
 - i. Regular meeting of June 11th, 2024.
- B. Clerk’s Office Licenses and Permits; none
- C. Resolution 2024-11 VMERS Plan D for Police Department
- D. Approval of Local Emergency Plan

Moved for approval by Councilor Deering, seconded by Councilor Stockwell. Approved

4-a. Approval of Warrants from Week of June 19th, 2024

AP Check Register dated 06/19/2024	\$169,506.85
Payroll dated 06/19/24	\$152,823.35

Moved for approval by Councilor Cambel, seconded by Councilor Stockwell. Approved.

City Clerk & Treasurer Report –

City Clerk/Treasurer Cheryl Metivier reported on the following:
The Clerk’s office has mailed out 657 absentee ballots, and have received 357 back to the office.
Tuesday, June 18th is the BUUSD budget revote date to be held at the Barre Auditorium from 7am-7pm.

Liquor Control Board/Cannabis Control Board – None

City Manager’s Report –

Manager Storlicastro reported on the following:

Councilor Stockwell signed necessary documents, in Mayor Lauzon absents, to meet a 3.5 million dollar funding sponsored by the US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) deadline of June 14th, 2024 for money's directed toward much needed improvement projects to the Barre Auditorium.

Manager-The City has (6) candidates for lifeguard training through VTC and with these (6) who complete the course successfully, the lifeguard positions will be fully staffed. Hoping to open to the public early next week.

The US National Weather Service Burlington VT has issued a heat advisory for all of Vermont from Tuesday through Thursday.

Stay cool and stay safe. Here are some cooling options around Barre City:

- Aldrich Library - open from 11am - 6pm
- BOR - 10am - 3pm
- Old-fashioned hydrant openings - 12-2pm at 4 locations around the City;

Green Acres

Highgate

Currier Park

Public Safety Building

Keep these tips in mind:

- Stay hydrated
- Check on elderly family and neighbors
- Don't forget about your pets
- Listen to your body

Councilor Waszazak announced the Good Samaritan Shelter is also offering their space as a cooling center.

New Business –

A) Volunteer Appointments (Council)

i. Planning Commission

Wendy Ducey, a new applicant, who has been a Vermont resident, and Barre City resident since 2010 and employed with the Agency of Transportation gave a statement of interest including reassessing the 10 year plan to take into account the needs of the community today. Understanding the commitment required, she has ideas and recognizes the new needs of Barre. Motion to approve by Councilor Cambel, seconded by Councilor Stockwell.

ii. Police Advisory Committee

Steven England, an incumbent, his reappointment was so moved by Councilor Cambel, seconded by Councilor Stockwell.

iii. Homelessness Task Force

Applicant Erica Reil's appointment was tabled after discussion of the focus and direction of the current committee and the lack of the ability to meet, due to lack of quorum.

iv. Building & Facilities Committee

(4) Applicants;

Incumbent Bernie Allen expressed his excitement for the upgrades to the "Aud" and has fond memories of attending, participating and assisting at games, events and more!

Paula Dolan (unable to attend) The Manager spoke highly of Paula, a long time member of the Community, has been an outstanding and admirable member of the committee.

Moved by Councilor Waszazak, seconded by Councilor Stockwell. Approved

New applicant; Mathew Flaherty a Norwich graduate, originally from Portland Maine, chose Barre to settle and grow with his family. Currently heavy involved and committed to the local youth lacrosse teams, active in the non-profit "the Woodchuck Lacrosse: geared toward affordable access to equipment and to physical education. Recognizes the responsibility of becoming an involved community member to ensure improvement, growth and sustainability of the City's needs and services.

Moved by Councilor Waszazak, seconded by Councilor Stockwell. Approved

New applicant; Joshua Piascik spoke of becoming a better involved member of the community, believing the Building & Facilities Committee would be a good fit, however, recognizing, after his Introduction, Mathew Flaherty would be a better fit and would step down or rescind his application for the greater good of the city.

Members of the Council suggested becoming a member of the Parks & Recreation Dept. which will possibly expand with the new funding dedicated to the upgrades and improvements to the Barre Auditorium. Mayor Lauzon offered to ratify the application and appoint Joshua to the Parks & Recreation Committee tonight.

Motion moved by Councilor Stockwell, seconded by Councilor Deering

B) Barre Up update

Shawna Trader shared the progress led by Barre Up (a Long Term Recovery Group) LTRC) within the community after July 2023 flooding. The newly classified 501(c)(3) status brings increased opportunities.

Together, with VCF, Stormwise, the state of VT and other LTRGs, Barre Up worked toward a more unified disaster recovery response that works for Vermonters along with members. Early on the focus of clean-up was prioritized, as well as assessment, outreach and case management.

Prem, after the winter slow down, now continues to work with partner agencies to identify, support and educate homeowners about home repair and bring in relevant rebuild programs including Resource, Youth Build, Habitat for Humanity and volunteer groups. He continues to do fantastic work. Several jobs actively being worked on, several more scheduled, awaiting materials or in pre-construction stages. However some obstacles are evident, including resident readiness and material availability and the states struggle with a trade worker shortage. Prem is actively

collaborating with the Planning Office staff when residents request this specific support understanding city processes. Work is picking up as anticipated and shows signs of trending as predicted.

Community members are still in need of engagement. Barre Up still knows there are neighborhood who need assistance, need to establish trust and ensure safety is prioritized.

Lessons Learned;

- Resident-readiness is long-term recovery.
- Becoming a flood-savvy community takes time.
- Good things take time and patience

C) ARPA- next steps;

- Allocation recommendations;
- Upgrading facilities
- Cemetery software-implementation & software subscription
- Wastewater Treatment Plant pump upgrades, as recommended by DPW Director Brian Baker & Jake Drown from the WWTP.

- Councilor Waszazak suggested increasing the grand list.
- Councilor Gustin inquired about investing in an upgraded water gauging system city wide.
- Councilor Deering supporting the Managers plan.
- Councilor Spaulding mentioned safety net housing for those displaced by home repair.
- Mayor Lauzon focused on North End housing
- Councilor Stockwell suggested coming to the table with a list.

D) Discussion-Flood mitigation plan

Discussion was led by Mayor Lauzon, let's focus on top (3) projects, and make things shovel ready in 6-8 months. However, the conceptual plan should be ready in 3-6 weeks to accompany initial paper work for the EPA grant application. Are these projects like bridges lifting, river buffers or housing, for example and getting things pulled together with a price tag?

Councilor Gustin suggested a City plan, using the North End as the cornerstone, with three points of reference, aspirational goals, mitigation steps from the past and now, and using the Managers map to match similarities.

Mayor Lauzon is confident in appointing Pat Moulton as the lead in the grant application process and using her expertise and suggestion to focus on one big thing, one big project for the EPA grants application.

Councilor Gustin hoped Pat would give (3) options, including pros and cons for each project.

More immediate steps that should be taken, is to remove the trestle on the north end, noting it cannot be used, will not be repaired anytime soon, and is a hazard if the threat of flooding would come again.

Upcoming Business –

Next Council meeting is July 2nd, 2024.

Round Table –

Councilor Cambel – Please vote on the BUUSD budget.

Councilor Stockwell- Thankful for all who are working on creating and working to pass the school budget.

Councilor Spaulding- Please vote on the BUUSD budget. Inquired if the City would be doing an acknowledging tribute to the flooding anniversary.

Councilor Deering-Honored to participate in the end of year school festivities. Vote on the BUUSD budget.

Councilor Gustin- Please vote on the BUUSD budget. On a lighter note, (2) marriages were performed and was honored to have been chosen as the officiant.

Councilor Waszazak- Juneteenth awareness. Educate yourselves and others on the history behind the meaning.

The Council and Mayor announce the need for executive session.

Councilor Stockwell moved and Councilor Gustin seconded. Approved

Councilor Stockwell moved to go into executive session and Councilor Gustin seconded. Approved

Public Broadcast ended 8:31pm

The open portions of the meeting were recorded on the video platform. <http://cvtv723.org/>

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Metivier, City Clerk



City of Barre, Vermont

“Granite Center of the World”

ACTION ITEM BRIEFING MEMO
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA: 6/25/2024

Agenda Item No. 4-D

AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION: Authorize the Manager to execute contract(s)

SUBJECT: Procurement Policy

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT/PERSON: The Manager

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the Manager to execute the contract(s) as described below

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

We are requesting approval of the following contract(s) to provide or support critical City services.

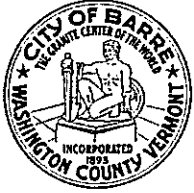
Service/Material	Vendor	Cost and Funding Source	Notes
Drainage improvement	Lajeunesse Construction Inc.	\$52,692 total <ul style="list-style-type: none">FEMA hazard mitigation project as part of City Hall restoration	The City will be repairing drainage that contributed to damage at City Hall as a result of the July 2023 flood (DR-4720).

ATTACHMENTS: Memo from Public Works Director Brian Baker with estimates that were received

LEGAL AUTHORITY/REQUIREMENTS: [City of Barre Procurement Policy](#)

RECOMMENDED ACTION/MOTION:

Move to authorize the City Manager to execute contract(s) as described above.



City of Barre, Vermont

6 N. Main St., Suite 1
Barre, VT 05641
www.barrecity.org

Brian Baker
Director of Public Works
(802) 476-0250
PWDirector@barrecity.org

June 21, 2024

RE: City Hall Drainage Improvements

Barre City Council

In May of 2024, the Department of Public Works for the City of Barre sent out an invitation to bid on drainage improvement project at City Hall to avoid future damage similar to what was received during the flood in July of 2023. As outlined in the invitation to bid, proposals were opened at noon on May 30, 2024.

A total of three proposals were received:

Lajeunesse Construction Inc.	\$52,692
K. Bellavance Landworks	\$72,900
Avery Excavation Inc.	\$75,526

The Department of Public Works recommended the selection of **Lajeunesse Construction** as the contractor for this project.

Please let us know if you have any questions. As always, I can be reached at (802) 476-0250 or PWDirector@barrecity.org.

Sincerely,

Brian Baker
Director of Public Works

Draft - Barre City Flood Resiliency Plan

Submitted by:

**City Councilors for Ward 2, Amanda Gustin and Teddy Waszazak
June 25, 2024**

To the City Council, City Manager, and Barre Community -

This draft document begins a plan for Barre City's long term flood recovery and future resiliency. In recent weeks, Council has identified a need to aggregate the programs/initiatives that the City is already pursuing, along with a way to plug in and to explore other opportunities in the following five critical areas:

- Grant/Funding Opportunities
- Information/Data Gathering
- Community Readiness + Staff Capacity
- Infrastructure + Flood Mitigation
- Housing Development + Repair

Throughout this document, Councilors Gustin and Waszazak aim to provide the Council and the community with a high-level view of what the City has done/is doing, options that the City already has its eye on, and add potential new opportunities to address these critical needs.

Table of Contents:

Page:	Section:
2	Guiding Principles
3	Grant/Funding Opportunities
5	Information/Data Gathering
7	Community Readiness + Staff Capacity
8	Infrastructure + Flood Mitigation
10	Housing Development + Repair

Guiding Principles

Barre City seeks to center the perspectives and experiences of its residents in a collaborative planning process toward a more flood-resilient future.

Barre City will work with local, statewide, and federal partners to leverage funding, collaboration, and creative solutions.

Barre City will emphasize an understanding of climate, watershed, and natural resources in its planning.

Grant/Funding Opportunities

Vermont Emergency Management Grant - Hazard Mitigation Funding Programs:

- [Vermont Emergency Management has \\$90 million available](#)
- Eligible projects include:
 - Buyouts
 - Structural Elevation & Mitigation Reconstruction
 - Natural resource projects - i.e. dam removal or floodplain restorations
 - Infrastructure projects - i.e. upsizing bridges or culverts
 - Floodproofing of municipal or commercial buildings
 - Road relocation, elevation, or soil stabilization
- Pre-Application due by 11:59pm, on August 16th
 - Information requested for pre-application:
 - Applicant's entity type
 - Applicant point of contact
 - Project Type
 - Details for projects:
 - Problem to be addressed by Project (i.e., what is the natural hazard and what are the impacts of the hazard in your project area)
 - Project Description (i.e., what are you proposing to do)
 - Project Location (e.g., address, latitude/longitude, general location of project)
 - Estimated Project Cost
 - Source of estimated cost (e.g., professional quote, qualified government official, past projects, etc.)
 - History of Damages from the natural hazard
 - Current Status of Project Development (e.g., design level, Benefit Cost Analysis, schedule, budget, etc.)
- Some municipal application support available to Barre City through the Rivers program.

EPA Community Change Grants:

- [The EPA has \\$2 billion available in environmental and climate justice projects](#)
- Eligible entities include:
 - A partnership between two community based non-profit organizations
 - A partnership between a community based non-profit organization and one of the following:
 - A federally recognized tribe
 - A local government
 - An institution of higher learning
- Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until November 21st, 2024

- Depending on the scope and vision for the project, there are two tracks for submission:
 - Track I: Community-Driven Investments for Change, to fund 150 projects at \$10-20 million per project
 - Track II: Meaningful Engagement for Equitable Governance, to fund 20 projects at \$1-3 million per projects
- \$200 million is available for Technical Assistance for municipalities to help guide them through the process. T.A. is available in all stages of this grant, including application.

Other potential funding sources:

- **Congressionally Directed Spending requests.** Pat Moulton has submitted a CDS/earmark request to Senator Sanders office, representing broad scale redevelopment in the North End. Regardless of whether or not this is successful, Barre City will surely have needs extending through the next round of Congressionally Directed Spending. The City should remain in active conversation with the federal delegation, and routinely submit these requests for large-and-mid sized projects over the coming years.
- **VEM Flood Resilient Communities Fund (State of Vermont).** Funding for this program is currently limited, but there are hopes that the Legislature will allocate more funding to this program during the next legislative session. The City could submit additional projects to this fund, to get on the list if more funding becomes available.
- **Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grants (FEMA).** The Window to apply for FY23 funding has passed, but this is an annual grant program which will open again in the fall of this year. This is for Hazard mitigation projects that do NOT have to be directly tied to a disaster.

Information/Data Gathering

What we're doing/have done:

- **Barre Up Forums - Vermont Council on Rural Development:** In the aftermath of the Floods, Barre City officials reached out to the Vermont Council on Rural Development to convene and facilitate city-wide meetings to discuss the impact of the floods on our community, listen to what worked and what didn't work in the immediate response to the floods, and to begin preparation for the work of long-term community recovery. These meetings culminated in the Barre Up Report from the Vermont Council on Rural Development (Oct. 2023), which can be accessed here: <https://www.vtrural.org/barre-up-report-2023/>
 - Key Takeaways:
 - Housing - Address short-term housing needs for flood affected families; support rebuilding/renovating flood affected housing; support long-term new housing development
 - Social and Community Wellbeing - Support community connections; creation of a recovery resource hub; improve the image of Barre City in the rebuilding
 - Infrastructure and Planning - Focus on City, regional, and statewide flood/hazard assessments and planning; Identify and implement City infrastructure improvements to support flood resiliency; Deeper and more inclusive emergency services planning and communication; Advance river corridor and watershed mitigation and restoration plans

- **City of Barre/State of Vermont Neighborhood Meetings:** Following the Barre Up process through VCRD, the State of Vermont partnered with the City of Barre to conduct neighborhood/Ward meetings, multiple events held throughout the City. Pat Moulton, Central VT Recovery Officer, worked with the City Manager and Tess Taylor, Homelessness and Housing Liaison, to organize these meetings. The meetings featured river scientists, City Councilors, City Staff, and other experts convened by the State. Community Members were encouraged to share their opinions on potential flood mitigation efforts, housing developments, and future disaster planning. The City's report on these meetings can be found here: <https://shorturl.at/txR3m>
 - Key Takeaways:
 - Housing priorities:

- Mixed use developments with nearby services, housing for those navigating buyouts, development of vacant lots/infill in downtown, financial support for repairs to damaged homes
- Resiliency priorities:
 - Fix the low bridges, remove the trestle, upsize culverts, remove defunct/unnecessary dams, work with regional and state partners to take a macro look at the Watershed (what our neighbors upriver do affect us, as what we do affects those downriver, etc

Other opportunities to pursue:

- **Citywide inundation modeling.** Gaining a clear understanding of where, how, and when water flows within the city based on most recent trends will underpin all updated floodplain planning.
- **Culvert identification and upsizing.** Systematically analyzing all culverts across the city for capacity relative to expected flow to ensure they remain clear during flood events.
- **Continued outreach around infill development and downtown vacancies.** Committing to ongoing knowledge-gathering around potential for development within the City, both for housing and for mitigation. The City and partners can conduct surveys, track changes, and use technology and data modeling to get a better real-time picture of possibilities.
- **Citizen-led neighborhood flood knowledge.** Barre City residents are often best placed to know precisely how their neighborhoods flood. Structures across the city - even those at elevation - flooded in July 2023, and some of those could be alleviated by small, hyperlocal fixes.
- **Resident education.** Following on the idea of hyperlocal fixes, the City can lead workshops and informational gatherings to educate residents about small flood mitigation improvements to their own properties in keeping with good stormwater planning and water flow.

Community + Staff Capacity

What we're doing/have done:

- The City of Barre has committed additional resources to our staff capacity and community readiness over the past year. On top of the many hours that City Staff have spent on flood recovery over the past year, the City Council is aware that staff capacity remains extremely limited, and that additional resources are needed to leverage the state and federal funding that is needed for Barre City to rebuild in a flood resilient way.
- The City has earmarked \$200,000 in ARPA funding for a grant writer/project manager to support the planning department in pursuing whatever State or Federal grant opportunities are available.
- The City has hired a Housing and Homelessness liaison, who has been working closely with the Central Vermont Flood Recovery Officer to identify funding opportunities, conduct outreach, and represent the City with community partners such as the Housing Task Force and Barre Up.
- Directly and indirectly, the City of Barre has supported the foundation and launch of a non-municipal Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG), Barre Up.

Other Opportunities to pursue:

- **Ward meetings and street captains.** Whatever the final form, a more cohesive program of neighborhood connections will help build community resiliency in future disaster scenarios.
- **Communications upgrades.** Adding in more timely, effective communication systems to alert residents quickly and clearly in case of emergency. Making a commitment to sharing full information in an easily accessible form builds community trust and buy-in.
- **Continued investment in City Staff.** 1-time use of ARPA funding to get grant applications out the door is necessary at this time, however the long term resiliency of the City and the long-term grant management needed to ensure that resiliency will require permanent staffing additions to the planners office.
 - Recommendation: Increase the salaries for the vacant planner positions in next cycle's budget, or FY26, considering the ARPA funding for the grant writer/project manager detailed above.
- **Funding opportunities for community building.** The City can pursue grant funding opportunities in partnership with community organizations to support programs that knit residents together.

Infrastructure + Flood Mitigation

What we're doing/have done:

- The City of Barre has been working with multiple property owners who have indicated an interest in buyout. The City Manager has identified these groupings of parcels as potential sites of development.
 - 8 lots in the Vine/Scampini/Berlin St area - Buyout est. \$2.5mil
 - Grand List Impact: \$40,000
 - 5 lots in the Gunners Brook area - Buyout est. \$2.5mil
 - Grand List Impact: \$35,000
 - 7 lots in the River/Granite St area - Buyout est. \$2.1 mil
 - Grand List Impact: \$34,000
 - 5 lots in the North End area - Buyout est. \$4mil
 - Grand List Impact: \$65,000
 - 5 lots across the City due to landslides - Buyout est. \$1.35mil
 - Grand List Impact: \$21,300
 - In total, the buyouts that we are already requesting funding from VEM/FEMA represent \$12,450,000, with Grand List Impact of \$195,300
 - <https://shorturl.at/cUna7>
- Mayor Lauzon worked with the Agency of Transportation in the weeks immediately following the flood to expedite the repaving of North Main St/VT-302.
- The City has invested in the repair of damaged sewer lines that were discovered following the July 2023 floods
- Repaired the Public Safety Building and City Hall, identified improved access to the Public Safety Building in the case of Main Street flooding
- Hauled hundreds of tons of debris away at no charge to residents
- The City of Barre supported the Friends of the Winooski in their applications for Watershed study, as well as a dam removal study/project

Other opportunities:

- **Working with the Central Vermont Recovery Officer and river experts to submit an application to the Community Change grants, for the below properties which have requested buyouts.** These properties have demonstrated a viability for being a flood mitigation project, while also having the potential to develop future, flood resilient housing. The City should work with the State to hire a firm to develop plans for these properties to be bought out and redeveloped. That redevelopment could include flood resilient housing, or increased flood plain with alternate, non-housing developments (parks, playgrounds).

- 3 lots on Brooklyn St - Buyout est. \$750,000
 - Grand List Impact: \$10,000
- 3 lots on Washington St - Buyout est. \$500,000
 - Grand List Impact: \$5,800
- <https://shorturl.at/cUna7>
- **Relocate DPW garage out of floodplain.** Identify funding to build a new DPW garage that meets Barre City's 21st century needs. - **Potentially eligible for VEM grant or EPA grant.**
- **Find solutions for Willey & Berlin Street bridges.** Working with the Central Vermont Flood Recovery Officer, conduct engineering work to determine if elevation, redesign, or removal is appropriate, and follow through on recommendations. - **Eligible for VEM grant.**
- **Remove railroad trestle.** Advocate for the state to remove and not replace the defunct railroad trestle. - **Potentially eligible for VEM grant.**
- **Upgrade windows and doors at City Hall.** Replace previously-breached spaces with floodproof upgrades. - **Eligible for VEM grant.**
- **Commit to upgrades to the Barre Auditorium.** As the regional emergency shelter, the Barre Auditorium represents a crucial resource; while the City has already committed to some upgrades through a CDS grant, they should continue to pursue property improvements that make the building a more functional shelter and a revenue-generating opportunity for the city.

Housing Development and Repair

What we're doing/have done:

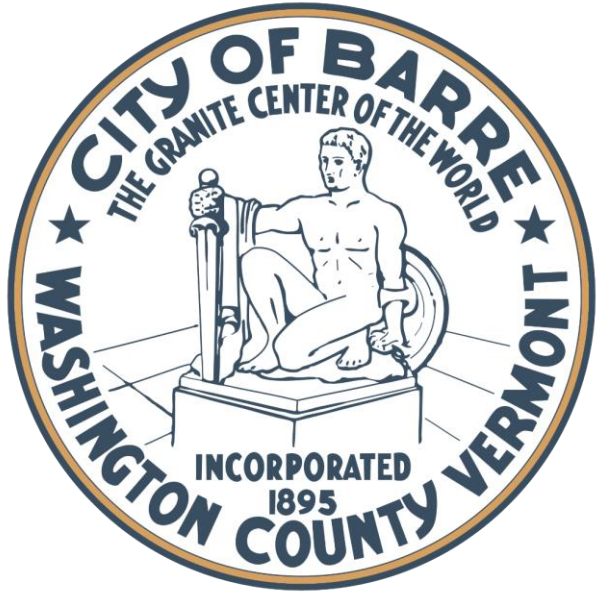
- The City of Barre has supported the proposed Prospect Heights project, which could bring up to 128 units of housing, including pathways to home ownership and rental opportunities.
- The City of Barre has entered into a tentative agreement to develop two parking lots on Seminary St into housing units, in partnership with Downstreet Housing and others. These lots would have ground floor parking, with the housing structures built above ground level.
 - 28-30 housing units generated, plus Grand List growth
- The City Council has tentatively allocated \$250,000 to a Housing Trust Fund/Revolving Loan Fund, the details of eligibility and use of this funding will be coming in the form of recommendations to the Council from the All in for Barre Housing Task Force, in partnership with the City of Barre Housing and Homelessness Liaison.
- The City Council posted additional RFPs to develop vacant lots in several areas, including Wobby Park. Those RFPs have not yet been filled but the sites remain identified as potential locations.
- Barre Up is working with residents to repair flood-damaged housing in the near- and long-term, working closely with the City.
- Planning commission is pursuing a series of ordinance updates to ease density and development in compliance with recently passed state law.

Other Opportunities:

- **North End “Clusters”**
 - The Council should approve the buyout of the so-called “North End Clusters” of housing units, and prepare an RFP for the development of two, six unit buildings in that footprint, build to flood resilient standards (utilities on the 1st floor, etc)
 - Eligible for Community Change Grant.
- **Wobby Park**
 - The City should submit a proposal for the Community Change Grant which includes the development of flood resilient housing units.
- **The “One Big Thing”**
 - The Council is awaiting a proposal from the Central Vermont Recovery Officer, Pat Moulton, on a 30-40 unit development in the North End.
- **Congressionally Directed Spending.** On behalf of the City of Barre, Central Vermont Recovery Officer Pat Moulton submitted an earmark request to Senator Bernie Sanders office, around the Governor’s proposed “Gateway” project. The

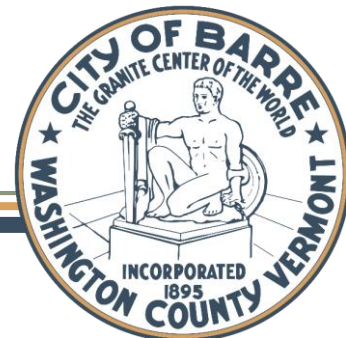
earmark represents a \$51.4 million-dollar ask, and encompasses the redevelopment of the entire North End en-masse, including the Wobby Park property, the North End “Clusters”, increased floodplain, and playgrounds.

- **Additional parking lot development.** In addition to the Seminary Street lots, the Council should direct the City Manager to determine which other parking lots, regardless of whether The City owns them, could be potential spots for development. If the Manager determines that potential development could occur on privately owned lots, the Council should direct the Manager to engage the property owners in discussion for potential purchase.



STAFF CAPACITY

JUNE 25, 2024



GOAL: CREATE TIME FOR STAFF TO FOCUS ON FLOOD RECOVERY

- Our capacity challenge is not that we are missing the right people to do the work, it is that the people that need to do the work do not have the time to do it.
- Reasons for the challenge:
 - There is a **lack of “middle management”** in the City workforce – this results in Department Heads having to often do work that in other organizations would be handled by other staff.
 - **Staffing has fallen in all but 2 departments** since 2019 (Fire and Manager’s Office – IT, Housing and Homelessness Liaison)
 - **Long-standing vacancies** have resulted in backlog of work that must be completed and competes with emergent priorities.



FLOOD RECOVERY SKILLS & TASKS

Department	Key Activities
Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant writing • Project development • Procurement • Contractor management
Planning, Permitting & Assessing Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant writing • Grant management • Project review • Compliance monitoring
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial reporting • Resource management • FEMA submissions
Manager's Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority setting • Staff coordination • Grant writing • External communications • Project management

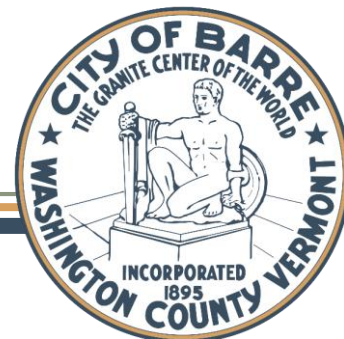


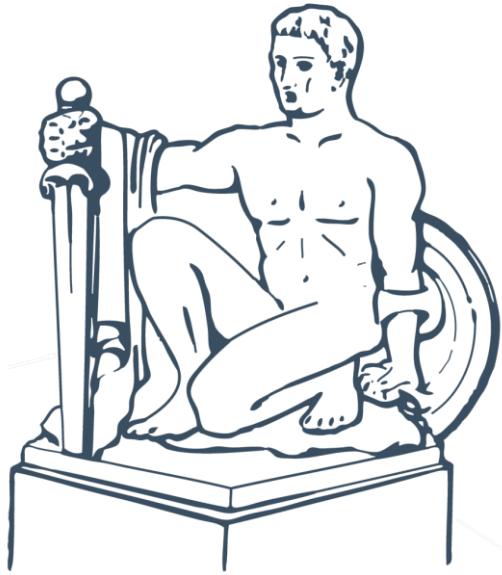
To be effective and helpful to staff, any new hire would need to (1) fulfill all of these functions AND (2) be able to step in with little time to get up to speed.



RECOMMENDATION: PROJECT MANAGER TO FREE UP CURRENT STAFF TIME

- Instead of creating a flood recovery specific position, staff recommends creating a full-time general project management/strategic operations position that would:
 - Assume projects/daily operations tasks for Department Heads so that their focus can remain on flood recovery;
 - Take on functions of recently retired staff, as appropriate; and
 - Kickstart “nice-to-do” projects that current staff cannot take on currently.
- Salary: \$70,000’s per year, based on experience (ARPA-funded)
- Timeframe: Full-time position through December 31, 2026, continued appointment contingent on available funding





THANK YOU

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION?

WWW.BARRECITY.ORG



@BARRECITYVT

