

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Tuesday, November 26, 2024 6:00pm**  
**Zoom 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. Resolution #2024-17 Recognizing the distinguished public service of Rep. Peter Anthony Resolution #2024-18 Recognizing the distinguished public service of Rep. Jonathan Williams 3-a. Visitors & Communications
	4. Consent Agenda
	A. Approval of Minutes i. Meeting of November 19, 2024
	B. Clerk’s Office Licenses & Permits C. Authorize the Manager to execute contract(s) i. Atlas Government Affairs D. Approve letter of attestation for The Barre Partnership Downtown Vibrancy Fund application
	4-a. Approve City Warrants i. Approve week of 11/27/24
	5. City Clerk & Treasurer Report
	6. Liquor/Cannabis Control Boards
	7. City Manager’s Report
	8. New Business
	A. Volunteer appointments i. PAC ii. TPW B. Resolution #2024-19: Expend SLFRF (ARPA) funds in an amount up to \$969,955.40 for the purpose of municipal workforce retention to pay for payroll expenses for the period 7/17/2024 through 10/2/2024 C. Resolution #2024-20: Establish a Special Projects Fund and authorize the allocation of funds for future projects D. Approve charge of the JEDIB committee (Spaulding) E. Update on elevation funding priorities
	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, December 10, 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](http://www.barrecity.org)

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

### MEMO

**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** The Manager  
**DATE:** 11/22/24  
**SUBJECT:** Packet Memo re: 11/26/2024 Council Meeting Agenda Items

Councilors:

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

#### **4-C Authorize the Manager to execute contract(s)**

I am requesting approval of a contract with Atlas Government Affairs to provide advocacy services during the 2025 legislative session. The contract is for \$1,000 per month, with an estimated maximum cost of \$6,000.

#### **8-A Volunteer Appointments**

Two prospective volunteers will be present for consideration to the following committees:

- **Police Advisory Committee** (1 open seat through June 2026)
  - Poa "Eli" Mutino
- **Transportation & Public Works Committee** (2 open seats, one through June 2025, one through June 2026)
  - Lisa "Mitch" Bernard

#### **8-B and 8-C Resolutions #2024-19 and 2024-20 Regarding ARPA Allocations**

We are requesting that the Council approve two resolutions to comply with ARPA funding commitment deadlines. These resolutions would allocate remaining ARPA funds to cover payroll expenses from July 17 to October 2, 2024, and create a Special Projects Fund with the general fund balance this action would create. This action would ensure that all of our ARPA funds are "committed" by December 31, 2024, as required by the US Treasury Department.

#### **8-D Approve charge of the JEDIB Committee (Councilor Spaulding)**

The Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging Committee is requesting formal Council approval of its proposed charge. The charge is included in the packet as approved by the Committee.

#### **8-E Update on elevation funding priorities**

The packet includes a detailed memo on proposed priority tiers for the \$900,000 of elevation funding we advocated for and were awarded by the state legislature last year. We are seeking input and feedback from the Council to ensure we are proceeding in a manner that meets Council goals for this funding.

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF REPRESENTATIVE PETER ANTHONY  
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE STATE LEGISLATURE**

**WHEREAS**, Peter Anthony has served the City of Barre as Mayor and as Representative to the Vermont House; and

**WHEREAS**, Peter Anthony has served selflessly to better the lives of the residents of Barre and of the state of Vermont; and

**WHEREAS**, every resident of Barre has benefitted from Representative Anthony’s dedication and hard work to create a more equitable city; and

**WHEREAS**, his dedication and hard work can be seen in his sponsorship of bills as diverse as an act relating to childcare funding and an act relating to removal of the trestle; and

**WHEREAS**, he has been the lead sponsor of many bills directly related to the well-being of Barre residents, including flood resilience measures; and

**WHEREAS**, he has held many positions within and beyond Barre City, including serving on the Board of Civil Authority and many local boards; and

**WHEREAS**, Peter has and continues to volunteer to do the work the City benefits from; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is created by the labor of many, and its strength lies in the dedication of individuals such as Peter Anthony, whose contributions to the city are immeasurable.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Barre City Council, that the City of Barre commends Peter Anthony for his invaluable contributions to the City and State, and that the City Council does hereby declare November 27, 2024 as Peter Anthony Appreciation Day, in gratitude for his service; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be placed in the permanent records of the City of Barre and that a copy be transmitted to Peter Anthony.

**BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL THIS 26<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Thomas Lauzon**, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Cheryl Metivier**, City Clerk & Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Emel Cambel**, Ward I

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Sonya Spaulding**, Ward I

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Amanda Gustin**, Ward II

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Teddy Waszazak**, Ward II

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Michael Deering II**, Ward III

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Samn Stockwell**, Ward III

**A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JONATHAN WILLIAMS FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE CITY OF BARRE AS STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

**WHEREAS**, Jonathan Williams was elected in November 2022 to the Vermont House of Representatives; and

**WHEREAS**, he served with great distinction and with great benefit to the residents of Barre, and his tenure was marked by his outreach to residents and willingness to listen to his constituents and Council members; and

**WHEREAS**, Jonathan was also available to residents and City Council as needed in the aftermath of the floods of 2023 and 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, as State Representative, he sponsored legislative acts that would speed the City’s recovery from the flood; and

**WHEREAS**, the efforts of Jonathan will leave an indelible legacy on our recovery, will be felt for generations, and helped the City to survive; and

**WHEREAS**, Jonathan is committed to a more equitable and just City; and this is evident in the bills he sponsored, as well as through his presence at community outreach events; and

**WHEREAS**, Jonathan demonstrated repeatedly his commitment to the residents of Barre and of Vermont through his thoughtful advocacy.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Barre City Council commends Jonathan Williams for his service and for his commitment to the democratic ideals of our city, and that the City Council does hereby declare November 29, 2024 as Jonathan Williams Appreciation Day; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be placed in the permanent records of the City of Barre and that a copy be transmitted to Jonathan Williams.

**BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL THIS 26<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024**

_____ <b>Thom Lauzon</b> , Mayor	_____ <b>Cheryl Metivier</b> , City Clerk & Treasurer
_____ <b>Emel Cambel</b> , Ward I	_____ <b>Sonya Spaulding</b> , Ward I
_____ <b>Teddy Waszazak</b> , Ward II	_____ <b>Amanda Gustin</b> , Ward II
_____ <b>Michael Deering II</b> , Ward III	_____ <b>Samn Stockwell</b> , Ward III

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council (Draft)  
Held November 19th, 2024  
Council Chambers-Barre City Hall**

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

**Absent:** From Ward I, Councilors Emel Cambel

**Adjustments to the Agenda** –None

**Visitors & Communications** –Mayor Thomas Lauzon shared the remarkable legacy of a long time Barre City resident Eugene A. Cozzi who passed away on October 7, 2024. Mr. Cozzi was a Norwich graduate and longtime Vermont State employee, with deep roots to Barre City and many hobbies and interest. Having no dependence Mr. Cozzi created a trust rightfully named, Eugene A. Cozzi Trust, which he bequest to the City of Barre, divided between a fund solely for Hope Cemetery (60%), and the City of Barre (40%). The fund are meant to improve and maintain the beauty of Hope Cemetery, as well as assist the capital improvement of the city. We should all be grateful for this bequest, and tike the time to learn a little more about Eugene A. Cozzi.

**Consent Agenda-**

- A. Approval of Minutes
  - i. Meeting of 11/12/2024
- B. Clerk’s Office Licenses & Permits – 802 Community Angels additional vehicle
- C. Authorize the manager to execute contract(s)

Moved by Councilor Gustin, seconded by Councilor Stockwell-approved

**Approve City Warrants**

- A. Week of 11/20/2024

Moved by Councilor Stockwell, seconded by Councilor Spaulding

**City Clerk & Treasurer Report**

We are wrapping up 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Tax payments Timely payments are still to be data entered. Via credit cards and postal mail.

Early Dec we will be working with our program IT contact and L. Brown to produce the final tax bill including the education tax rate. We are unsure what these bills will look like, but hoping to get a template to confirm.

We will soon be sending our (via email) allocation fund request packets to local non-profits. These completed packets must be returned prior to January 2, 2025 for TY26 funds.

Annual entertainment license renewal will be also due at the beginning of the year. Applications will be mailed to all establishments who have held them this year. Any business may apply by requesting the application.

### **Liquor/Cannabis Control Boards-**

North Branch Vineyards LLC – will be a vendor at the Merry Barre Holiday Craft show and hopes to get approval for their product to be served during this event through Barre Partnership.

Moved by Councilor Deering, seconded by Councilor Stockwell, approved

### **City Managers Report**

\*Regroup App is up and running as another method of communication between the City and community members. This will be the best method to stay informed about the Winter Snow Ban parking restrictions.

Councilor Spaulding was inquiring whether the temporary signs would eventually be replaced with more permanent signals and as to whether email notification is an option vs smartphone only.

### **New Business**

#### **Guests - Senator Anne Watson, Senator Ann Cummings and State Representative Teddy Waszazak**

The respected guest gave the council sound advice and input on how to approach the legislation with our list of priorities. With the combined years of experience leading to success in the method of approach. Each member listened to concerns, questions and ideas, weighing in where they could see an opportunity to advise on City issues and regional issues.

A. Set legislative priorities

#### **Managers List:**

##### **Operational Aid**

- Last year the City received \$1M from the state legislature
- Our needs are long-term and we described the need as multi-year to avoid spikes in tax increases
- Ratify charter changes
- Separate Clerk and Treasurer duties
- Move Town Meeting Day to 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in May (Council already moved TMD in 2025)
  
- Shared fleet - State should purchase DPW fleet vehicles that can be utilized regionally by municipalities (vactors, leaf vacuums)
  
- Flood Recovery/Mitigation
- Funding for non-FEMA buyouts
- River gauges

Last year, the City retained lobbyists to represent the City. It worked.

To be approved at 11/19/24 Barre City Council Meeting

- Operating Aid - \$1M, most of any municipality
- Elevation Funding - \$900,000 for Barre • Does the City Council wish to retain representation again?
- Received proposal from last year's representative for \$1,000/month
- Last year represented by Leonine. Current proposal from Atlas Government Affairs (the individual who handled our portfolio has started their own firm).

**Mayor Lauzons List:**

Housing –

State Programs and resources to address the unhoused population. Recognizing a regional approach should be in place.

Bold housing construction initiatives/incentive programs

Changes to allow Property Tax Stabilization agreements

Specific funding for the North End.

Natural Disaster mitigation with predictable multi-year funds, with 50% local match, to help those helping themselves.

More resources and funds to combat the drug overdose deaths and assist in recovery efforts.

Public Safety recruitment and retention initiatives. Possibly having regional county or municipalities paying in for services. Changing laws or policies to hold offender of crime more accountable.

Additional extension of Barre's TIF District. Beyond the pandemic, the recurring flooding has created the need.

All the Councilors echoed the same needs to be addressed, and gave ideas supporting regional systems sharing costs and accountability, allowing statistics to drive points and issues in both mental health and public safety.

Councilor Gustin rallied to begin the list of priorities to be presented to, and for lobbyist to use as a template of important issues to Barre City residents.

**Round Table**

Councilor Waszazak gave his information for contact, vowing to keep communication lines open. Visit his forum page [teddyforbarre.com](http://teddyforbarre.com)

Councilor Gustin – Friends of Mathewson playground gathered to repair damage done by vandalism. The department of public works provide assistance. The community members hope to have a spring gathering to celebrate the wonderful space for children and families.

Councilor Deering offered his excitement for the Coyotes basketball team and invited the community to come to the Auditorium on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> for open gym and Thanksgiving Dinner, all beginning at 930am.

**Mayor Lauzon** – Please take the time to learn about the remarkable and generous Eugene A. Cozzi. With his bequeath to the City of Barre, many improvement can be accomplished.

**Findings for executive session moved by Councilor Gustin, seconded by Councilor Stockwell, approved.**

**Motion to enter executive session moved by Councilor Stockwell, seconded by Councilor Waszazak,**



To be approved at 11/19/24 Barre City Council Meeting  
**approved.**

**Motion the exit executive session moved by Councilor Waszazak, seconded by Councilor Stockwell, approved**

**Motion to adjourn moved by Councilor Waszazak, seconded by Councilor Stockwell, approved**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm**

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 26th, 2024.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl A. Metivier, City Clerk

DRAFT



# City of Barre, Vermont

*"Granite Center of the World"*

## ACTION ITEM BRIEFING MEMO CITY COUNCIL AGENDA: 11/26/2024

### Agenda Item No. 4-C

**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
Government relations services	Atlas Government Affairs	\$1,000/month, with maximum estimated at \$6,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>This is an unbudgeted expense, and will be paid out of the general fund from combination of vacancy savings and underspending.</li></ul>	The City Council discussed legislative priorities at its 11/19/24 meeting and there was consensus to hire representation in Montpelier to advocate for our priorities.  Last year, the City hired Leonine Public Affairs. The individual who handled our account has started her own firm and we recommend re-hiring this individual, as they have institutional knowledge of our issues.

**ATTACHMENTS:** (1) Atlas Government Affairs proposal

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

### RECOMMENDED ACTION/MOTION:

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

**Proposal for Lobbying Services for the City of Barre – 2025 Legislative Session**  
**Prepared by Maggie Lenz - Atlas Government Affairs**  
**October 28, 2024**

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## **OVERVIEW**

The 2025 legislative session offers an opportunity to continue advocating for the City of Barre's (Barre) priorities. Building on the foundation of our work together in 2024, this proposal outlines a plan for continued engagement and advocacy. I will work to ensure that Barre's voice is heard in state government, leveraging my experience and knowledge of the legislative process to advance Barre's objectives.

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## **ATLAS GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

Atlas Government Affairs (AGA) brings a creative approach to lobbying, focusing on the human side of government and policy making. Aligning clients' objectives with the values that matter to decision-makers helps find common ground. Advocacy at AGA focuses on the art of finding creative solutions, with humor, patience, and persistence.

With nearly a decade of experience in government relations, I've worked with organizations of all sizes—from local nonprofits to global corporations. I have worked across sectors including education, healthcare, economic development, data privacy, and cannabis.

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## **SCOPE OF WORK**

### **Develop Tailored Messaging and Public Communication**

Work with Barre's leadership to create messaging for use in communications with legislators and the public. Focus on highlighting Barre's key priorities and challenges, ensuring the message resonates with decision-makers. Provide support in drafting op-eds and letters to the editor (LTTEs) to help amplify Barre's voice and influence public discussions around legislative priorities.

### **Engage with Legislative Leadership**

Work directly with key legislative leaders, including the House Speaker, Senate President pro tem, and relevant committee chairs. Through strategic meetings and briefings, ensure that

Barre's priorities are central to legislative discussions. Focus on advocating for Barre's recovery and other critical initiatives while positioning the city as a priority within the broader legislative agenda.

### **Build Support with Rank-and-File Legislators**

Meet with rank-and-file legislators from both parties to educate lawmakers about Barre's unique challenges and the city's need for ongoing state support. Cultivate allies who can advocate for Barre's issues in legislative debates and committee hearings, ensuring broad-based support throughout the session.

### **Testimony and Committee Preparation**

Support Barre's representatives in drafting and delivering testimony, ensuring the city's priorities are effectively communicated in committee hearings. Ensure that Barre's message is communicated effectively by collaborating with city officials and spokespeople, providing guidance and strategic support.

### **Lobby the Administration**

Engage with the governor's administration and relevant agencies to advocate for Barre's needs in policy decisions. Ensure that Barre's priorities are included in funding frameworks and policy decisions, while maintaining ongoing communication with administrative figures to keep Barre's interests in focus throughout the session.

### **Coordinate Stakeholder Engagement**

Work with other municipalities, industry groups, and stakeholders to build coalitions that amplify Barre's voice. Foster partnerships with allies who share similar goals, strengthening Barre's ability to secure resources and legislative victories in statewide discussions.

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## **ONGOING MONITORING AND STRATEGIC ADJUSTMENTS**

Throughout the 2025 session, I will provide regular updates on legislative developments, focusing on bills and policy discussions that impact Barre. Our strategy will be flexible, allowing us to adapt to any changes in the legislative landscape and ensure Barre remains a priority for lawmakers and state officials.

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## **CLIENT COMMUNICATION**

I will work closely with Barre's leadership to establish consistent communication throughout the session. Regular updates will ensure Barre officials stay informed about key legislative

developments, and I will be available to incorporate feedback as we move forward. Having a single point of contact will streamline communication.

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## **COMPENSATION**

For the 2025 legislative session - **\$1,000 per month**


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**Thank you for considering this proposal. I look forward to continuing our work together and helping the City of Barre secure the necessary support for its recovery and growth.**

Sincerely,  
*Maggie Lenz*

# Agenda Item #4-D

## November 26, 2024

 Outlook

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**Re: Letter of Attestation**

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**From** Executive Director <director@thebarrepartnership.com>

**Date** Fri 11/8/2024 1:04 PM

**To** Nicolas Storellicastro <citymanager@barrecity.org>

 3 attachments (7 MB)

7. AppendixI\_Letter of Attestation.pdf; Banner Black Left\_Quarry\_1.jpg; Banner Black Left\_Firworks.jpg;

Hi Nicolas

It's that time again that I need City Council to sign off on this Attestation with regard to the \$25,000 Vibrancy Grant from the State of Vermont.

This year the \$25,000 will go towards:

1. Shannon's Marketing Manager position (part time - \$18,000/year)
2. Friday Night Laser Light Show during the Barre Heritage Festival
3. New Downtown Banners. The new design is attached. We'll have different pictures of Barre from over the years and will also be seeking sponsorships from Barre Businesses to pay for them.

Thank you so much for your help with this!

# WELCOME TO DOWNTOWN *Barre*

FOUNDED IN 1780



PRESENTED BY THE







# Volunteer Application Form

**Full Name** Poa (Eli) Mutino

**Home address** 180 N Main St Apt 7 **Barre City Resident?** No

**E-mail Address** [REDACTED]

**Cell/Home Phone Number** [REDACTED]

## Position(s) you are applying for?

1. Police Advisory Committee
2. Unhoused Community Committee
3. Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee

**Have you attended a meeting of the public bodies you are applying for?** No

**Please describe why you are interested in the positions you are applying for. Include any special skills or qualifications that may be beneficial for the position.**

I am a masters level clinical social worker with specialities in trauma-responsive care, gerontological social work, positive youth development, and the LGBTQIA2+community. I am calm and focused when encountering conflicts and I am a big picture thinker, from 1:1 interactions, to family and neighborhood systems, to state policy, to national policy. I believe I can bring valuable professional insights and that I do well on a team.

**By signing below you acknowledge that all information provided is accurate and complete to the best of your ability, and you understand the City Council has the authority to remove members appointed to any City-created public bodies in accordance with the City Charter and Vermont State Statute, as applicable, for misrepresentation of any statement made on this application**

Poa Mutino

11/10/2024

**Sign here (or type your name for an electronic submission)**

**Date**

## For City Manager's Office Use Only

Appointed? No

Term of Appointment: From [REDACTED] To [REDACTED]



# Volunteer Application Form

**Full Name** Lisa "Mitch" Bernard

**Home address** 45 Birchwood Park Drive, Barre Town **Barre City Resident?** No

**E-mail Address** [REDACTED]

**Cell/Home Phone Number** [REDACTED]

## Position(s) you are applying for?

1. Transportation and Public Works Committee member
2. [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED]

**Have you attended a meeting of the public bodies you are applying for?** No

**Please describe why you are interested in the positions you are applying for. Include any special skills or qualifications that may be beneficial for the position.**

I have been following organizations that make content relevant to this subject and think that some of the ideas could help traffic and safety in the area: Strong Towns <https://www.strongtowns.org/> and Streetcraft <https://www.streetcraft.co/> I moved to Barre from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in March 2023 and absolutely love our new home and hometown. I want it to be the beautiful, safe place we all know that it can be.

**By signing below you acknowledge that all information provided is accurate and complete to the best of your ability, and you understand the City Council has the authority to remove members appointed to any City-created public bodies in accordance with the City Charter and Vermont State Statute, as applicable, for misrepresentation of any statement made on this application**

Lisa Bernard

November 14, 2024

**Sign here (or type your name for an electronic submission)**

**Date**

## For City Manager's Office Use Only

Appointed?

Term of Appointment: From [REDACTED] To [REDACTED]



# City of Barre, Vermont

*“Granite Center of the World”*

## ACTION ITEM BRIEFING MEMO CITY COUNCIL AGENDA: 11/26/2024

### Agenda Item No. 8-B and 8-C

**AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION:** Disposition of ARPA funds and creation of a Special Projects Fund

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT/PERSON:** Manager Storrellicastro

**STAFF RECCOMENDATION:** Approve Resolutions #2024-19 and 2024-20

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)** established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF), which provides \$350 million to state and local governments for the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Of Vermont’s \$1.25 billion share, over \$200 million (about \$300 per Vermonter) was allocated to municipalities. Of this amount, **Barre received \$2.5 million.**

The Council has approved or committed \$1.5 million of ARPA funding to the following projects:

- **Approved \$250,000 to Downstreet for the Granite City Apartments project at the Ward 5 School.** This project requested funding through the letters of interest process. Funding was recommended because “Housing” was the highest ranked priority in the survey, and this project specifically received the greatest support among those who returned surveys. These funds are in the process of disbursement.
- **Approved \$355,590 to re-line the sewer along N. Main Street from Brook Street to the siphon near Fifth Street.** This project will fortify a stretch of sewer that was inventoried after the July 2023 flood, and the re-lining will repair a line with high-use (including North Barre Manor) at a fraction of traditional replacement and without disrupting new pavement. This project is currently underway.
- **Approved \$55,557 to the Barre Opera House lighting project.** This project was part of a settlement to correct years where City Hall electrical use was charged to the Opera House. This project is underway.
- **Approved \$29,819 to Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity for a loan to demolish 22 Hill Street.** This project is to build a new, affordable housing unit on a tax sale property. As part of the purchase agreement, the City agreed to provide a no-interest loan to Habitat for the demolition of the existing property, and the City will be reimbursed based on a timeline established in the purchase and sale agreement. The demolition is complete.
- **Approved \$200,000 for project management/grant coordination staff capacity.** The Council has tentatively agreed to use ARPA funding to support expanded capacity in City Hall. The listed amount is a placeholder to guide conversations. The position has been filled.
- **Approved up to \$165,000 for a hydrology study.** This project will expedite a study to inform flood mitigation strategies. The hydrology study scope of work will be signed before December 31, 2024.
- **Approved \$223,974 to replace the BOR manifold.** This project will replace equipment essential to continue operations at the BOR during ice season. This project will be completed in Spring 2025.

- **Approved \$250,000 to create a revolving loan trust/fund.** The revolving loan fund was approved by the City Council at its September 24, 2024 meeting and will be administered by Downstreet. The revolving loan fund has been created and funding disbursed.
- **In addition, \$52,947 in smaller expenditures have been approved under ARPA, including**
  - Police Department payroll and FICA
  - Warming shelter
  - ARPA community outreach for the community innovation fund
  - Bike share loan program (may be funded with other sources)

ARPA funds must be allocated by December 31, 2024 and expended by December 31, 2026. With all the approved expenditures and commitments, \$969,955.40 remains. We recommend the following actions:

- **Approve Resolution #2024-19 to designate these remaining ARPA funds to pay for payroll expenses from July 17, 2024 to October 2, 2024.** This action would have the effect of committing our remaining ARPA funds, and meeting Department of Treasury requirements that all funding be “committed” by December 31, 2024.
- **Approve Resolution #2024-20 to create a Special Projects Fund.** We recommend that the general fund balance created by using ARPA to pay for payroll expenses should be placed in a new Special Projects Fund to be used for one-time projects, similar to the initial intent that Council has approved for use of ARPA funding.

**EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING SOURCE:** \$969,955.40 in ARPA funding

**RECOMMENDED ACTION/MOTION:**

*Move to approve Resolutions #2024-19 and #2024-20.*

**A RESOLUTION FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) ALLOCATION**

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2021, the President of the United States signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to provide continued relief from the public health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, ARPA created the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) that provided direct funding to state, local, and Tribal governments across the country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Barre has accepted an allocation of SLFRF in the amount of \$ 2,549,842.27; and

**WHEREAS**, SLFRF provides needed fiscal relief for recipients that have experienced revenue loss due to the onset of the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, Treasury presumes that up to \$10 million in revenue has been lost due to the public health emergency and recipients are permitted to use that amount (not to exceed the award amount) to fund “government services.”; and

**WHEREAS**, Recipients may elect a “standard allowance” of \$10 million to spend on government services through the period of performance; and

**WHEREAS**, all recipients may elect to use this standard allowance instead of calculating lost revenue using the formula provided by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, including those with total allocations of \$10 million or less; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Barre has the need to fund government services while in the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED**, the City Council of the City of Barre, Vermont, authorize the following:

**Section 1.** The following allocation of SLFRF funding to fund government services under the replacing lost public sector revenue spending category as follows:

Expend SLFRF funds in an amount up to \$969,955.40 for the purpose of municipal workforce retention to pay for payroll expenses for the paid date period 07/17/2024 through 10/02/2024.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BARRE, VERMONT ON THE 26<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Thom Lauzon**, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Cheryl Metivier**, City Clerk & Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Emel Cambel**, Ward I

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Sonya Spaulding**, Ward I

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**Teddy Waszazak**, Ward II

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Amanda Gustin**, Ward II

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Michael Deering II**, Ward III

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Samn Stockwell**, Ward III

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND AND  
AUTHORIZING THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR FUTURE SPECIAL PROJECTS**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Barre recognizes the need for flexibility in addressing emerging opportunities, unforeseen needs, and special initiatives that may arise from time to time; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Barre seeks to establish a Special Projects Fund to allow for the timely and effective response to such needs and initiatives, whether they involve capital improvements, community development, or other unique projects; and

**WHEREAS**, while specific projects to be funded from this account have not yet been identified, it is anticipated that future initiatives will be proposed and reviewed as circumstances arise, in alignment with the goals and priorities of the City of Barre; and

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of the Special Projects Fund will allow for the efficient allocation of resources in support of identified priorities that advance the public good, economic development, and community well-being.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Barre hereby approves the creation of a Special Projects Fund, which shall be used to allocate resources for future projects as deemed appropriate by the City Council; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that an initial allocation of 969,955.40 shall be made to the Special Projects Fund from the General Fund; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Council delegates authority to the City Manager and/or Assistant City Manager to manage and oversee the fund, including recommending the appropriate allocation of funds for identified projects, subject to City Council approval; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Council will review and approve any specific project proposals drawn from the Special Projects Fund before funds are expended, ensuring that such projects align with the strategic goals and priorities of the City of Barre.

**BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL THIS 26<sup>th</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Thom Lauzon**, Mayor

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**Cheryl Metivier**, City Clerk & Treasurer

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**Emel Cambel**, Ward I

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**Sonya Spaulding**, Ward I

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**Teddy Waszazak**, Ward II

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**Amanda Gustin**, Ward II

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**Michael Deering II**, Ward III

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**Samn Stockwell**, Ward III

**Barre City Justice, Equity, Diversity, inclusion and Belonging Committee Work Plan 2025**

After several years of experience and development, the BCJEDIB committee has completed its plan for the foreseeable future in terms of committee structure, priorities and relationship with municipal staff and government. The following is the result of the committee's conversations, workshops, consultations with professionals in the equity field and Barre City Council decisions.

Creating a list of priorities included identifying the affected populations, how they might be affected and the potential area of focus, ordinances, policies and/or practices. The list is seen as a living and changing document to be added to or altered in any way that meets the City's goals and objectives. The list is attached and has been used to determine our plan of action for the short and long term.

The committee has divided its responsibilities into two categories with a working group for each; Community Education and Municipal Ordinance Reform. The original charge for the committee was to create a flag policy and examine city ordinances with an equity lens. The realization and assessment of the municipality's readiness for equity work led the committee to organize an education program aimed at providing both political and municipal leadership with the communication tools needed for them to discuss social change within the city and how best to address it within the context of inclusion. To examine ordinances, policies and procedures, the committee adapted the Vermont Equity Impact Assessment Tool, which the City adopted for use in 2020.

**Community Education Working Group:**

"Let's Talk about Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging" is a program designed by the committee with the help of consultant Kristi Clemens, Dartmouth College title 9 Coordinator. The 8-hour curriculum traces the understanding of equity from the personal, through the interpersonal, to community application. Committee members will organize and support the sessions, some of whom will be trained in the facilitation process in order to continue and expand the program. The goal is to widen the program to include the general public after using it to educate municipal leadership.

**Tasks:**

- Conduct regular meetings at least once a month and report to committee monthly committee meetings
- Participate in a "Let's Talk" session
- Become a "Let's Talk" facilitator with coaching from consultant and curriculum creator, Kristi Clemens
- Promote and organize 2 Programs a year, including location, schedule and hospitality
- Plan and present other types of community educational experiences focused on equity with agreement by the committee and/or city council as appropriate
- Conduct a community equity assessment using the City of Winooski model

**Municipal Ordinance Reform:**

The City adopted the Barre City Equity Impact Assessment Tool for use by municipal leadership, groups that serve the City and non-profits involved in city projects and with city residents. The committee gave several tutorials to various entities in city government to encourage and support its use and has been working with other committees to use while they plan and implement their projects and events. The tool asks questions specific to equity and assesses the relative responsiveness of the project to marginalized and minority residents. This tool can be used in a variety of ways for a variety of projects, issues, ordinances and City plans.

## Tasks:

- Conduct regular meetings at least once a month and report to committee monthly committee meetings
- Study and become familiar with the BC Equity Impact Assessment Tool document and the City Ordinances
- Identify ordinances that need editing to address wherever there is potential unfairness or unequal treatment
- Research other community's ordinances as guides to writing ordinances that reflect equity
- Edit City ordinances for City council to consider and support the changes to the City Council
- Promote the use of the assessment Tool including reviewing and making appropriate recommendations to the department that is using them
- Provide support for and review of RFPs and other proposals from the City by reviewing them using the Assessment Tool and providing letters of support where desired or needed. A designated member of the =working group is assigned to expedite any request from the City for this assistance in order to meet grant deadlines.



## BCJEDIB LIST OF PRIORITIES

CONDITION	EFFECT	POTENTIAL REMEDY	
Air Quality/Pollution	respiratory disease/symptoms	Immediate removal of all remaining flood dust.	Equity
	stress on flora	Improve street sweeping/renting equipment if needed	Equity
		Reduce emissions, routing truck traffic around the downtown	Equity
		Study air quality	Equity
Property Taxes	fair and equitable redistribution of wealth	Increase in municipal revenue with tiered fees for city services	Equity
		Fee structure that charges fair value to other communities using our city's invested infrastructure	Equity
		Collaboration with BUUSD when preparing budgets	ADA
		Property assessment study to identify sub-standard rental structures tax at the highest standard rate	Equity
		Institute a form of rent control	Equity
		Balance services to commerce (20%) versus residents (80%)	Equity
Noise Pollution	Disturbing to the neurodivergent	Eliminate train blare	ADA
	Hearing loss	Ordinance to ban industrial/commercial open door practice	ADA
	Trauma trigger	Improve noise ordinance to include industrial/commerce noise	ADA
Light Pollution	Kills trees	Requiring hooded commercial/residential outdoor lighting	Equity
	Effects sleep patterns		Equity
Recreation	Resident quality of life	Park/playground that is ADA designed	ADA
		Hiring Rec Dept staff	Equity
Flood Mitigation			
ADA Compliance	Federal Law	Certify ADA Officer	
		Remove sidewalk barriers (elevate flags, no sandwich boards)	ADA
Climate Change		Disaster/emergency preparedness	



# *City of Barre, Vermont*

*“Granite Center of the World”*

## **ACTION ITEM BRIEFING MEMO CITY COUNCIL AGENDA: 11/26/24**

### **Agenda Item No.: 8-E**

**AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION:** Update on elevation funding priorities

**SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT or PERSON:** The Manager

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Receive update and provide input on staff action

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In response to the July 2023 flood, the City of Barre and the City of Montpelier joined forces to advocate for flood recovery funding from the state. The state legislature delivered \$1 million in operational funding, as well as several other sources of flood recovery funding, including \$3.5 million to pay for the elevation of residential structures.

Barre was notified by VEM on September 24, 2024 that the City is eligible for \$900,000 under this program. The City will need to determine priorities and select residential structures where were impacted by July 2023 flooding to elevate. In accordance with the award notice, preference should be given to structures which received a substantial damage determination and which are not pursuing a FEMA buyout. These projects must be completed by December 31, 2026. Further, the funding per project is limited to \$300,000, so at a minimum 3 structures will be elevated under this program.

City staff received 13 intakes from property owners interested in being considered for elevations, including the Good Samaritan Haven, which VEM has deemed eligible for this funding as a “residential property.” After review of the intakes, one property was eliminated because it is commercial, and only residential properties are eligible for this funding. Further, one other elevation intake property was approved for a buyout during the application process, and based on state guidance, it is recommended that this property not be considered for elevation at this time. As a result, there are **11 eligible properties** that have been sorted into priority tiers. Please note that the City is not limited to funding only the intakes, but it is our recommendation to pursue applications from property owners who were proactive in applying for assistance.

Staff briefed Council about this funding opportunity at its October 8, 2024 meeting to seek input about factors that should be used in setting priorities for this funding. Staff have also participated in state briefings and shared our initial assessments with RIVER program engineers for additional input. Staff recommends that Council set the general priorities outlined below:

- **Tier I: Adjacent to new floodplain project**
  - 3 Berlin/Vine Street properties
- **Tier II: Low-Priority Redevelopment Sites**
  - 1 River Street property
  - 1 First Street property
- **Tier III: High-Priority Redevelopment Sites**
  - 3 N. Main Street properties
  - 1 Second Street property
- **Tier IV: Eligibility Challenges**
  - 1 Brooklyn Street property (floodway)
  - 1 Seminary Street property (shelter)

We are seeking the Council’s general response and feedback to our proposed priorities for elevation. Once priorities are set, staff will vet these potential projects with the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), as required by the grant program. If ANR determines that any particular priority property is not suitable for elevation, the City proposes to move down the priority tiers until funding is exhausted.

**FUNDING SOURCE(S):** \$900,000 state funding for elevations approved in the 2024 legislative session

**RECOMMENDED ACTION/MOTION:**

*Provide feedback to general priorities for elevation.*

Map of general location of elevation intakes

