

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held October 3, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order by Mayor Jake Hemmerick at 6:05 PM at the Civic Center Alumni Hall 2nd floor meeting room, Barre, Vermont. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilors Emel Cambel and Thom Lauzon; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Teddy Waszazak; and from Ward III, Councilors Michael Deering and Samn Stockwell. City staff members present were City Manager Nicolas Storrellicastro, and Clerk/Treasurer Carol Dawes.

Absent: NONE

Others Present: NONE

Adjustments to the agenda: The following adjustments were made:

- Warrants for the week of October 4, 2023 were added to the consent agenda.
- Councilor Lauzon asked to add a discussion on housing after the executive session. Mayor Hemmerick said the discussion can start this evening, and will continue at next week's meeting.

Visitors & Communications:

Randy Belville said he is a resident at the North Barre Manor, and there are issues associated with drug use and sales in the building. Mr. Belville said he has reported it repeatedly to Barre Housing Authority client services, and has been told nothing can be done about it. He said there have been drug problems in the building for more than 10 years, and the issue needs to be addressed through changes in the application process. He said the Barre City police and fire departments are frequently at the facility, which costs the taxpayers money.

Councilor Deering said he lives at Green Acres, which is also a BHA facility, and they have similar issues. He has talked with BHA about the problems, and cameras were recently installed at Green Acres. The recordings from the cameras will be available to police to help with drug enforcement and evictions.

There was discussion on elderly housing, BHA housing rules, holding a Council meeting at a BHA facility to hear about issues in the buildings, involving the communities and residents, impacts on municipal taxes, and having our community interventionist attend BHA board meetings.

Consent Agenda:

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

- A. Approval of Minutes:
 - i. Regular meeting of September 19, 2023
 - ii. Special meeting of September 25, 2023
- B. City Warrants as presented:
 1. Ratification of Week 2023-39, dated September 28, 2023
 - i. Accounts Payable: \$387,910.13
 - ii. Payroll (gross): \$153,902.71
 2. Approval of Week 2023-40, dated October 4, 2023 (added through adjustments):
 - i. Accounts Payable: \$683,538.20
 - ii. Payroll (gross): \$148,198.05
- C. Ratify the Council's 9/19/23 approval of a collective bargaining agreement with United Steelworkers

To be approved at 10/10/23 Barre City Council Meeting

Executive Session – Councilor Lauzon made the motion to find that premature general public knowledge of personnel 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 Cambel. **Motion carried.**

Council went into executive session at 6:25 PM to discuss personnel under the provisions of 1 VSA § 313 on motion of Councilor Lauzon, seconded by Councilor Boutin. Manager Storellicastro was invited into the executive session. **Motion carried.**

Council came out of executive session at 7:15 PM on motion of Councilor Lauzon, seconded by Councilor Cambel. **Motion carried.**

There was no action taken.

Added under adjustments: Discussion on housing – Councilor Lauzon introduced the discussion and shared his handouts on housing opportunities, challenges, roadblocks, and legislative actions. There was discussion on development in Barre City, parking needs, high construction costs, and models for buying down costs.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

There is no recording of this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk