

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held August 2, 2011**

The Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Acting Mayor Michael Smith. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilors Etli and Poirier; from Ward II, Councilor Boutin; and from Ward III, Councilors Chadderton and Herring. City Manager Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Dawes were also present.

**Approval of the Minutes** - The minutes of the Regular Council meeting of July 26, 2011 were approved as presented on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of City Warrants** – Council approved City Warrants as presented on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

**The City Clerk and Treasurer Report** – Clerk Dawes made the following announcements:

- The BCA met yesterday to begin the annual tax assessment appeal process. There are 21 tax appeals scheduled for hearings that will begin in September.
- The Board of Abatement is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM to hear five abatement requests.
- First quarter property taxes are due by August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Council approved a 2011 Taxicab Service Operator's License application for a new vehicle in the A to B Taxi fleet on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

**Building Permits** – Council approved the following building permits on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Wayne & June King	7 King Street
Dominic & Carol Bonacorsi	66 Orange Street
Nancy McAvoy	6 Grant Avenue

**Liquor Control Board** – NONE

**Visitors and Communications** –

Joelen Mulvaney, a member of the board of the Old Labor Hall, said the Labor Hall elevator was heavily damaged in the May flooding, and insurance won't cover the repairs. Ms. Mulvaney said the Barre Historical Society, which owns the Labor Hall, is applying for funding through the Vermont Community Foundation, and requested the Council issue a letter of support for the grant. Council approved drafting such a letter on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Barre Partnership executive director Dan Jones and We Dig Barre mascot Digger drew the latest winning name for the Barre Treasurer Dig. Mr. Jones asked Council if it would be OK to move the community picnic, originally scheduled for August 11<sup>th</sup>, to August 18<sup>th</sup>. The event will start at 4:00 PM in City Hall Park. Council agreed to the new date. Mr. Jones said there will be a community forum and pizza party held on August 11<sup>th</sup> to invite the public to share their ideas for the conceptual designs of the area bounded by Summer, North Main, Elm and Merchant Streets. The event is scheduled from 5:30 – 7:30 PM in the Council chambers.

**New Business** –

**A) Steven Branch Dredging Concerns.**

Richard Sawyer addressed the Council about his flooding concerns in the lower Berlin Street and

Scampini Square areas. Mr. Sawyer said he owns property in that area and has noticed that there is less free board – space – between the underside of bridges and the river bed than in the past. He said something needs to be done to bring the water level down. Manager Mackenzie said he and city engineer Reg Abare are working on a draft plan for mitigation of the river beds, which will be presented to the state for approval. Joe Calcagni said there are also concerns along River Street. Chet Briggs said the City needs to develop a flood mitigation plan to qualify for mitigation funds. Manager Mackenzie said the City is working on developing such a plan.

**Old Business –**

**A) Semprebond Fund Committee Recommendations – Council Ratification.**

The Council reviewed the list of recommendations for consideration of funding. Councilor Boutin said he would like to know when Playground 2000 could be done. Facilities Director Jeff Bergeron said his plan would be to do the demolition and prepare the site this year, and install the equipment in the spring. Councilor Boutin said he would like to find ways to involve kids in the decision-making about equipment.

Councilor Boutin made the motion of approve the recommendations for the playgrounds at Rotary Park, Garfield, Nativi and Vine Streets. The motion was seconded by Councilor Etli. Further discussion amended the motion to include recommending that additional funds be sought through grants to allow for an increase in the investment for each playground, and that input from the community be sought for Playground 2000. The total for the four playgrounds is \$200,406. Manager Mackenzie said the dollar figures in the recommendations are estimates, not contract level quotes.

Mayor Lauzon arrived at 8:05 PM and assumed the chair.

Councilor Poirier said playgrounds help re-identify a sense of neighborhood. Mayor Lauzon suggested approving \$250,000 to cover the four listed playgrounds and Mathewson playground, which was approved by the Council at its July 6, 2011 meeting. The total for all five playground proposals is \$264,274. The Mayor said the Recreation Committee can work in conjunction with City staff to develop plans for the playgrounds. Councilor Poirier said he wants to make a commitment to have the neighborhood playgrounds done by next spring. Jon Valsangiacomo reminded Council that the proposal for the Vine Street playground is recommended to be paid out of the Bolduc funds.

Mayor Lauzon suggested a new motion be made for \$23,400 from the Bolduc funds for the Vine Street playground and \$226,600 from the Semprebond funds for the other four playgrounds. Councilors Boutin and Etli withdrew their original motion and second, respectively. Councilor Boutin moved to approved \$23,400 from the Bolduc funds for the Vine Street playground, and \$226,600 from the Semprebond funds for the playgrounds at Rotary Park, Mathewson School, Nativi Park and Garfield Park. The motion includes a recommendation that grant funds be sought to enhance the investments at the playgrounds, and that input from the community be sought for Playground 2000 at Rotary Park. The motion was seconded by Councilor Etli. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon recommended Council withdraw the BOR compressor recommendation from consideration. There were no objections to the Mayor's recommendation.

Mayor Lauzon asked why the committee recommended a lower-end version of the proposed digital sign for the Civic Center. Mr. Bergeron said there is an ongoing legal battle elsewhere in the state related to these types of digital signs, and the committee opted for the simpler model. Councilor Etli said he likes the higher-end model included in quote 942 of the proposal. Clerk Dawes said the Council will need to revise the ordinances to allow for the installation of this type of sign. Mayor Lauzon asked Mr. Bergeron to get updated information on cost, installation and timeline, and bring the information back to the Council for consideration.

Mayor Lauzon moved on to consideration of the proposals for sports equipment at the BOR. There was discussion about how the equipment would be utilized and the possible costs for operation and insurance. The Mayor asked Recreations Director Stephanie Quaranta to come back with information about operations and insurance. Council approved the following two proposals, with the caveat that there be further information about operations and insurance, on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Eтли. **Motion carried.**

- Batting cases w/nets, pitching machines, misc. \$15,196
- Driving range, mats, dividers, balls, baskets, tees, more \$4,617

Semprebon Committee member Gwynn Zakov said the community garden proposers have provided her with additional information about their request, which she would like to share with the Council before a decision is made. Council deferred discussion on the community garden request until the information is received.

Mayor Lauzon opened discussion about the three proposals related to the Old Labor Hall:

- Payoff mortgage \$29,000
- Replace tables, chairs, trucks & dollies \$24,011
- Reinforce roof and structural supports \$53,000

Semprebon Fund Committee member Tom Semprebon said the Labor Hall has strong connections with the Semprebon family, and the family supports the Labor Hall projects. There was discussion about possible grant sources, flood damage, SBA, and FEMA and VEDA assistance.

Council approved the three Labor Hall proposals on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon said Council would consider one more recommendation this evening. Karen Lane, executive director for the Aldrich Public Library, advocated on behalf of the two library proposals:

- Youth Pilot Program \$19,100
- Banner/Plants \$1,000

Mayor Lauzon said he did not support the proposals because the library recently received a substantial bequest from the Ron York estate. The Mayor said his decisions are based on need. Ms. Lane said the library board has invested the York bequest so as to provide ongoing support for the library.

Councilor Eтли made the motion to approve both proposals. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith.

Mayor Lauzon said he could support a 50% match for the youth pilot program. The Mayor said he couldn't support the pilot program without a commitment from the library to fund the second year. Councilor Poirier said he can support the \$1,000 request for the banner/plants, but the library needs to tap into its own funds for the youth pilot program. He said he would like to consider the items separately.

Councilors Eтли and Smith agreed to amend their motion, and moved to approve each proposal separately. Council approved the Youth Pilot Program recommendation. **Motion carried with Mayor Lauzon and Councilors Chadderton and Poirier voting against.** Council approved the banner/plants recommendation. **Motion carried with Mayor Lauzon voting against.**

**New Business – continued**

**B) Revisions for Fund Request Policy.**

Clerk Dawes reviewed Council interest in revising the Fund Request Policy, which was discussed at the December 21, 2010 meeting. The Clerk presented a draft revision for Council consideration. Council approved the revised policy on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

**City Manager's Report –**

- There is a Bid Dig merchants' meeting on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at Alumni Hall at 5:30 PM.
- The Manager will be attending the mandatory FEMA public assistance applicant briefing on Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Reminder to those affected by the May 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> flooding and heavy rains that they should register with FEMA and SBA to qualify for funding support. Registrations are being accepted through September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Lauzon said Council had previously approved \$250,000 from the Semprebou Fund for improvements at Hope Cemetery, however, the Semprebou Committee report lists the appropriation as \$300,000. The Mayor said he wanted to make sure the correct amount is reflected in the report.

**Roundtable –**

Councilor Poirier said Council will be receiving a copy of a report from Chief Bombardier that is being presented to the Offender Re-entry Task Force. He said the report includes a proposal for changes associated with the community justice center.

Members of the Council said last weekend's Heritage Festival was a great event.

Mayor Lauzon said he is running in this weekend's Enduro race at Thunder Road as a fundraiser for OUR House.

Council went into executive session at 9:53 PM to discuss legal issues on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Council came out of executive session at 10:08 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 10:08 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

An audio transcript of this meeting is available through the Clerk's Office. Audio transcripts are kept on file for two years, as per state statute.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk