

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held August 9, 2011**

The Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Thomas Lauzon. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilors Etli and Poirier; from Ward II, Councilors Boutin and Smith; 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 August 2, 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.**

Barre Partnership executive director Dan Jones and We Dig Barre mascot Digger drew the latest winning name for the Barre Treasurer Dig. Mr. Jones reminded everyone of the community picnic scheduled for August 18th starting at 4:00 PM in City Hall Park.

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

- First quarter property taxes are due by August 15th.
- The BCA is scheduled to begin hearing tax assessment appeals on September 14th.

Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control Board – NONE

Visitors and Communications – Mayor Lauzon said he received a letter from a woman who received a parking ticket for a meter that was apparently malfunctioning. The Mayor asked for the woman's payment to be refunded and the ticket voided.

New Business

A) Presentation of Plaque from Viggiù, Italy.

Ilene Gillander and Judie Copping of the Barre Foreign Travel Club reviewed their recent trip to Italy and presented a plaque from Barre's sister city, Viggiù.

B) Nelson St. Hydro Project – Authorization of Phase II Consultant Contract.

Deb Sax from Fuss & O'Neill presented the contract for the next phase of the hydro project. Manager Mackenzie said he hadn't reviewed the contract yet, and requested approval contingent upon his review. Council approved the contract contingent upon the Manager's review on motion of Councilor Etli, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon asked for additional information about payback times, and asked that information include overall project cost payback and life of equipment. The Mayor asked for a pdf version of the information for posting on the City website.

Old Business –

A) Semprebon Fund Committee Recommendations – Council Ratification.

The Council continued its review of the list of recommendations for funding consideration, begun last week. Sue Higby spoke on behalf of artist-styled bike racks. Ms. Higby said the bike racks would incorporate granite and would be highly durable. Mayor Lauzon said it would be appropriate for the

proposed designs to come back to Council. Ms. Higby said she will put together a jury to put out a call to artists.

Councilor Etli made the motion to approve the recommendation of \$15,000 for the bike racks, contingent upon designs being presented to the Council. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Kevin O'Hara advocated for the sculpture to honor the first Boy Scout troop. Councilor Poirier asked what the current status is of the Boy Scouts' discrimination policy. Mr. O'Hara said the policy stands on the national level, but on the Vermont state level, the policy more closely follows "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Councilor Herring made the motion of approve the recommendation of 50% matching funds up to \$25,000, contingent upon the sculpture being located on City property, with the final location subject to Council approval. The motion was seconded by Councilor Etli. **Motion carried.**

Sue Higby spoke about the stone sculpture legacy program. Ms. Higby said the program would call for 4-5 public granite sculptures to be completed over the next five years. Council approved the recommendation of \$68,000, contingent upon final locations of the sculptures being subject to Council approval, on motion of Councilor Etli, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council discussed the Urban Forestry Committee proposal and asked proposer Neysha Stuart to provide additional information either to the Council or the Semprebon Committee before any further consideration.

Council discussed the Dog Park Upgrades. Manager Mackenzie said Facilities Director Jeff Bergeron will work with the dog park committee to implement the project. Council approved the recommendation of \$4,800 on motion of Councilor Etli, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Chris Russo-Fraysier advocated for the Cow Pasture Property Enhancement project. Ms. Russo-Fraysier reviewed the scope of the work to be done under small scale maintenance, as recommended by the Semprebon Committee. She said she is researching other sources of funding in addition to the Semprebon Fund. Councilor Boutin made the motion of approve the recommendation of \$25,000 contingent upon receiving better cost estimates for the project, coordination of work on City-owned property and supervision of the Manager. Councilor Smith seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Ellen Sivret spoke on behalf of the Stevens Branch Repair project. Mayor Lauzon said the City is taking a comprehensive look at the Stevens Branch and ways to apply for mitigation funding. The Mayor asked that consideration of this project be deferred while the City explores its options. Ms. Sivret said she would like to come back to the Committee in a year for reconsideration. Councilor Smith announced the Friends of the Winooski Barre River Clean-up scheduled for Saturday, August 20th.

Ellen Sivret advocated on behalf of the Barre Opera House Exterior Improvements proposal. Mayor Lauzon said the building also houses City Hall and he would like to expand the project to cover the whole building. The Mayor said the project should include re-pointing the brick, painting, rust removal and repair of the fire escape. He said he would like to see hard figures on the costs and a comprehensive plan. Manager Mackenzie said he will coordinate with Jeff Bergeron and Opera House board member Patty Meriam.

Arthur Ristau spoke on behalf of the Bas-Relief Sculpture of Col. Isaac Barre. Councilor Herring moved approval of the recommendation of \$20,000 contingent upon final location being subject to Council approval. Motion was seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council considered the Tarquinio Park recommendation. Mayor Lauzon said he does not recommend moving forward with the proposal at this time until there is additional research related to other development opportunities that could be served by the extended water and sewer lines. The Mayor said he supports the installation of playground equipment at the park. Manager Mackenzie said he will see that additional information about playground equipment is provided to the Council for ratification.

Council considered the Hope Cemetery Monument Cleaning recommendation. Mayor Lauzon said he would like to look at an overall plan for the cemetery as part of the \$250,000 that has already been approved from the Semprebun Fund.

Council considered the Digital Sign proposal. Mayor Lauzon said the Council saw a demonstration of different sign models before tonight's meeting. Councilor Boutin moved approval of the higher-end model of digital sign. There was no second. Councilor Etlie suggested relocating the sign to improve sightlines when traveling north. Mayor Lauzon said perhaps the City could charge people to scroll their message. Jon Valsangiacomo said he cautions the Council not to purchase the sign until there is a complete understanding of the legal issues surrounding these types of signs. Mayor Lauzon asked for Jeff Bergeron to come back with firm numbers and information on any legal issues and the possibility of re-locating the sign.

Council considered the committee's recommendations for use of the Bolduc funds. Council approved the VT Granite Museum/Stone Arts School recommendation of \$10,500 and the North Barre Rink recommendation of \$9,742 on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Etlie. **Motion carried.**

Councilor Poirier said the Re-Entry Task Force has a firm commitment from the state for a \$200,000 grant for the community to develop a re-entry program. He said he would like the Council to consider a \$40,000 contribution to the program from the Semprebun Fund, and asked that the item be placed on next week's agenda for Council action.

Mayor Lauzon said he has been approached by the Barre Area Development Corporation to share the cost of applying to expand the City's downtown historic district. The cost is \$20,000 and the Mayor said he would like the Council to consider a \$10,000 contribution towards the application fee from the Semprebun Fund, and asked that the item be placed on next week's agenda for Council action.

There was discussion about the future of the Semprebun Committee, and its continuing role. Manager Mackenzie said the Committee can be helpful as we move into the implementation phase of the projects.

City Manager's Report –

Mayor Lauzon asked Manager Mackenzie to move the manager's report up in the weekly agenda to after Visitors & Communications.

The Manager reported on the following:

- Attended a Bid Dig merchants' meeting on August 3rd.
- The Big Dig contractor is working nights at the moment as they work in the Route 62-to-Cottage Street portion of this summer's work. As they move on to the Cottage-to-Seminary Street section, they may switch to day work.
- Attended the FEMA Public Assistance applicant's briefing.
- Walked the Jail & Stevens Branches with City Engineer Reg Abare as they work on developing a mitigation plan for the waterways.

To be approved at 08-16-11 Barre City Council Meeting

- Working on the assessment of West Patterson Street, and hope to have it reopened by the time school starts.
- The water department is flushing the lines this week and into next week.

Roundtable –

Councilor Smith announced the Wednesday night activities.

Council adjourned at 10:15 PM on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Smith. **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

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