

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held August 30, 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, Councilor Poirier; from Ward II, Councilors Boutin and Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Chadderton and Herring.

Attendance for the meeting included: City Manager Mackenzie, City Clerk/Treasurer Dawes, Patty Meriam, Norm Akley, Jeff Martel, Adam Martin, Kristin Sohlstrom, and reporter David Delcore.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Council approved the following consent agenda items as presented on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the Regular Council meeting of August 23, 2011.
- City Warrants.
- Building Permits for the following applicants:
 - Edward J. Blondin, 11 Edgewood Ave.
 - Robert & Yvette O'Connor, 84 Batchelder St.
 - Karyn Romanoski, 167 Hill St.

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

- The BCA is scheduled to meet Wednesday, August 31st from 3:00 – 5:00 PM to stuff envelopes for the biannual voter challenge mailing. The Clerk said 630 letters will be sent out.
- The Board of Civil Authority begins property tax assessment appeal hearings on September 14th, continuing through September and October.
- There are six properties scheduled for tax sale on October 20, 2011.
- The Clerk is recruiting members of the public to serve on the Charter & Ordinance Review Committee. The list of committee members will be presented to Council for appointment at the 9/13 meeting.
- The Clerk said the City has received word of an opportunity to refinance USDA bonds taken out in the 1990's for the water treatment and the wastewater treatment facilities. She said the estimate for the savings on both bonds totals more than \$300,000. The Clerk will bring additional information to next week's Council meeting.

Barre Partnership representative Mary Jane Magnan and We Dig Barre mascot "Digger" appeared before the Council for the drawing of the latest winning name for the Barre Treasurer Dig. Ms. Magnan thanked the City for its preparation in advance of last weekend's Tropical Storm Irene.

Liquor Control Board – NONE

Visitors and Communications – NONE

City Manager's Report –

Mayor Lauzon thanked Manager Mackenzie and City employees for preparation efforts in advance of last weekend's Tropical Storm Irene. The Mayor said he is mindful of what other communities are going through, and reminded people to reach out and help those affected by the storm.

The Manager reported on the following:

- The City had adequate warning before the storm and was able to prepare. Search and rescue personnel are being loaned from the Fire Department to communities where there is need, and the mobile communications trailer is on loan to Waterbury. The state Buildings and General Services division is thinking about using the auditorium as a staging location for supplies and MRE's.
- There was a high pressure water main break on Berlin Street. The street was closed for a while, but has been re-opened.
- West Paterson Street has been re-opened after being closed following the May flooding.

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- Summer Street pavement milling is complete, including a portion of Wellington Street. Paving should be finished by the end of the week. The entire street will be repaved at the completion of the North Main Street Reconstruction Project. Mayor Lauzon asked if the crosswalks, especially those near St. Monica's School, will be repainted. Manager Mackenzie said they will be re-painted on Monday. The Mayor asked that pedestrian traffic sign barrels be placed at the crosswalks until they are re-painted.
- The Manager said the FEMA and SBA flood assistance teams have left the area. Registrations are still being accepted through September 6, 2011.

Old Business – NONE

New Business

A) Vermont Granite Museum Update and Support Request.

VGM executive director Patty Meriam, and board members Norm Akley, Jeff Martel and Adam Martin addressed the Council. Mr. Martin read the mission statement and gave an update. He said VGM has zero debt, but faces challenges with public perception. Mr. Akley reviewed the history of the museum, from the 1994 community economic development forum, at which the public expressed its interest in telling the story of Barre's granite history. Ms. Meriam said it's important to keep the museum as part of the North Main Street Reconstruction Project, and they are looking to work closely with the Council. Mr. Martel said the museum is a community project.

Mayor Lauzon said it's a story that deserves to be told. He invited them to come back regularly to give reports and updates to the Council.

Ms. Meriam asked the Council to reconsider VGM's request for \$16,000 from the Semprebon Fund. She said the original request was not recommended by the Semprebon Committee for funding. The funds would be used for design work related to a partition at the back of the building, and other plans necessary to prepare for the installation of a concrete floor. She said VGM is also looking for a Councilor to be an active member of the VGM board. Councilor Smith said he would be interested in talking with Ms. Meriam about serving. Mayor Lauzon said if Councilor Smith is unable to serve, he would be willing to.

Ms. Meriam reviewed the upcoming Granite Festival on Saturday, September 10, 2011. She reviewed a list of items she will be discussing with Manager Mackenzie related to the relationship between VGM and the City.

Manager Mackenzie asked what the projected cost is for the concrete floor and if it will include radiant heat. Ms. Meriam said it will include radiant heat, and the latest cost estimate is \$218,000.

Councilor Boutin said he would like the Semprebon Committee to re-evaluate the request. Semprebon Committee chair Kristin Sohlstrom said she would like the request to be sent back to the Committee for re-consideration.

Councilor Poirier made a motion to approve the \$16,000 request from the Semprebon Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilor Herring.

Mayor Lauzon said he supports the request. There was discussion about the process of reconsideration of the request, and what would happen should the Committee again not recommend the request for funding.

Councilor Chadderton said her gut feeling is the request should go back to the Semprebon Committee. Mayor Lauzon asked Manager Mackenzie for his recommendation, and the Manager said he would send it back to the Committee.

Councilor Poirier withdrew his motion, and said he will bring the motion back for action at the September 20, 2011 meeting. Manager Mackenzie and Ms. Sohlstrom said the Committee will meet to reconsider the request

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before the 20th, and will report at that Council meeting. Ms. Meriam offered the museum as a location for the Committee meeting.

Mayor Lauzon said an Entertainment License is necessary for the Granite Festival. The Mayor said he would entertain a motion to approve the license and waive the application fee. Councilor Boutin made the motion, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

B) Firefighters Work Agreement Ratification.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the terms of the proposed one year rollover contract. The Manager said the contract includes 0% wage increases and some miscellaneous clean-up items. He said step increases have been maintained. The contract is still being reviewed for grammar and punctuation, etc. He said he and the Mayor will be the signatories on behalf of the City, and the contract has already been ratified by the firefighters union. Mayor Lauzon asked that the Council be notified if there are any discrepancies found while the contract is being reviewed.

Council ratified the firefighters work agreement on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Roundtable –

Councilor Herring made an announcement on behalf of state employees, letting them know that the state is working to make sure people go back to safe work sites after last weekend's flooding due to Tropical Storm Irene.

Councilor Smith reminded everyone of Wednesday's Farmer's Market activities.

Councilor Boutin said he had accompanied Manager Mackenzie during the latter part of Tropical Storm Irene, and he offered kudos to the Manager for his work.

Councilor Chadderton said school started today, and reminded people to drive carefully when children and busses are about.

Mayor Lauzon said contrary to rumor, the Big Dig and the street paving program continue to move forward. The Mayor asked everyone to say a prayer for those affected by Tropical Storm Irene.

Council entered into executive session at 8:23 PM for the purpose of discussing contracts and legal issues on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Council came out of executive session at 8:48 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 8:48 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **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