

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held September 13, 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, Dan Jones, Mary Jane Magnan, Sue Higby, Paul Perreault, Pete Fournier, William Duprey, Charles Acebo and reporter David Delcore.

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

- Minutes of the Regular Council meeting of August 30, 2011.
- City Warrants.
- Building Permits for the following applicants:
  - David & Kristin Sohlstrom, 40 Colby Street
  - Lajeunesse Construction, c/o Laurie Lucchina, 35 Franklin Street
  - Barry & Tina Farnham, 50 Elmwood Avenue
  - Dennis & Sarah Menard, 29 Paddock Street

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

- The Board of Civil Authority begins property tax assessment appeal hearings on September 14<sup>th</sup>, continuing through September and October.
- There are four properties scheduled for tax sale on October 20, 2011.
- The Clerk is continuing to gather information about the possibility of refinancing two bonds. A presentation will be made to Council once all the data has been collected.

Council approved a 2011 Food Establishment License for the Barre Technical Center, operating at 136 North Main Street, on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Barre Partnership executive director Dan Jones, board member Mary Jane Magnan and We Dig Barre mascot “Digger” appeared before the Council for the drawing of the latest winner for the Barre Treasurer Dig.

**Liquor Control Board** – NONE

**Visitors and Communications** – Pete Fournier, Barre City representative to the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority Committee, invited the Council to a meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, at which the Committee will update the four member communities about its work.

Mayor Lauzon announced the Barre Business Conference, this Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM at the Labor Hall.

Mayor Lauzon displayed a 2011 Outstanding Plan plaque awarded to the City by the Vermont Planners Association for the Merchants Row Master Plan.

**City Manager’s Report** –

The Manager’s report included the following:

- Manager Mackenzie said the Council needs to appoint a delegate to the VLCT Town Fair. Council appointed the Manager as the permanent delegate on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**
- The Manager met with Ed Larson, the new executive director at the Barre Granite Association.

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- Contract negotiations with the steelworkers are progressing.
- The City has lent personnel and equipment to communities and departments affected by Tropical Storm Irene.
- Summer Street mill & fill paving have been completed, and the crosswalks have been repainted.
- This season's street reconstruction projects are on target to be completed by the end of September.
- Flood repairs are continuing, including streets and culverts. The temporary repairs to the reservoir are expected to be complete by November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The FEMA Disaster Recovery Center at the Auditorium is transitioning to a location in Northfield. The Barre center will close on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Old Business – NONE**

**New Business**

**A) Update on SPA Temporary Sculpture Park.**

Studio Place Arts executive director Sue Higby updated the Council on the installation of the temporary sculpture park next to SPA, and passed out a list of the artists currently on display and the people, businesses, departments and organizations that have helped create the park. Ms. Higby said there will be a reception for the artists and the annual stone art show on October 7<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30 PM.

**B) Reappointment to Housing Board of Review.**

Council re-appointed Alan James to the Housing Board of Review on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

**C) Appointment of Charter/Ordinance Review Committee.**

Council appointed the following people to the Charter & Ordinance Review Committee on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

- Dominic Etli, Council representative
- Lucas Herring, Council representative
- Peter Anthony, community representative
- Tess Taylor, community representative
- Carolyn Dawes, staff
- Michael Miller, staff

Clerk Dawes said there will be other names presented for consideration at next week's meeting.

**D) Council Approval to Open a Credit Card Account.**

Council approved opening a \$2,500 credit card account, with cards to be issued to the Manager Mackenzie, Clerk/Treasurer Dawes and Chief Bombardier, on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. The motion included that the cards are not to be distributed until Council has approved the credit card policy being developed by Clerk Dawes. **Motion carried.**

**E) VTRANS Land Purchase Option – Bridge Street, South Barre.**

Council approved the land purchase option and authorized Manager Mackenzie to sign on behalf of the City on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

**F) GMP Easement Deed – Berlin to Foster St. (Abandoned) RR ROW.**

Manager Mackenzie said this item has been deferred until next week's Council meeting.

**Roundtable –**

Councilor Poirier said he recently visited the Randolph area and viewed the devastation left behind from Tropical Storm Irene.

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Councilor Herring said workers from other states have been assisting with storm damage repairs in Vermont. He said the City school is exploring the option of serving as a secondary emergency shelter.

Mayor Lauzon asked which Council representatives are attending tomorrow's Granite Museum board meeting. Councilors Smith and Herring both said they are attending.

Mayor Lauzon said he has been visiting communities affected by the tropical storm, and he is humbled by the attitudes of the people. The Mayor said he is proud of City staff that are helping communities that helped us during the late May flooding.

Council entered into executive session at 8:02 PM for the purpose of discussing contracts on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Council came out of executive session at 8:25 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council accepted the Police Union Contract as presented by Manager Mackenzie on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Manager Mackenzie gave an update on the Hilltop Avenue properties damaged in the May flooding. The Manager said he has been charged with writing condemnation or unsafe occupancy letters, and he is doing his best to have the letters done by the end of the week. He said he is taking his time through the process because there may be no ability to reverse the letters once they are issued. Two of the affected Hilltop Avenue property owners, Charles Acebo and William Duprey, addressed the Council with questions about the process to get the letters, and said they need the letters to finalize funding plans with the SBA so they can relocate their families.

There was discussion about the FEMA buyout program, and Mr. Duprey said the deadline for the buyout applications has been moved up to January 20, 2012. Mayor Lauzon said the City will need to take into consideration whether all three affected properties are interested in the program, and what affect that might have on the City's ability to stabilize the properties.

Mayor Lauzon asked Manager Mackenzie to invite Reg Abare, Steve Micheli and Michael Miller to next week's Council meeting to give an update on flood repairs.

The Mayor said residents in the Harrington Avenue neighborhood have asked that the one way sign be replaced with a dead end sign, following the damage to the Harrington Avenue Bridge during the May flooding. Manager Mackenzie said he will get it taken care of.

Council adjourned at 8:54 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, 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