

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held September 20, 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. Also in attendance were City Manager Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Dawes.

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

- Minutes of the Regular Council meeting of September 13, 2011.
- City Warrants.
- Building Permit for the following applicant:
 - Ann Craig, 32 Westwood Parkway

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

- The Board of Civil Authority continues property tax assessment appeal hearings on September 21st and through September and October.
- There are four properties scheduled for tax sale on October 20, 2011.

Council approved a 2011 Fireworks Display Permit application for the Spaulding High School Homecoming event on Friday, September 23, 2011 on motion of Councilor Etli, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Council approved a Parade Permit for the Spaulding High School Homecoming Parade for Saturday, September 24, 2011, with the exact details to be worked out between the High School and the Police Department, on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

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

Council approved a 2011 Entertainment License application from Circle for a “30 minute flash circle” event in City Hall Park on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 from 12:30 – 1:00 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Council approved a 2011 Taxicab Driver’s License application for David Isaac O’Neill with Twin City Taxi on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Etli. **Motion carried.**

Clerk Dawes requested that licenses be included in the consent agenda in the future. The Clerk said she will provide a list of the licenses under consideration before approval. Council approved the request on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Liquor Control Board – NONE

Visitors and Communications –

Peter Scott appeared before the Council, and said he represents Hilltop Avenue homeowner Brett Acebo. Mr. Scott said several Hilltop residents are present at this evening’s meeting, and he wants to give an update on the Hilltop situation in response to last week’s letter from the City Manager issued to the homeowners affected by the May flooding. Manager Mackenzie said he and the Mayor propose meeting with the three affected homeowners later this week. Council tabled the discussion until next week on

motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Etli. **Motion carried.**

Currier Park resident Chris Brzeziki addressed the Council and said he is frustrated by two of the properties in his neighborhood. The properties are rentals, and the tenants are obnoxious bullies. Mr. Brzeziki said he has tried to work through the Police Department and the landlords, but the landlords say it is difficult to evict the tenants. He is extremely frustrated by the antisocial behavior and said he can't seem to find the help he needs. Manager Mackenzie said he shares Mr. Brzeziki's frustrations, and he would like to set an appointment to meet with Mr. Brzeziki and discuss ways he can help. Councilor Poirier said in his capacity as a state representative, he and Representative Tess Taylor will meet with Mr. Brzeziki. Councilor Poirier said the Council could request that the landlords appear before Council. Councilor Herring said there are public nuisance laws that could be added to the ordinances.

Hilltop Avenue resident Cindy Brier said she has concerns about the properties affected by the May flooding and the affect on the neighborhood. Council said the issue of Hilltop Avenue has been tabled until next week.

City Manager's Report –

The Manager's report included the following:

- Manager Mackenzie said the FEMA Disaster Recovery Center at the auditorium will close on Thursday, September 22nd. There are Centers open in other areas of the state, including Northfield and Waterbury.
- The Planning Commission is holding a pizza social and planning session for the area bounded by North Main/Summer/Elm/Merchant Streets. The event is Thursday, September 22nd from 5:30 – 7:30 PM.

Old Business –

A) Semprebon Fund Committee.

1) Deferred Proposal: Community Garden Project Recommendation. Semprebon Committee chair Kristin Sohlstrom said the Committee has reviewed updated information about the Community Garden project, and recommends funding the project in the amount of \$3,500. Council approved the recommendation on motion of Councilor Etli, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

2) Proposal Reconsideration Recommendation – Vermont Granite Museum. Ms. Sohlstrom said the Committee has reconsidered the Vermont Granite Museum proposal, requesting funding for design work, electrical work and installation of a concrete floor. She said the Committee determined that the proposal meets the criteria established by the Committee, and the project is supported by the Semprebon family. The Committee recommends funding \$17,000 for the planning and electrical work, and \$60,000 as seed money towards the installation of the concrete floor.

Councilor Poirier said he would like to consider the recommendations separately. He made the motion to approve the \$17,000 recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Herring. Councilor Boutin said he would like to see the appropriation contingent upon the museum being open at least one day a week. Councilor Etli said it is troubling to continue to put money into the project, and that the funding can't continue to come from just one source. Ellen Sivret, who proposed the project funding, said she has seen a lot of work to date at the museum, and is impressed with what's going on. Manager Mackenzie said the museum is not a memorial to the granite manufacturers, but a monument to our heritage and an economic driver. Councilor Boutin said all conversations he's had with residents with regards to the museum have been negative. Resident Nancy Wolfe said Barre has a story to tell, and the museum is an important piece in the story-telling. Councilor Chadderton said she would like to see the doors open and the building being used. Ms. Sohlstrom said communication between the museum board

and the community is critical.

The motion did not carry, with Councilors Herring and Poirier, and Acting Mayor Smith voting for, and Councilors Chadderton, Etlí and Boutin voting against.

Councilor Poirier made the motion to approve the recommendation to appropriate \$60,000, including in the motion that the appropriation would be contingent upon the museum providing certification to the Manager that \$60,000 has been raised before the funds would be released. The motion was seconded by Councilor Etlí. Councilor Boutin offered a friendly amendment to add a strong message that the Vermont Granite Museum needs to be open a reasonable amount of time. Councilor Etlí seconded the friendly amendment. Councilor Herring asked that the record reflect Council discussion of one day a week as a reasonable amount of time.

Motion carried.

3) Review of Updated Project Implementation and Management Plan Matrix. Manager Mackenzie reviewed the list of Semprebon-funded projects and gave updates on their status. The Manager said representatives from the Labor Hall will be at next week's Council meeting to receive the check for the mortgage payoff.

Councilor Poirier said he would like to change his vote on the motion to approve the \$17,000 appropriation to the Vermont Granite Museum. Clerk Dawes reviewed Robert's Rules and determined the vote could be changed by having the original question reconsidered, which would require one of the Councilors on the prevailing side to move for reconsideration. Councilor Etlí moved for reconsideration, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin voting against.**

Council voted upon the original motion to approve the recommendation of the Semprebon Committee for \$17,000 to the Vermont Granite Museum. **The motion did not carry, with Councilor Herring and Acting Mayor Smith voting for, and Councilors Chadderton, Etlí, Boutin and Poirier voting against.**

New Business

A) Annual Altrusa Club Pie Sale.

Manager Mackenzie said the annual Altrusa Club pie sale is scheduled for this Saturday, September 24th in front of Wobby's Jewelers. The Manager said Council approval is required, as the Club will be using City sidewalks for its event. Council approved the use of City sidewalks for the pie sale on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

B) Council Appointment of ADA Coordinator and Council Liaison.

Manager Mackenzie read off the names of the members of the Barre City ADA Committee. The Manager said the ADA Coordinator should be a City staff member so as to be more available and responsive to accessibility needs, and recommended Council appoint Facilities Director Jeff Bergeron as the Coordinator. Committee members Erika Reil and Brian Baker agreed. Manager Mackenzie also recommended Council appoint Councilor Chadderton to be the Council liaison to the committee. Council approved the recommended appointments on motion of Councilor Etlí, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

C) ADA Grievance Process Adoption.

Council approved the ADA grievance process as presented on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Etlí. **Motion carried.**

D) Flood Recovery Update – Projects Status and Schedule.

City Engineer Reg Abare said the City is on schedule with this season's paving projects, which should be completed by the October 15th deadline. Mr. Abare said 25 streets were affected by the May flooding, and seven have been repaired to date. The plan is to have them all repaired by the end of the construction season. There are flood-related culvert projects on Beckley and East Streets, and wash-out projects to be completed on Onward Street, Terrace Avenue, Berlin Street, Pouliot Avenue, Cliff and Farwell Streets.

Manager Mackenzie said the City met with FEMA representatives this afternoon to review the process for documenting costs associated with the flood repairs.

E) Council Appointments to Charter & Ordinance Review Committee.

Clerk Dawes said she had received requests from resident Paul Perreault and Firefighter Matt Cetin, both of whom expressed interest in being appointed to the committee. Council appointed Misters Perreault and Cetin on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Councilor Eтли left the meeting at 9:17 PM.

F) Council Authorization to Conduct Tax Sales FY 12.

Council approved the tax sale authorization and named the Manager to be the City's agent at the sales on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

G) Review and Approval of Credit Policy.

Clerk Dawes said she has a few revisions she would like to make to the proposed policy, and will bring it to Council for action at next week's meeting.

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

Manager Mackenzie said he hasn't received the easement deed yet, and will hold this over for next week.

I) Resolution #2011-13 for Downtown Designation Renewal.

Council approved resolution #2011-13 on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

J) VLCT Unemployment Insurance Trust – Member Agreement Changes.

Councilor Herring requested this item be placed on next week's agenda to allow additional time for review.

K) VLCT 2012 Municipal Policy.

Councilor Herring requested this item be placed on next week's agenda to allow additional time for review.

Roundtable –

Councilor Poirier said he is troubled by Mr. Brzeziki's comments from earlier in the meeting. He said he recently discussed community policing with Chief Bombardier, and will be proposing to include an article on the March ballot to seek funding for additional police officers. Manager Mackenzie said, with regards to Mr. Brzeziki's comments, he will reach out to the Central Vermont Landlords Association and invite them to speak to the Council.

Councilor Herring asked if Barre City has a budget and finance committee that assists the Manager in preparing the budget. Manager Mackenzie said no, but he would be willing to work with such a committee.

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Councilor Chadderton said she will not tolerate the type of behavior described by Mr. Brzeziki, and it is important to get the Chief and landlords in to talk to the Council now to develop an action plan before going to the voters.

Councilor Boutin said he is both annoyed and admiring of Councilor Poirier for his actions related to the reconsideration of the Semprebond Fund appropriation to the Granite Museum. He said he understands that now that Councilor Poirier is on the prevailing side of the vote, he can bring up the matter again next week for reconsideration. Councilor Boutin said he agrees with others' comments about landlords.

Councilor Poirier said there will be a meeting with the newly appointed chair of the state's health care commission on October 13th at 6:00 PM in the library.

Council adjourned at 9:32 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Poirier. **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