

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held September 27, 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 Dominic Etli and Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring. Also in attendance were City Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Barre Partnership executive director Dan Jones appeared before the Council for the drawing of the latest winner for the Barre Treasurer Dig.

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

- Minutes of the Regular Council meeting of September 20, 2011.
- City Warrants.
- Building Permits:
 - Sylvain & Cheryl Metivier, 36 Westwood Parkway
 - Herbert Hatch, 25 Fairview Street
- Licenses & Permits:
 - Espresso Bueno, single-event entertainment license, 10/15/11 from 7:00 PM – midnight.

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 28th and through September and October.
- The first Charter & Ordinance Review Committee meeting is September 29th at 6:00 PM.
- There are four properties scheduled for tax sale on October 20, 2011.

Liquor Control Board – NONE

Visitors and Communications –

Vermont Granite Museum (VGM) trustee Bob Pope addressed the Council, and said he would like to respond to some of the comments that were made at last week's meeting. Mr. Pope talked about the history of the project and said the project belongs to the community. He reviewed the financials and work done to date, and said the goal is to get people to visit downtown Barre. He said the Council needs to take back the leadership of the project and the Council and the community need to get on board.

Mayor Lauzon said it's a community project and he would like to see the Council reconsider the votes from last week, related to Semprebon Fund appropriations for the museum. The Mayor said he would like to see the community reintroduced to the project through a series of forums, followed by Council reconsideration of the VGM requests for funding through the Semprebon Fund.

Councilor Poirier made the motion to rescind the two September 20, 2011 votes related to Semprebon Fund appropriations. The motion was seconded by Councilor Herring.

Councilor Boutin said he believes you can create a vision by being open one day a week, and the

community wants to see the museum open. Mr. Pope said there are state requirements that need to be met before the museum can be open more often than special events such as the Granite Festival.

Council approved the motion as presented, with Councilor Etlí voting against.

Museum executive director Patty Meriam said she has already begun outlining a community forum. Councilor Herring said he would like to see other communities invited to participate in the forum.

Councilor Poirier left the meeting at 7:43 PM.

City Manager's Report –

The Manager's report included the following:

- Manager Mackenzie said Rowan Court nursing home is holding a pig roast on September 30th, which is open to the public.
- The City will hold two leaf and lawn debris drop-off dates at the Civic Center:
 - Saturday, October 8th from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM,
 - Saturday, October 29th from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Old Business – NONE

New Business

A) Labor Hall Mortgage Payoff Check Presentation.

Mayor Lauzon presented a check in the amount of \$29,000 to Paul Heller, a member of the Labor Hall board of directors. The disbursement is from the Semprebou Fund.

B) Hilltop Avenue Hazard Mitigation Program Discussion.

Mayor Lauzon said he and Manager Mackenzie met last week with the affected property owners and discussed the flood mitigation program and other programs related to assistance following the May flooding. Owner Brett Acebo said she would like Council permission to place a discussion item on next week's agenda so as to allow others in the Hilltop Avenue neighborhood an opportunity to address the Council. Mayor Lauzon said the Council will be happy to field questions from anyone during Visitors & Communications.

C) Review and Approval of Credit Card Policy and Procedures.

Council approved the policy and procedures on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

D) VLCT Unemployment Insurance Trust – Member Agreement Changes.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the recommended changes. Council approved authorizing the agreement on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

E) VLCT 2012 Municipal Policy.

Manager Mackenzie said the document was provided for Council information, and if anyone has feedback to offer, they should do so before he attends the VLCT Town Fair, which is October 5 & 6, 2011.

Roundtable –

Mayor Lauzon said Governor Shumlin will be in the City tomorrow to award statewide tax credits.

To be approved at 10-04-11 Barre City Council Meeting

The press conference is scheduled for 10:30 AM.

Council went into executive session at 8:02 PM to discuss contracts and legal issues on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Council came out of executive session at 8:36 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 8.36 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, 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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