

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held October 4, 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 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 and We Dig Barre mascot, Digger, 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 Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the Regular Council meeting of September 27, 2011.
- City Warrants.
- Building Permits:
 - John & Pamela Nadeau, 146 Quinlan Dr.
 - Martha Leszko, 193 Prospect St.
 - Martine Patterson, 15 Essex St.
 - Jeffrey & Debora Foley, 10 Beech St.

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

- The Board of Civil Authority will begin to hear reports from inspection teams on October 12th, as it continues the property tax assessment appeal hearings through October.
- There are four properties scheduled for tax sale on October 20, 2011.
- Two properties that were sold at tax sale September 30, 2010 were not redeemed and are being deeded to the successful bidders.

Liquor Control Board – NONE

Visitors and Communications – Mayor Lauzon thanked the Council and City residents for their kind notes and flowers over the past two weeks surrounding a death in the family.

City Manager's Report –

The Manager's report included the following:

- Preparations for the FY11 audit are underway, with the auditor in City Hall next week for their field review. The auditors are on track to have the audit completed by the first week in December.
- A preliminary FY11 financial report shows a projected deficit of approximately \$178,000, of which approximately \$168,000 is expenses related to the May flooding. The City has submitted requests for reimbursement to AOT for those expenses not covered by FEMA, and is preparing for FEMA to come in and assist in reporting FEMA-reimbursable expenses. Mayor Lauzon asked to see first quarter FY12 financial figures sometime this month.
- Recreation Director Stephanie Quaranta reported that the City is being awarded a \$20,000 matching grant through the state's Recreational Facilities grant program. The grant funds are for use in the renovations of Playground 2000.
- The Re-Entry Task Force met last night to review a proposed job description for a community interventionist. The task force is developing an ad to run over the next two weeks to solicit responses from people who might be interested in filling such a position. The task force will be offering a report to the Council in the near future, with recommendations for action.

- The North Main Street Reconstruction Project contractor, Luck Brothers, is working two shifts; one concentrating on sidewalk work and the other on trench work. Mayor Lauzon asked if the project is on schedule. Manager Mackenzie said Luck Brothers had originally hoped to get as far as Seminary Street, though the contract only calls for Cottage Street. It appears that this fall's work will meet the requirements of the contract.
- The Semprebon Bike Path Committee will be on the agenda next week to give an update and seek authorization for a joint Barre City/Barre Town RFP for design work on the connector section of the bike path.
- The Council is invited to a presentation at the Masonic Lodge next Tuesday, October 11th at 5:00 PM. There are Masons from Aberdeen, Scotland who are visiting, and the presentation commemorates the Scottish granite workers who came to Barre in the 19th century.
- The bid openings for the temporary repairs on the reservoir spillway are scheduled for Thursday, October 6th. Approval is on next week's Council agenda.
- The Manager and Planning Director Michael Miller will be attending a scientific review panel hearing on Wednesday, October 5th. The hearing is related to the City's appeal of the proposed FEMA flood maps.
- The Manager is attending the VLCT Town Fair this Thursday.
- 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 –

A) Possible Bond Refinancing.

Clerk Dawes reviewed the materials related to the proposed refinancing of a water system bond and a sewer system bond. The Clerk said the savings for the two bonds total more than \$540,000. She said she will submit the application by the October 14th deadline, and Council will approve the bond paperwork and resolution at a future meeting.

New Business

A) Stevens Branch Dredging Discussion.

This agenda item will be taken up at a future meeting.

Roundtable –

Councilor Boutin said the Barre Republicans Meeting has been canceled for the month of October, due to their recent caucus.

Council adjourned at 7:42 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