

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held December 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, 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.

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 December 6, 2011.
- City Warrants as presented, including three community development warrants.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>License</u>	<u>Address</u>
Sylvia Lozier	Animal – 3 horses	203 Prospect St.
Douglas Hull	Animal – honey bees	1 Pond St.
FGB Corp. DBA Paramount Theaters	Movie theater – 2 screens	241 N. Main St.
Sani-Sport Service	Vending	
Curt & Linda Doyle	Waste Disposal Collector – 2 vehicles	
Twin City Taxi	Taxicab Service Operator – 2 vehicles	

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

- There are 3 properties scheduled for tax sale on January 5, 2012.
- The Clerk said information about the March 2012 Annual (Town) Meeting has been updated on the Clerk's page on the City website, including a list of the offices up for election, a timeline, blank petition and consent-of-candidate forms. The deadline for petitions is January 30th.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control Board – NONE

Visitors and Communications – NONE

City Manager's Report – NONE

Old Business –

A) Banking & Cash Management Services: Presentation and Recommendation of Proposals.

Clerk/Treasurer Dawes reviewed her memo from last week, and recommended that the City transfer its banking and cash management accounts to Merchants Bank. Council supported the recommendation on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

The Clerk/Treasurer said the goal is to have the transfer in place by February 1st.

B) Regional Public Safety Committee Funding Request.

Mayor Lauzon said he would like to instruct the Manager to include a \$15,000 appropriation for the Committee in the FY13 Budget. Council concurred. The Mayor said he would like to have a joint Barre City/Barre Town/Berlin/Montpelier meeting to discuss the Committee's request for a non-binding question on the March 2012 ballot.

New Business

A) 2012 Taste of Home Show – Trade for Advertising Agreement.

Manager Mackenzie requested that this item be rescheduled to next week, so that he can meet with staff and Nassau Broadcasting to discuss the details before coming to Council for approval. Council deferred the authority on this item to the Manager.

B) Report from Charter & Ordinance Review Committee.

Committee chair Tess Taylor reviewed the report from the Committee, and said the recommendation is to work on revised versions of Chapters 1 & 2 of the charter for voter approval at the March 2012 Annual (Town) Meeting. Ms. Taylor also reviewed other areas the Committee has identified for revision. The Council discussed what sections it would like to include on the March 2012 ballot and it was decided the Committee will work on the following for this March: Chapters 1, 2, 6 and sections 526 & 528 in Chapter 5. The Council expressed support for the following:

- Reformatting the powers sections to a bulleted format.
- Inclusion of authority to impose assessments for infrastructure and improvements, including extra-jurisdictional issues such as stormwater and runoff that affect the City.
- Revision of language to clarify the position of “clerk and treasurer” as a signal position.
- Include language about the election of Spaulding Union High School District board members.
- Expansion of authority for the Housing Board of Review.

Mayor Lauzon noted the Charter calls for the Council to appoint a Grand Juror. The Mayor said he would entertain a motion to appoint Councilor Herring as Grand Juror. Council made the appointment on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Etli. **Motion carried.**

Clerk Dawes said Council sets the compensation for the Grand Juror. Mayor Lauzon said he would entertain a motion that Grand Juror Herring provide his services pro bono. Council approved the Mayor’s recommendation on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

C) 2013 Budget: Preparation Schedule and Council Concepts.

Manager Mackenzie passed out a timeline for budget preparation and presentation. The first presentation is scheduled to be given at next week’s Council meeting. There will be at least three other presentations and one budget workshop before the January 21, 2012 deadline for Council adoption of the budget.

Councilor Poirier asked the Manager to communicate with the schools, and if they are interested in maintaining their School Resource Officers, the schools should be prepared to cover those expenses themselves. Manager Mackenzie said he plans on having that information to the superintendent by the end of the week.

Mayor Lauzon said the voter-approved paving budget will be increased as it has in the past two years. The Mayor said he would like the City to start making plans to replace the Public Works building no later than 2014.

Mayor Lauzon asked for an update on the FY2011 audit. Manager Mackenzie said he is finishing up some work that is needed to finalize the audit.

Roundtable –

Mayor Lauzon said Clerk Dawes had submitted her letter of resignation from the Planning Commission. The Mayor said the City accepts the letter with regret and gratitude. Clerk Dawes said a letter of interest from a person seeking appointment to the Planning Commission, along with a recommendation from the Commission, will come to Council next week.

To be approved at 12-20-11 Barre City Council Meeting

Councilor Herring asked for an update on Semprebon Fund disbursements, especially batting cages and other recreation expenditures. Manager Mackenzie will get an update to Council. The Manager said he has received some new funding requests, and will bring them to the Semprebon Committee after the first of the year.

Mayor Lauzon gave a brief update on 219 North Main Street/City Place.

Councilor Chadderton thanked those who offered sympathies over the recent passing of her father.

Mayor Lauzon said he and Mrs. Lauzon had the pleasure of meeting US Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor while out to dinner last week.

Council went into executive session to discuss personnel contracts and legal contracts at 8:12 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Council came out of executive session at 8:50 PM on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Etli. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 8:50 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