

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held December 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 (arrived 7:05 PM). 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 Smith, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the Regular Council meeting of December 20, 2011.
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:

Applicant	License	Address
Planet Rock n' Metal Inc	Entertainment – annual	127 N. Main St.
Gusto's	Entertainment – annual	28 Prospect St.
Green Mountain Tavern	Entertainment – annual	10 Keith Ave.
Haggett's Trucking	Waste Disposal Collector, 1 vehicle, pick-up only	
Payless Taxi	Taxicab Service Operator, 1 vehicle	

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. The deadline for nominating petitions is January 30th.
- 2012 dog licenses will be available starting January 3rd.

Clerk Dawes reviewed three 2012 business licenses for South Side Tavern that require Council approval: Food Establishment, Entertainment & Pool Table/Video Game. Chief Bombardier reviewed the history of police calls to the Tavern, and said there is an ongoing VT Department of Liquor Control investigation related to a recent incident. Mayor Lauzon said he owns a property next door to the Tavern, and there have been noise issues in the past. The Clerk said the Tavern is being sold and the new owner, Brian Parker, is in attendance. Mr. Parker outlined changes in management that he will be implementing once he takes ownership in early January. Chief Bombardier said he met with Mr. Parker and supports Council approval of the licenses.

Council approved the business licenses on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control Board –

Continuing the discussion about South Side Tavern, Council approved the Tavern's 2011 First Class Liquor License and Outside Consumption Permit on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

Visitors and Communications – NONE

City Manager's Report –

- Manager Mackenzie reported on meetings attended over the past week.

- The Manager said the City received seven bids for demolition of the Hilltop Avenue houses affected by the May flooding. The demolition contract will be awarded by Council next week.
- Twenty-five computers have been ordered and will replace computers throughout City offices. A screen and projector have been ordered for the Council chambers.
- The City has completed removal of river debris against the South Main Street bridge abutments, and an abandoned wooden pier in the Jail Branch near Spaulding High School.
- “No Littering or Dumping” signs have been ordered and will be placed on Brooklyn and Boynton Streets and other areas in the City.
- The City has received a permit from the Agency of Natural Resources to remove the grout sandbar and other material blocking storm drains in the Stevens Branch behind Allen Lumber.
- The RFP for planning work on the connector section of the Barre City/Barre Town bike path will be out next week, with responses due by the end of January.

New Business

A) Police Department Used Vehicle Purchase.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed a memo from Chief Bombardier about the need to replace one of the unmarked Police Department vehicles. Mayor Lauzon asked if the purchase of the used vehicle is in the budget. The Chief said yes.

Council approved the purchase of the 2008 Chevy Trailblazer for \$15,616 as recommended by the Chief and Manager on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Old Business –

A) Errors and Omissions #2.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed his memo regarding the seven errors & omissions adjustments requested by Assessor LeVesque at last week’s Council meeting. The Mayor said he recommends denying numbers 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. He recommended approving modified adjustments for numbers 2 and 3.

Council approved the Mayor’s recommendations on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

New Business, continued

B) 2013 Budget – DRAFT #1 Review/Discussion.

Manager Mackenzie said he will have his first draft ready by Friday, and it will be emailed to the Council for discussion at next week’s meeting.

The Manager said Councilor Poirier requested information about costs associated with increasing the number of police officers, and the Manager passed around a memo outlining the additional costs of increasing from the current 18 officers to 20, 22 or 24. He said the cost is approximately \$75,000/officer/year. Councilor Poirier said additional officers would allow for a higher visible presence in the community. The Chief said additional officers would allow for more coverage on third shift, and the officers would be more proactive rather than reactive. Manager Mackenzie said grant funding for one of the current officers has stopped, and the City will need to fully fund that position for the remainder of this year and into the future. The Manager said his first budget draft will include funding for 20 officers. Councilor Poirier said funding for additional officers could be placed on the Annual (Town) Meeting ballot for voter approval. Chief Bombardier said he could explore other funding sources. There was discussion about the school resource officers, for which the schools cover half the cost. The Chief said he is proposing a different cost sharing model to more accurately reflect the division of duties for the SROs.

Roundtable –

Councilor Chadderton announced that she will run for re-election to the Council and the city school board.

Mayor Lauzon wished everyone a Happy New Year. The Mayor thanked all those who helped out during 2011, which was a challenging year.

Council went into executive session to discuss contract and personnel issues at 8:05 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council came out of executive session at 8:37 PM on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 8:37 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