

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held January 17, 2012**

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, Councilor 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 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 Boutin. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular Council meeting of January 10, 2012
 - Special Council meeting of January 12, 2012
 - Special Council meeting of January 14, 2012
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:

Applicant	License	Address
Jennawave LePage	Animal – snake (boa) conditional upon the snake never leaving the domicile	9 Laurel St.
Wendy Walker	Animal – 3 chickens	6 Newton St.
Barre Elks Lodge	Food Establishment	10 Jefferson St.
Barre Elks Lodge	Pool Table(2)/Video Games (2)	10 Jefferson St.
Casella Waste Management	Waste Disposal Collector, 9 trucks, pick-up only	
David Pecor Jr.	Taxicab Driver, with Twin City Taxi	
Heather O'Dell Shipe	Taxicab Driver, with A to B Taxi	

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

- 2012 dog licenses are now available. Dogs must be licensed by April 1st.
- 2012 daytime and 24-hour parking permits are available in the Clerk's office.
- The Clerk said information about the March 2012 Annual (Town) Meeting has been posted on the Clerk's page on the City website. The deadline for ballot item petitions is January 26th, and for nominating petitions is January 30th.
- Third quarter property taxes are due by February 15th.
- The Charter & Ordinance Review Committee has completed the draft revisions and filed them with the Clerk's office. The revisions will be on the agenda next week for review before the first public hearing on January 31st. The Clerk said the revisions will be posted on the website before the end of the week.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control Board – NONE

Visitors and Communications –

Resident Wallace Nolen appeared before the Council and asked questions about the lack of police patrols on his street, drug testing of City employees, Charter Communications internet services and FCC identification requirements for the public safety radio frequencies.

City Manager's Report –

- Manager Mackenzie said he encourages everyone to attend the City Place public informational meeting on Thursday, January 19th at 7:00 PM in the Opera House.

- The Bike Path Committee will be at next week's Council meeting to give an update on the design process for the museum segment. There will be a public meeting the following week.

Old Business –

A) Hilltop Avenue Demolition Bid – Award Review

Mayor Lauzon said there had been questions last week when Council awarded the bid. Councilor Herring had asked if it was possible to select separate contractors for the demolition work, based on the per-building estimates. Manager Mackenzie said that was not possible. There was no move to reconsider.

New Business -

A) Dix Reservoir Ice Fishing Discussion.

Mayor Lauzon said resident Rick Barnett had requested that Council allow ice fishing at the Dix Reservoir. The Mayor reviewed the current policy for fishing at the reservoir, which does not allow ice fishing. Manager Mackenzie listed staff concerns about allowing ice fishing, including safety, debris and use of gas powered tools on the ice. Mr. Barnett said gas engines are prohibited for use in ice fishing on drinking water supply sources, and game wardens patrol to control littering and other disallowed behavior. Mr. Barnett reviewed state statutes and Fish & Wildlife rules surrounding ice fishing and use of public waters.

The Mayor said current case law has ruled in favor of municipalities controlling access to drinking water supplies for recreational uses such as fishing through the recent Montpelier case brought by Mr. Barnett. The Mayor said he has a concern about the lack of parking in the area of the Dix Reservoir during the winter, and he wants to have a discussion with the Town of Orange, where the reservoir is located, to talk about parking and traffic issues. He said he has concerns about shanties on the ice, and wants to discuss ice fishing on the reservoir with Fish & Wildlife. Mr. Barnett said shanties must be removed from the ice by the end of March, and he suggested only temporary shanties be allowed.

Mayor Lauzon asked Mr. Barnett to meet with the Manager and Steve Micheli, Assistant Director of Public Works, to discuss the issue and bring back a draft set of rules associated with ice fishing on the reservoir.

B) Presentation of SHS/BTC and BCEMS FY 13 Budgets.

Superintendent John Bacon, school business manager Mark Lyons, City school board chair Marcia Biondolillo and school board members Linda Riddle, Leslie Walz, Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring attended the budget presentation. Dr. Bacon reviewed the Barre City Elementary & Middle School and Spaulding Union High School/Barre Tech Center budgets. He said there is a slight decrease in spending at SHS/BTC, due mostly to a decrease in staff. There is an increase in the BCEMS budget, due mostly to increases in special education costs. Due to changes in the state base education amount and the City's common level of appraisal (CLA), the overall effect on the tax rate is estimated to be nearly zero.

There was discussion about the number of special education students at BCEMS and their percentage of the student body, the school resource officers, spending per pupil, school choice, use of end-of-year surpluses, declining or increasing enrolment, school consolidation, and the number of school boards in the City.

Board Chair Biondolillo said she and board member Carrier are not running for re-election. She said board members Chadderton and Spaulding are running for re-election.

C) Budget Workshop #3 – Finalize FY 2013 Budget.

Mayor Lauzon said the Council will hold a budget workshop on Saturday, January 21st starting at 7:30 AM to continue its review of the FY13 budget.

D) FEMA Reimbursement Update.

Manager Mackenzie said reimbursements are starting to be received and he will have a formal summary for next week's meeting.

E) Highgate Housing Non-Profit – Approval to Restructure Primary VHFA Debt.

Mayor Lauzon said Highgate and the City are nearing resolution of a tax appeal issue. The Mayor said once that issue is resolved the debt restructuring will come to Council. He said he expects this item to be on next week's agenda for final approval

F) Resolution #2012-01 Related to City Place.

Mayor Lauzon said the resolution will come to Council after this week's City Place presentation, and he expects it to be on next week's agenda.

G) Approval of AOT Certificate of Highway Mileage for Year Ending 2/12/2012.

Council approved the mileage certificate as presented on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Roundtable –

Councilor Smith said the Granite Museum board is planning a public meeting in March.

Councilor Herring said there should be consideration of traffic routes during the construction of City Place and when the state workers are located in the City. Mayor Lauzon said a traffic study has been done and will be part of the City Place public presentation on Thursday evening.

Councilor Poirier said he encourages people to attend the City Place public presentation.

Mayor Lauzon said he echoed the encouragement. The Mayor thanked the Department of Public Works staff for their work on a water line break during a recent cold snap.

Council adjourned at 8:51 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **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