

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held February 21, 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, Councilors Etlis and 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 Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular Council meeting of February 14, 2012
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Food Establishment License, JKA Property Management dba Days Inn, Round Table Restaurant, 173 S. Main St.
 - Food Establishment License, Hollow Inn Motel, 278 S. Main St.
 - Food Establishment License, Chinatown, 306 N. Main St.

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

- Third quarter property taxes were due on February 15th. The delinquency rate is 4.66%.
- The office is accepting requests for early/absentee ballots for the March 6th Annual Meeting. The last opportunity to register to vote is Wednesday, February 29th by 5:00 PM.
- 2012 dog licenses are now available. Dogs must be licensed by April 1st.
- The Board of Civil Authority met 2/16 and voted to accept the legislature's reapportionment plan for the City, which creates a city-wide 2 member at-large district. The change will go into effect with the August primary election.
- The Board of Civil Authority is meeting on Thursday, March 1st at 5:00 PM to approve election workers and address other election-related issues.

Approval of Building Permits –

Council approved a building permit for Melanie Lopez at 160 Hill Street on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Liquor Control Board – NONE

Visitors and Communications –

Girl Scout Alyssa Keogh distributed cookies to Council members who had placed orders the last time she attended a meeting.

City Manager's Report –

- Manager Mackenzie reported on meetings attended over the past week on topics including: City Place, Enterprise Aly, and a ribbon cutting at Next Chapter bookstore.
- The hazard mitigation grant applications for two properties on Hillside Avenue have been completed and submitted.

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

To be approved at 02-28-12 Barre City Council Meeting

A) CVCLT/Barre City Green Mountain Loan Fund Grant Award.

Manager Mackenzie and Mayor Lauzon said the Land Trust has received a grant to fund a revolving loan fund. More information will be shared at next week's meeting.

B) Damage Claim Denial.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the situation related to a vehicle damage claim that was denied by the City's insurance carrier.

C) Award of Contract Local Project Manager for No. Main St., Sidewalk Construction Grant.

City Engineer Reg Abare said the Local Project Manager will provide design services and project oversight for sidewalk construction from 6th Street north to Richardson Road. Mr. Abare recommended awarding the Local Project Manager bid to low bidder Dufresne Group. Council approved the award as recommended on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Etli. **Motion carried.**

There was discussion about the sidewalk repair and street reconstruction programs. Mayor Lauzon asked Mr. Abare to come back to the Council around April 1st to review the programs and the fund balances.

D) Award of Contract for Purchase of 1-Ton Plow Truck.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed a memo from Assistant Director of Public Works Steve Micheli, recommending that Council award the bid to low bidder Formula Ford. Council approved the award as recommended on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Etli. **Motion carried.**

E) Procurement Policy Discussion.

Councilor Boutin reviewed the Local Vendor Allowance, and said he would like to revise the policy so that if a local vendor's bid is higher than the lowest bid, the local bidder would be asked to match the lowest bid. There was discussion about the current process and policy. There was additional discussion about the exemptions in the policy, and whether there is a need to clarify. It was agreed the policy is fine.

Other)

Mayor Lauzon gave a PowerPoint presentation on tax increment financing (TIF) districts, and noted voter approval to create a TIF district in Barre City is on the Annual (Town) Meeting ballot for March 6th.

Roundtable –

Councilor Poirier asked about voting on the proposed charter changes. Mayor Lauzon said they are on the March 6th ballot. The Mayor said he and Manager Mackenzie visited with the Williamstown Selectboard to discuss the proposed charter language that would enable the City to create a watershed protection district. The Mayor said communities would need to work cooperatively on the issue.

Councilor Herring said the Barre Town Budget Committee is considering including funding for Front Porch Forum in the Town's FY13 budget. Such funding would allow the City and Town to partner on FPF.

Council adjourned at 8:23 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