

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held February 28, 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 Etli; 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 21, 2012
- City Warrants as presented, including Community Development Warrants payable out of the Municipal Planning Grant and the Neighborhood Stabilization Grant.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Food Establishment License, Railway Pizza, Inc. dba Domino's Pizza, 322 N. Main St.

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

- 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. The Annual (Town) Meeting and Presidential Primary elections are Tuesday, March 6th at the Civic Center Auditorium. The polls will be open from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM.
- The FY2010-2011 annual reports are available in the Clerk's office or on the City website. The FY 2010-2011 audit report is available on the website.
- Because of Town Meeting Day, the Council will meet next week on Monday, March 5th at 7:00 PM.
- 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.
- 2012 dog licenses are now available. Dogs must be licensed by April 1st.

Approval of Building Permits –

Council approved a building permit for Joseph & Lori McCarthy, 92 Brook Street, on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Liquor Control Board – NONE

Visitors and Communications –

Resident Nancy Wolfe spoke in support of the Good Beginnings of Central Vermont funding request on the Annual (Town) Meeting ballot. Ms. Wolfe said GBCV supports new mothers, and provided services to 33 Barre City mothers last year.

City Manager's Report –

- Manager Mackenzie reported on the following activities over the past week:
 - City Center meeting. Interviews with developers are scheduled for later in the week, and the final selection is scheduled to come to the Council at next week's meeting.
 - Toured the Vermont History Center. A tour for the Council will be scheduled for late June.
 - Mediation around DPW union contract.
 - Met with members of the Barre City ADA Committee to begin planning a public forum on pedestrian safety.
 - Taped budget presentation for repeat broadcasts on CVTV.
- City received 3rd disbursement from the Semprebon annuity, bringing the total received to just under \$150,000.

To be approved at 03-05-12 Barre City Council Meeting

- There is a meeting on March 8th at 5:30 PM to discuss the re-start of the North Main Street Reconstruction Project. Ads are being run to alert the public to the meeting.

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

A) City/Town Connector Bike Path – Design Contract Award.

Mayor Lauzon said Manager Mackenzie is recusing himself from the discussion due to a conflict of interest. City Engineer Reg Abare reviewed a memo from Barre Town Manager Carl Rogers, outlining the process by which a joint committee of the Barre City and Barre Town bike path committees solicited bids and reviewed proposals. The joint committee recommended awarding the contract to Dubois & King. The Barre Town selectboard approved the recommendation at last week's meeting. Mr. Abare recommended Council approve awarding the Barre City portion of the contract to Dubois & King.

Council awarded the contract to D&K as recommended, and authorized the Manager to sign on the City's behalf on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon asked Mr. Abare for updates on upcoming paving & sidewalk work, infrastructure work being planned for Hope Cemetery, replacement of the City garage and the restoration work being done to the Youth Triumphant memorial. The Mayor asked Mr. Abare to forward a memo to Manager Mackenzie outlining a timeline when the information will be reported to the Council.

B) Semprebon Fund Financial Committee Update.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed his spreadsheet of projects submitted for funding consideration and those projects that have been approved by Council. The Manager updated the Council on the status of various projects and what funds have been disbursed to date. Semprebon Fund Committee member Hannah Etli said the Committee met last week, and is scheduled to meet again in March. Mayor Lauzon said the Council is asking the Committee to review the progress on the various approved projects, and create a process for soliciting and handling new proposals. The Mayor said the Council will review the items previously deferred for action.

Council appointed Ms. Etli as chair of the Committee on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.** Mayor Lauzon thanked Kristin Sohlstrom for her service as committee chair.

Councilor Boutin asked if there has been public input on the playground equipment, as was directed by Council in its approval of the expenditure. Manager Mackenzie said Recreation Director Stephanie Quaranta has plans to include local schools in the work. Mayor Lauzon noted some of the expenditures have overrun the approved amounts, and requested that the Council's set amounts be respected, or that increases come to Council for approval before the expenses are incurred.

There was discussion about the proposed digital sign to replace the Civic Center sign. Manager Mackenzie said he has asked for a memo from City Planner Michael Miller, and expects to share the information with the Council at the March 13th meeting.

Clerk Dawes said the \$100,000 approved by Council for a Semprebon scholarship fund has yet to be disbursed, and requested that Council determine whether those funds will come out of the Semprebon Bequest Fund or the Semprebon Annuity Fund. Councilor Etli made the motion of take the funds out of the Bequest Fund, seconded by Councilor Boutin. Manager Mackenzie asked for an additional week to review the fund balances. Mayor Lauzon asked for the motion and second to be withdrawn, and they were.

C) FY 2013 Budget Review.

Manager Mackenzie gave his PowerPoint budget presentation.

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Resident Randy Edmunds asked questions about how departments are run, fire truck purchase payments, the split of the police chief's salary, status of new hires in the Police Department, ways the City is making up revenue from the loss of the Barre Town dispatch contract, fuel purchase budgeting, plans for an animal control officer, plans for an assistant city manager, and merger of departments.

D) TIF District Informational Briefing.

Mayor Lauzon gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed TIF District. The Mayor reviewed the timeline for creation and implementation of the district, and said approval of the district will be on next week's agenda.

Mayor Lauzon said there will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions about and discuss the budget and other ballot items on Saturday, March 3rd at 8:00 AM in the Council chambers.

Roundtable –

Councilor Smith said this year's Vermont Reads book is *The Red Badge of Courage*. He said the library is hosting events surrounding this "community reads" project. Councilor Smith encouraged people to come to the polls for the Annual (Town) Meeting and support the hard work being done on behalf of the City.

Councilors Chadderton and Boutin encouraged people to get out and vote.

Mayor Lauzon encouraged people to come to the polls and support the City to keep the momentum going.

Council adjourned at 9:43 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