

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held March 27, 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 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 Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried with Councilor Herring abstaining.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular Meeting of March 20, 2012
 - Special Meeting of March 24, 2012
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office: NONE

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

- 2012 dog licenses are now available. Dogs must be licensed by April 2nd.
- Water/sewer bills are due by April 2nd.
- The Board of Abatement is scheduled to hold hearings on Thursday, March 29th beginning at 5:00 PM.

Approval of Building Permits – Council approved a building permit for David Gladding at 157 Seminary Street on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Liquor Control Board – NONE

Visitors and Communications – NONE

City Manager's Report –

- Manager Mackenzie reported on the following activities over the past week:
 - Meeting with auditor for a briefing on the FY2011 audit.
 - Issued a water conservation notice yesterday due to technical difficulties at the water treatment plant. The notice is expected to be lifted in the next day or two.
 - The Big Dig start has gone relatively smoothly. People are still driving down Wellington Street, in spite of the detours and blockades. The Manager reminded people to observe the detours for traffic safety reasons.
 - Attended a meeting on the continuing Youth Triumphant and Mathewson Playground renovations, and will present an updated schedule at next week's Council meeting.
 - There is an open burning ban in effect until the Fire Department lifts it.
 - The annual egg hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 7th.
 - The spring City-wide disposal day is scheduled for Saturday, May 5th.
 - The Manager acknowledged a recent donation towards the bike path from Arnold Martin.

Old Business -

A) Public Comment on FY 2013 Budget.

Mayor Lauzon asked if there are any members of the public who wanted to offer comments on the FY2013 budget. There were no comments.

New Business –

A) We Dig Barre Committee Update.

Barre Partnership executive director Dan Jones and We Dig Barre Committee chair Mary Jane Magnan updated

the Council on this summer's activities surrounding the Big Dig, including:

- Detour maps and back entrance signs, poll banners and lawn signs
- New brochure showing info on this summer's construction
- New shopping guide
- Visualization posters
- Weekly updates on WDEV and in local newspapers
- Updates on the website, wedigbarre.org
- Digger will be back for the season
- Sponsoring a night at Thunder Road this summer
- Treasure Dig contest starts April 16th, with drawings being held weekly at the Council meetings

Mayor Lauzon asked how the merchants are doing with the street closures and detours. Ms. Magnan said merchants are getting used to the detours. The Mayor said perhaps Councilors could make themselves available earlier on Tuesday evenings to hear from merchants and the public.

B) Appeal of Sewer Charge.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed a letter from David Raymond, requesting abatement of a portion of his sewer charges. Mayor Lauzon said he was inclined to recommend approval of the request, and he would like something from Mr. Raymond's plumber verifying the situation. Council approved the abatement upon receipt of documentation from Mr. Raymond's plumber on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

C) Resolution #2012-04: Reimbursement Resolution Related to Nelson Street Hydro and Cobble Hill Water Main Trestle Projects Bond.

Council approved resolution #2012-04 on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

D) Appointment of Michael Miller as Zoning Administrator.

Council appointed Mr. Miller as Zoning Administrator on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Councilor Poirier asked if the vacant position in the planning department will be filled. Mayor Lauzon said yes, but it will be held open until Council is finished with the FY2013 budget work.

E) Annual Appointment of Town Service Officer.

Council appointed Chief Bombardier as Town Service Officer on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

F) Annual Appointments of CVSWMD Board of Directors.

Council appointed Nancy Wolfe as the Barre City representative to the CVSWMD board, and Steve Micheli as the alternate on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

G) Temporary Change of Traffic Flow on West Street.

Mayor Lauzon said Manager Mackenzie has requested that this item be deferred to next week.

H) Warn Public Hearings for Proposed Charter Changes.

Clerk Dawes reviewed the timelines associated with charter revisions and requested that Council begin by officially setting the date of the budget revote. Council approved May 8, 2012 as the date for the budget re-vote on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

To be approved at 04-03-12 Barre City Council Meeting

Clerk Dawes recommended Council warn the charter change public hearings for April 3rd and 10th. Council approved the Clerk's recommended dates on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon said Council will hold special meetings on the following dates:

- Saturday, March 31st at 8:00 AM
- Thursday, April 5th at 6:00 PM
- Saturday, April 7th at 8:00 AM

The Clerk said the Council will need to approve the warning of the proposed charter changes by April 7th. The Mayor said Council will set the proposed FY2013 budget by April 14th.

Roundtable –

Councilor Chadderton requested that Council consider making a motion to ask the Development Review Board to reconsider its decision regarding the Merchant's Bank project on North Main Street before the decision becomes final. Mayor Lauzon said it will be on next week's agenda for consideration.

Councilor Boutin said last weekend's cash mob was a great event and there will be more in the future.

Mayor Lauzon thanked the Vermont Senate Institutions Committee and said representatives from the City and the City Place project testified before the Committee earlier today.

Councilor Poirier asked if the Semprebon Fund Committee will be on the Council agenda next week for discussion. Mayor Lauzon said it will. The Mayor said he will request that Council direct the Committee to get an accurate accounting of the fund and follow up with the funded projects to get updates on their progress. The Mayor said he will recommend Council have the Committee accept new proposals through the end of April, which will then be reviewed by the Committee with recommendations coming to Council.

Mayor Lauzon thanked the Times Argus for the last-minute publication of the water conservation notice. Manager Mackenzie said the Times Argus was also helpful by publishing the Big Dig detour map.

Council adjourned at 8:10 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