

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held April 3, 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 (arrived 7:03 PM); 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 Meeting of March 27, 2012
  - Special Meeting of March 31, 2012
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
  - Entertainment license for Hedding Methodist Church for all-day event with worship, music and food in Currier Park July 29, 2012.
  - Entertainment license for Vermont Historical Society for historic re-enactment in City Hall Park August 31, 2012.

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

- The open assistant treasurer position has been filled. The new person will start April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The deadline to license dogs was Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dogs may still be licensed, and there is an additional fee for late licensing.

**Approval of Building Permits** – Council approved a building permit for Craig Guthrie at 63 Westwood Parkway on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

**Liquor Control Board** – Council approved the following 2012 Liquor and Tobacco licenses on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

**1<sup>st</sup> CLASS**

Espresso Bueno, Inc.	136 N. Main Street
Granite Village Restaurant	435 N. Main Street
Jerry's Sports Tavern LLC	30 Summer Street
Gusto's	28 Prospect Street

**2nd CLASS**

Beverage Baron, Inc.	411 N. Main Street
Jiffy Mart	360 N. Main Street
R. Dente Market	406 N. Main Street
Ellie & Shirl's Simply Delicious	56 Depot Square

**TOBACCO**

Granite Village Restaurant	435 N. Main Street
Gusto's	28 Prospect Street
Beverage Baron, Inc.	411 N. Main Street
Jiffy Mart	360 N. Main Street
R. Dente Market	406 N. Main Street

Council approved a Request to Cater permit application from Valley Bowl Inc. to cater the Autism fundraiser at the Auditorium on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 PM to midnight on motion of Councilor , seconded by Councilor . **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

**Visitors and Communications** – Resident Art Botz said this would be the last meeting he will be attending, as he is moving out of state. Mr. Botz said it was a pleasure getting to know the members of the Council.

**New Business –**

**D) SHS Civics Class – Main St. No Smoking Project.**

Members of the Spaulding High School civics class outlined their proposal to restrict smoking in the downtown between the hours of 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM from Route 62 to the City Hall Park area. Points presented included:

- A survey indicated that 72% of Spaulding students view downtown negatively.
- Smoking restrictions will improve the downtown, curb littering, cut exposure to second hand smoke and clean up the environment.
- Possible negative reaction to the proposed ban could be related to violation of constitutional rights and loss of income from sales of tobacco products.

The students will send the Council a pdf copy of their presentation. Mayor Lauzon suggested the students work with Clerk Dawes on the ordinance process to bring their proposal back to Council for consideration.

**A) 1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing for Charter Changes – Warned for 7:15 PM.**

Mayor Lauzon opened the public hearing at 7:25 PM and invited comments. There were no public comments. The Clerk outlined the proposed charter changes as recommended by the Charter Review Committee. Mayor Lauzon closed the public hearing at 7:27 PM.

Council approved the warning of the proposed charter changes for the May 8, 2012 special meeting election on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Clerk Dawes said there will be a second public hearing next week, April 10<sup>th</sup>, however, with the approval of the warning, there can be no changes to the proposed charter changes language.

**Old Business -**

**A) Public Comment on FY 2013 Budget.**

Mayor Lauzon invited members of the public to offer comments on the FY2013 budget. There were no comments.

**B) Temporary Change of Traffic Flow on West Street.**

Manager Mackenzie said the proposed change in traffic flow would call for 2-way traffic on West Street through the duration of the Big Dig. Michael Carbonneau from Pruneau-Polli Funeral Home on the corner of West and Summer Streets said such a traffic pattern would eliminate their handicap access. Mr. Carbonneau suggested making Campbell Place one way from Summer Street and West Street one way onto Summer Street. A representative from Dunkin Donuts said either traffic pattern would assist access to their business. Mayor Lauzon suggested Mr. Carbonneau and the representative from Dunkin Donuts meet with City Engineer Reg Abare to work out the details. The Mayor said Council will approve whatever arrangements are worked out through Mr. Abare at the Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> special Council meeting.

Mayor Lauzon said the signage directing traffic to businesses affected by the Big Dig seems too small. Larger signs will be looked into. Resident Charles Dindo said he has observed people speeding on Summer Street. Chief Bombardier said he will look into it. Manager Makcenzie said “school zone” signs are being placed on Summer Street to help control traffic speed.

Granite Hills Credit Union CEO Susan Poczobut said she has noticed that the turn signal lights at the North Main Street/Maple Avenue intersection don’t seem to be timed to allow for optimum traffic flow. Manager Mackenzie said the timing is being adjusted.

**New Business –**

**B) CVCAC US Dept. of Labor Grant Support Request.**

Erik Peterson from CVCAC said the grant being sought is an EPA grant, not a DOL grant, and the focus of the \$200,000 grant is for environmental workforce development. Mr. Peterson said CVCAC is looking for a letter of support from the City, and he provided a draft letter. Mayor Lauzon asked that a copy of the grant application be forwarded to Council, and said that Council will take up the question of the support letter at the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**E) Semprebon Fund Committee – Discussion/Clarification of 2/28/12 Council Direction.**

Mayor Lauzon reviewed a draft of a memo to the Semprebon Committee, outlining the Council's expectations of the committee, and providing direction regarding the expected work product. There was discussion about revising the conflict of interest section of the memo by removing the third paragraph from the end. The memo says the Committee will solicit proposals through May 15, 2012, and the Council will act on the Committee's recommendations at the June 12, 2012 meeting. There was discussion about extending the action date should review of the submissions take additional time.

Resident Almerida Pirie asked if she may submit a proposal this evening. Mayor Lauzon said yes, and Ms. Pirie turned in her proposal to the Clerk. Ms. Pirie asked for the total cost of the entire Barre City portion of the proposed bike path, and Mayor Lauzon said a rough estimate is \$5 million. The Mayor said he has been speaking to the Vermont congressional delegation to seek matching funds.

Resident Art Botz asked if Semprebon funds could be used to help local churches with their community meals programs. Mayor Lauzon said any local organization can submit a proposal.

Council approved the memo as revised on motion of Councilor Etli, seconded by Councilor Chadderton.

**Motion carried.**

Councilor Herring noted that members of the Council received a letter from resident Arnold Martin regarding the Semprebon fund, and asked that the letter be passed along to the committee. Manager Mackenzie said he has some additional letters related to the Semprebon fund which will also be shared with the committee.

**G) DRB Decision re: Merchant's Bank Project on No. Main Street.**

Councilor Chadderton, who requested this item be placed on the agenda, said she understands the DRB decision has been finalized and the matter is closed. Manager Mackenzie said that is true, and there is no appeal process. Ms. Poczobut said her only concern is that the project was not dealt with in an extensive enough manner and the applicants were not subject to the same scrutiny as other recent development projects. Ms. Poczobut requested that there be a set of rules in place so there is consistency. Mayor Lauzon said he will ask the DRB chair to speak to the issue. There was discussion about getting quorums for committee action. Mayor Lauzon said Council will be making the usual annual appointments in the near future, and will be asking appointees to make a commitment to the committees on which they serve.

**C) Interventionist Program Update.**

Community Outreach Specialist Emma Moreau and Chief Tim Bombardier updated the Council on Ms. Moreau's work in the community; assisting people with finding housing, offering a life skills course, providing community service opportunities. Chief Bombardier said Ms. Moreau's work is saving Police Department time on the street and frees up emergency services personnel to deal with real crime. The Chief said there is a need for male volunteers to teach in the life skills classes. Mayor Lauzon said he will be happy to volunteer. Councilor Herring asked the Chief to email additional information about the need for volunteers to the Council.

Chief Bombardier said they will be launching a mini-grant program to encourage non-traditional partnership projects. The Chief requested being on the agenda for the first meeting in May to launch the program.

To be approved at 04-10-12 Barre City Council Meeting

Mayor Lauzon invited Chief Bombardier to attend the Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> council meeting budget discussion.

**F) Update and Schedule for Youth Triumphant and Mathewson Playground Work.**

Covered in the Manager's report.

**City Manager's Report –**

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following activities over the past week:

- Meetings on the Big Dig, including meetings with VTRANS design engineer on issues with the sanitary septic system. Work on the sanitary sewer line has been suspended as they deal with an unstable layer of silt, clay and ground water at depth. The completion schedule is not currently threatened.
- The water conservation order and open fire ban have both been lifted.
- Met with Calcagni Granite for an update on the Youth Triumphant restoration. Installation of the steps is scheduled to begin on April 16<sup>th</sup> and last about a week. Installation of the slabs around the statue is scheduled to begin the week of April 23<sup>rd</sup> and last up to 8 weeks. Completion is expected by mid-June at the latest.
- The Recreation Department is soliciting students to serve on a playground committee to oversee the design and installation of new equipment at Playground 2000.
- The annual egg hunt is this Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM at Rotary Park.

**Roundtable –**

Councilor Chadderton asked what is being done with the fill generated through the Big Dig. She said the City School has a need for some fill to allow easier access to the upper field. Manager Mackenzie said the school should contact City Engineer Reg Abare to see if fill is available.

Councilor Etli said he posted information on his FaceBook page about the civics class proposal to restrict smoking, and there have been a lot of replies. He congratulated the students for taking on a controversial topic.

Councilor Herring said he cut his hair and donated it to Locks of Love.

Mayor Lauzon said he attended a great fundraising event at the Aldrich Public Library. The Mayor thanked the Spaulding students for their work on the proposed smoking restrictions.

Council went into executive session to discuss contract issues at 9:15 PM on motion of Councilor Etli, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.** Manager Mackenzie was included in the executive session. Mayor Lauzon left before the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 10:10 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Etli. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 10:10 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **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