

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held April 24, 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 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 Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular Meeting of April 17, 2012
- City Warrants as presented, including a Community Development warrant payable out of a municipal planning grant to ORW Landscaping.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office: NONE

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

- Early/Absentee ballots are available for the May 8th Special Meeting election. Mayor Lauzon said the May 8th Council meeting will be moved to Monday, May 7th, and will be televised.
- Fourth quarter property taxes are due by May 15th.
- Even though the statutory deadline has passed, dogs must still be licensed, and the Clerk's office is still issuing tags.
- The Board of Civil Authority is scheduled to hold its pre-election meeting on Thursday, May 3rd at 6:00 PM.
- The Clerk reviewed the arrangements for Clean Up Your Act Day on May 5th, when people will have the opportunity to bring lawn debris, bulk trash, and recyclables to the Civic Center.

Approval of Building Permits – Council approved the following building permit on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Robert & Yvette O'Connor	84 Batchelder St.

Old Business –

A) We Dig Barre “Treasure Dig” Drawing – Week #1.

Barre Partnership representatives Mary Jane Magnan, Dan Jones and mascot Digger announced that the Treasure Dig is under way again this year, and held the drawing for this year's first winner.

Liquor Control Board – Council approved the 1st class liquor license renewal for Green Mountain Tavern at 10 Keith Avenue, contingent upon GMT holding no Teen Nights without proper authorization as per ordinance Sec. 11-27 (g), on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

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

2ND CLASS

Mapleside Market & Deli	39 Maple Avenue
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TOBACCO

Green Mountain Tavern	10 Keith Avenue
Mapleside Market & Deli	39 Maple Avenue

Visitors and Communications – NONE

City Manager's Report –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following activities over the past week and upcoming items:

- Meetings attended: Big Dig, Community Justice Center, improvements to City Hall, City Place.
- Participated in SADD mock crash event at Spaulding High School to highlight the risks of drinking & driving.
- Gave an overview of the City's energy efficiency initiatives at the Eco Fair this past weekend.
- The burn ban has been lifted.
- The City responded to calls about concerns at Elmwood Cemetery, and installed signage and fencing around a magnolia tree and repaired rutting in the roadways. The Manager reminded everyone that animals are not allowed in City cemeteries, and signage to that fact has been installed.
- The City has received a \$30,000 community development block grant for planning work associated with the re-development of Enterprise Aly.
- The turbine portion of the Nelson Street hydro project will be going out to bid in early May.

Mayor Lauzon said the City Place meeting was attended by several representatives from the state and the developer. The Mayor said they expect to have information within 30 days as to the Department of Education's office space needs, possible use of space by Central Vermont Medical Center and the results of a market study related to grocery stores.

Old Business –

B) FY 2012 (9) Month Budget Status & Financial Overview.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the budget status report, and said he expects to hit the budget target goal. The Manager said all department heads are working within a 2.5% budget reduction due to the loss of the Barre Town dispatching contract, and are curbing expenses through the balance of the year. He offered a review of overtime expenses to date and a comparison of OT to revenues from special details, and said there have been significant strides made to contain and report overtime.

Mayor Lauzon said the analysis shows as favorable to budget, and the Council will continue to get reports through the balance of the year. The Mayor said he is projecting a year end surplus of approximately \$100,000.

New Business –

Other) –

Mayor Lauzon gave a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed Fiscal Year 2013 budget which is being voted on at the May 8 Special Meeting election. The Mayor said he will give the presentation again next week, and will be available on Saturday to meet with people who have questions.

The Mayor said the position originally considered as Assistant City Manager has been re-classified as Finance Director. Manager Mackenzie said the two biggest functions of that office would be finances and personnel. Councilor Herring said it was good to create two separate distinct positions.

Mayor Lauzon said he is asking for the Council to get unanimously behind the budget, and additional cuts would grind the City to a halt.

Resident John Hannigan said he is pleased with what Council has done to revise the budget, that he supports the Finance Director position, and hopes that the budget passes.

Other) –

Mayor Lauzon passed around a proposed cobblestone policy and asked that it be placed on next week's agenda for consideration. The Mayor said he would like to see a portion of Depot Square re-paved with cobblestones as part of the North Main Street reconstruction project, and asked Manager Mackenzie to research the additional costs associated with such paving.

Other) –

Mayor Lauzon passed around a sheet for Councilors to list issues and projects they would like the Council to work on, in priority order. The Mayor asked that the sheet be returned to him by next week's Council meeting. He will then compile a master list of Council priorities. The Mayor said Council meetings through the summer will include getting out in the community and working on special issues.

Roundtable –

Councilor Chadderton said she would like to see the City enforce the curfew ordinance. Manager Mackenzie suggested this be placed on a future agenda and Chief Bombardier be invited to join the discussion about enforcement.

Councilor Boutin asked if it would be a Council decision to change the name of Playground 2000. Mayor Lauzon said it would be. Councilor Boutin said the children who are working on the re-design of the playground are receptive to changing the name.

Councilor Herring reminded people of the upcoming Green Up Day activities.

Council went into executive session at 8:48 PM to discuss contracts and legal issues on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Council invited Chief Bombardier and Labor Attorney Scott Cameron into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 9:40 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 9:40 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, 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