

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held May 29, 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 Dominic Etli and Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilor Anita Chadderton. Also in attendance were Manager Steven Mackenzie, and Assessor Department Clerk Kathryn Bramman in lieu of Clerk Carolyn Dawes.

We Dig Barre Treasure Dig Drawing. We Dig Barre executive director Dan Jones asked a member of the Council to draw this week's Treasure Dig winner, and announced this week's clue. Mr. Jones said the Authors at the Aldrich and Concerts in the Park are scheduled to begin on June 13th.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Council approved the following consent agenda items as presented on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Special Meeting of May 22, 2012
 - Regular Meeting of May 22, 2012
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - 2012 Commercial Swimming Pool License for Country Way Condominiums, Fecteau Circle.
 - 2012 Commercial Swimming Pool License for JKA Property Management DBA Day's Inn, 175 South Main Street.
 - 2012 Food Establishment License for T's Pantry, 266 North Main Street.

The City Clerk and Treasurer Report – Ms. Bramman made the following announcement on behalf of Clerk Dawes:

- Early/absentee ballots are available for the June 5, 2012 budget revote. The polls at the auditorium will be open on June 5th from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM.

Approval of Building Permits –

Council approved the following building permits on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Etli. **Motion carried.**

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Daniel & Nancy Jarchow	110 Berlin St.
Zena Collins	15 Gordon Ln.
David & Lynn Guy	23 Jacques St.

Liquor Control Board –NONE

Visitors and Communications – NONE

New Business –

D) John St. Extension and Duffy Street – Land Sales.

Manager Mackenzie introduced Jeff Friot and Larry Bennett, both of whom are interested in purchasing City-owned land that abuts their properties on Maplewood Avenue. The Manager said both requests include portions of John Street Extension and Duffy Street, which are paper streets, and other City owned land, and he wanted to gauge the Council's interest before working with other City officials to draft necessary documents, which would come back to Council for final approval. Mr. Mackenzie said City

Attorney Oliver Twombly has advised that the City not sell portions of the paper streets, but grant revisionary easements. The easements would be reversible should the City ever wish to develop the paper streets.

Councilor Poirier made a motion favorable on Manager Mackenzie moving forward with getting appropriate approval from City officials to draft revisionary easement agreements with Mr. Friot and Mr. Bennett, subject to future Council approval. The motion was seconded by Councilor Etlí. **Motion carried.**

City Manager's Report –

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

- Meetings with Nelson Street hydro project team; staff to review end-of-the-year financials; Big Dig team; auditor and department heads to discuss deficiencies and internal controls; those involved with implementation of the PACE program.
- There were three fires in Barre City today, one or more of which are likely to have been caused by lightning strikes.
- There was a flooded basement on North Main Street. It has not yet been determined if the flooding was caused by the heavy rain or the North Main Street Reconstruction Project.
- The Manager said the contractors are moving ahead with modifications to the pedestrian signals at the Washington/Elm Street and Prospect/Main Street intersections. The modifications should be in effect by next week.

Manager Mackenzie said he received a letter from the Aldrich Library requesting waiver of the fee associated with holding an event at the library this coming Saturday, June 2nd. Council approved waiver of any necessary fees on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried with Councilor Etlí voting against.**

Mayor Lauzon asked that Council get an update on the Nelson Street hydro project sometime over the next 3-4 weeks.

Manager Mackenzie said Council tours of City facilities will begin on Tuesday, June 12th. Mayor Lauzon said the meeting that evening will not be televised, and Council will meet at Hope Cemetery at 6:00 PM. Council will tour the cemeteries, Big Dig and move on to Merchant's Street to meet with residents there. The Mayor said the only item on the agenda for the June 12th meeting will be the consent agenda.

Old Business –

A) Council Ratification of June 5th Ballot Warning – FY 13 Budget Revised.

Councilor Boutin moved ratification of the ballot warning approved by Council at the May 22nd meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith. Councilor Etlí said his email suggestions from May 22nd were meant as recommendations for review, not budget adjustments. Councilor Etlí said he does not like the way the non-binding ballot question is worded, and he doesn't believe the Council will vote to reduce the paving program should the voters support the ballot question. Mayor Lauzon said he would support the reduction if supported by the voters.

Council approved the ratification as moved, with all voting yes.

B) Public Safety Committee Updates:

- **Fire Department:** Councilor Boutin said the committee is meeting on Thursdays and gathering information. Councilor Poirier is visiting the St. Albans and Winooski fire departments next week. The committee has met with one of the Barre City Fire Department shifts and plans on

meeting with the remaining shifts in the near future.

- **Police Department:** Councilor Eтли said the committee is holding meetings and gathering information.

New Business –

A) Playground Committee Progress and Naming Update.

Mayor Lauzon said this item has been deferred to a future meeting.

B) New State Online Tip Program SUBMITTIP.

Mayor Lauzon thanked the area fire departments who responded to the City's call for mutual aid today due to the three fires mentioned earlier in the meeting. Chief Bombardier said the first fire on Allen Street was called in around 9:00 AM, followed shortly by a fire on Liberty Street and another on Waterman Street. The Chief said 16 different departments responded, and the situation is a good example of how well the mutual aid system works.

The Chief said they also dealt with a bomb threat at Spaulding High School today, and the decision was made to close the school for the remainder of the day. Councilor Boutin asked the Chief to review the penalties and consequences for making a bomb threat.

Chief Bombardier reviewed the TIPSUBMIT program, and said it will go into effect starting tomorrow. The Chief said tips can be submitted via phone, text or website, and they are routed by the state to the appropriate local authority. There was discussion about ways to spread the word in the community through radio or print PSA's, posters and signs. Mayor Lauzon asked Councilors Eтли and Smith of the Police Department Public Safety Committee to take the lead on public outreach.

C) VCDP Agreement/Grant Resolution #2012-05 (BHA Showers/Elevator Improvements – for Execution.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the grant awarded to Barre Housing Authority for its facilities in Barre Town and Barre City. Council approved the resolution and authorized the Manager to sign on behalf of the City on motion of Councilor Eтли, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Other) Mayor Lauzon reminded everyone of tomorrow's Memorial Day observances beginning at 11:00 AM at the Civic Center auditorium.

Other) Resident Maureen Morton said she was watching the Council meeting from home and came down to comment on the discussion about vehicle and pedestrian signals. Ms. Morton said nobody is doing anything wrong when they are obeying the vehicle turn signals and the pedestrian crossing signals, which currently are on at the same time.

Roundtable –

Councilor Eтли said the City needs to enforce its traffic ordinances and laws.

Councilor Boutin said he is intrigued by the Barre Town budget committee process and there will be further discussion in the future.

Councilor Smith asked people to come out and vote in support of the budget on Tuesday, June 5th. He reminded people of the Civil War events happening at the Aldrich Library this Saturday, June 2nd.

Councilor Poirier said he watched people picking up cobblestones over the weekend, and noted it's a cumbersome process. He said those who are picking up stones should bring a shovel with them.

To be approved at 06-04-12 Barre City Council Meeting

Mayor Lauzon reminded people of tomorrow's Memorial Day observances. The Mayor thanked the firefighters, first responders and mutual aid companies who helped out on today's fires.

Manager Mackenzie reminded Council of a Special Council Meeting this Thursday, May 31st at 6:00 PM.

Council adjourned at 8:27 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Poirier. **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

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