

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held January 8, 2013**

The Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order at 7:03 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 City 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 meeting:
 - Regular Meeting of December 27, 2012
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented, including a Community Development warrant payable out of the scattered site grant.
- 2013 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Entertainment Licenses
 - Good Samaritan Haven, homeless vigil in City Hall Park, 1/10/13 from 3:30 – 5:30 PM.
 - Hedding Methodist Church, worship, free music & cookout in Currier Park, Sunday, July 28, 2013 from 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM.
 - Taxicab Service Operator's Licenses
 - A to B Taxi, 1 vehicle
 - Waste Disposal Collector's License
 - Myers Container Service Corp., pick-up service, 11 vehicles
 - Casella Waste Management, pick-up service, 9 vehicles

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

- Nominating petitions for the 2013 Annual (Town) Meeting are available in the Clerk's office and on the website, and are due in to the Clerk by Monday, January 28th.
- Third quarter property taxes are due by February 15th.
- Parking permits and dog licenses are now available in the Clerk's office.
- The Keith Fund CD is due to roll over the latter part of next week, so there will be a discussion at next week's meeting to determine if the Council is interested in making any disbursements this year.
- The annual report is being worked on, including the cover and dedication. More information will come to the Council shortly.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control Board – NONE

Visitors and Communications – NONE

New Business –

A) Bike Path Transportation Alternatives Application

- **Council Bike Path Letter of Support**
- **Discussion of Bike Path Maintenance**

Mayor Lauzon said the letter of support needs to address the City's commitment to maintain the bike path, and he recommended the Council approve designating \$10,000 per year from the Semprebon annuity fund to path maintenance. The Mayor said he will draft the letter of support and bring it back next week for Council consideration and approval, along with consideration of allocating maintenance funds from the Semprebon annuity.

To be approved at 01-15-13 Barre City Council Meeting

Old Business –

A) Public Hearing #2 for Transportation Alternatives Application – Barre City Bike Path Warned for 7:15 p.m.

Mayor Lauzon opened the public hearing at 7:15 PM and asked for comments and questions from the public and Council. Hearing none, the Mayor closed the hearing at 7:16 PM. Manager Mackenzie said he will give a brief presentation on the application later in the meeting.

New Business – continued

B) Ratification of Granite City Developers, LLC (Blanchard Block) Tax Stabilization Agreement.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the tax stabilization agreement. Mark Nicholson of Granite City Developers LLC gave an update on the progress to date and said they are on target for a fall 2013 occupancy.

Council ratified the agreement on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin voting against.**

C) Discussion of Fish & Game Club Gun Show Agreement and Conditions.

Manager Mackenzie said the issue of gun sales at the gun show was brought to light during last week's department head meeting, during which Chief Bombardier suggested there be conditions placed on sales at the show. Mayor Lauzon read the letter he sent to the Barre Fish & Game Club (BFGC), and said he met with representatives from the Club earlier this week. At that meeting, he asked that the Club ask vendors to leave assault type weapons home, and the Club has respectfully declined his request. The Mayor said that is the end of the issue and there is no move to cancel the show.

BFGC president Rob Borowski reviewed the history of the gun show, and said the Club's trustees are meeting with Chief Bombardier later in the week to discuss conditions on the sale of firearms. Chief Bombardier said the goal is that sales of guns on City property be done legally.

There was discussion about the press coverage of this issue, the importance of the gun show and other such events to local merchants and the City of Barre, use of the BFGC gun range by local and state law enforcement, proposed federal legislation, background checks, timing of this issue and the recent shooting in Connecticut, private sales of firearms, and uses of the modern sporting rifle, also known as an assault rifle. Members of the audience spoke, including Mark McCarthy, Evan Hughes, Matt Schwegler, John Clark, Frank Mikan, Dick Carpenter, and Steve Rubalcaba.

Each Councilor was asked to share their opinions on the issue:

- Councilor Chadderton said gun sales are governed by federal regulations, not local ones. She said she didn't agree with the Mayor, but does believe in background checks.
- Councilor Boutin said the only problem with assault weapons is they are too expensive.
- Councilor Smith said he believed that the Mayor's letter was respectful and reasonable.
- Councilor Herring apologized that the story became so twisted, which was a disservice to the BFGC, which brings many people to the area through the show. He said he doesn't like to see things played out in the media.

Old Business – continued

A) Public Hearing #2 for Transportation Alternatives Application – Barre City Bike Path Warned for 7:15 p.m.

Mayor Lauzon re-opened the public hearing at 8:00 PM, and Manager Mackenzie reviewed the application. The City is applying for \$300,000 to complete the Smith Street segment of the Granite Museum portion of the path, which is one portion of the Central Vermont Recreational Path that is planned to run from Montpelier to Barre Town. The Manager said the project is very well advanced and could be under construction this summer. The due date for the application is January 18th and the Bike Path Committee is on track to have the application prepared and submitted by the deadline.

To be approved at 01-15-13 Barre City Council Meeting

The Mayor closed this portion of the public hearing at 8:07 PM.

D) FY 2013-3014 Budget Discussion.

Manager Mackenzie distributed a timeline of upcoming budget presentations and workshops. Mayor Lauzon asked where the citizen budget committee works into the process. There was discussion about the committee's work and timeline. Mayor Lauzon suggested the committee review the budget first, and then have the Manager present it to the Council at a special meeting on Saturday, January 19th, so as to comply with City Charter. Manager Mackenzie said he will present a revised timeline at next week's meeting.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the Manager's outline of expected budget adjustments due to changes in insurance and salaries. There was discussion about additional police officers, an acceptable percentage increase in the general fund budget and the focus of the Council's direction to the Manager for work on the budget.

City Manager's Report –

Manager Mackenzie updated the Council on last week's high pressure water main leak and offered recognition of the repair crew who worked through the coldest night of the year so far this winter. The Manager said Assistant Director of Public Works Steve Micheli was successful in securing a \$15,000 grant to convert DPW radios to narrow band.

Round Table –

Councilor Herring said he attended the Recreation Committee meeting and they are working on the annual Egg Hunt. He attended the PTO meeting at BCEMS and they are considering a fundraising event in conjunction with the Egg Hunt. He reminded the Council of two items still up for consideration of Semprebond Funds; a promoter for the Civic Center and a digital sign for the Civic Center. Manager Mackenzie said he and the Clerk will be updating the Council on the progress of Semprebond Fund projects in mid-February, and the two outstanding projects can be discussed at that time. Councilor Herring said the IT Committee is meeting later this week.

Councilor Chadderton said she will be missing a few meetings due to surgery next week, but will stay in contact via email.

Mayor Lauzon said work is beginning at City Place, and invitations are being drafted for the ground breaking. The Mayor said he wants the Council to identify its priorities for the coming year, and he listed his, which include the bike path, Merchant's Row, Depot Square North, and amendment of the flood maps.

Council went into executive session at 8:44 PM to discuss personnel, negotiations and contracts on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Chief Bombardier and Deputy Chief Aldsworth were invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 9:35 PM on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 9:35 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

An audio transcript of the meeting is available through the Clerk's Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk