

**Special Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held July 10, 2012**

The Special Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order at 6:02 PM by Mayor Thomas Lauzon. In attendance were: From Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilor Anita Chadderton. Also in attendance was Manager Steven Mackenzie.

Council toured the Vermont Historical Society's History Center, accompanied by VHS staff, previewing the galleries and reviewing the restoration work done to date and still to be finished.

Mayor Lauzon adjourned the special meeting at 6:40 PM.

There is no audio recording of the special meeting.

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held July 10, 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 Etli and 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 Carolyn Dawes.

**We Dig Barre Treasure Dig Drawing.** Barre Partnership board member Bob Sager and mascot Digger invited Mayor Lauzon to draw last week's winner, and announced this week's clue.

**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 July 5, 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:

- Tax bills will be in the mail by July 16<sup>th</sup>. The first quarterly payment is due by August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The Board of Civil Authority is scheduled to meet on Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM to hold its organizational meeting in preparation for this year's property tax assessment appeal hearings.

**Approval of Building Permits** – NONE

**Liquor Control Board** –

Council approved the following one-time extensions to existing outside consumption permits, under the fencing conditions as required by Chief Bombardier, on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith.

**Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date/Time of extension</u>
Barre Elks Lodge	10 Jefferson St.	Saturday, 7/28, from 12 PM – 10 PM
Quarry Grill & Tavern	210 N. Main St.	Friday & Saturday, 7/27 & 28, from 11 AM – 12 AM

Councilor approved allowing the Bergeron Family Reunion scheduled for Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, to have alcohol at their event at the Rotary Park picnic shelter on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Etli.

**Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

**Visitors and Communications – NONE**

**City Manager Report –**

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- The Big Dig traffic pattern has changed with the work moving to the southern end of N. Main St.
- Work continues on the restoration of the Youth Triumphant memorial. There will be another test of possible lighting options for the monument in the near future.
- Update given on the progress being made in renovations to the City's playgrounds.
- Crosswalks will be painted in the near future.
- The Police Department bike patrol Bees and downtown Officer John Mott are checking dogs on the street to make sure they are licensed.
- City staff inspected the bike path and is performing maintenance.
- The Manager congratulated Granite City Developers for its purchase of the Blanchard Block, and said it's another step along the path to improving Barre City.

Mayor Lauzon asked that the Charlie's Playground 2012 site plan be forwarded to the Council.

Councilor Poirier said he would like monthly reports on traffic enforcement and collection of fines. He said he has received calls from residents near the Barre City/Barre Town border on South Main Street who say there is a need for increased traffic enforcement in that area, and similar calls from residents on Circle Street. He asked Manager Mackenzie to look into the feasibility of setting up cameras to record speeders. The Manager said he will speak to the Police Department about setting up spot patrols.

Councilor Herring said BCEMS is exploring options for a second access road, and asked if there has been any action with regards to the information sent to the Manager's office. Manager Mackenzie said he understands the affected property owners are not interested in having the access road cross their land, and the school has expressed an interest in widening the bike path to allow access. The Manager suggested a possible route from the school to Leonard Street as an option. Mayor Lauzon said discussions will continue with the abutting property owners.

Councilor Boutin said it would be possible to hire the Washington County Sheriff's Department to do traffic stops in the City. Mayor Lauzon said the City could hire the Sheriff for a couple evenings as a test.

**Old Business:**

**A) Public Safety Committee Updates:**

**Fire Department.**

**Police Department.**

The committee members said there was nothing to report. Mayor Lauzon said bills have been sent to Barre City, Barre Town, Berlin and Montpelier for \$10,000 each to pay for the regional public safety study as approved by the voters at the March Annual Meeting. The Mayor said he would like to have a meeting with all four governance boards and the regional committee to hear what the plan is for the funds and to gauge the level of interest in the four communities before authorizing payment. He said he would like the four communities to discuss shifting leadership for the committee work from the Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce to the four governing bodies. The Mayor said he will contact his counterparts in the four communities and set up a joint meeting in August.

**New Business:**

**A) 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2012-01 Bulk Trash – Revisions to Chapter 18 Warned for 7:15 PM.**

Councilor Boutin led the discussion on the proposed ordinance revisions. There was discussion on the language

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on effective dates, how to address where screening is not an issue, getting feedback from the landlords' association and the zoning and inspection department, making sure placement of containers is as inconspicuous as possible, adequate setbacks, administrative waivers, placement of containers as part of the rental inspection program, and licensing containers.

Ordinance #2012-01 was approved for its second reading to be held on July 24, 2012 on motion of Councilor Etlí, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

**B) Award of Quarry Street Intersection Interim Reconstruction Bids.**

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the bids received for the Quarry Street project and recommended Council award the contract to the low bidder, Moran Construction, and ratify the stipulations previously agreed to with regards to the Northeast Materials Group Act 250 permit.

Councilor Poirier said residents abutting the area in question are concerned about increased traffic noise related to the removal of buildings and trees. The Manager said he will be setting up a meeting with VTRANS to discuss the project and share the neighbors' concerns. Councilor Poirier said he would like the Council to visit the area on its next neighborhood tour day. Mayor Lauzon asked Manager Mackenzie to get a copy of the scope of work from VTRANS to share with the Council. Councilor Poirier asked the Manager to call one of the area residents to hear her concerns.

Council approved the Manager's recommendations on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

**C) Update on Orange Spillway Repairs.**

Manager Mackenzie said the City sent out the request for repair bids about two weeks ago. The City has been meeting with FEMA to ensure that the plans will be eligible for FEMA coverage. The bid results should come to the Council for approval in early August. The deadline for completion of the work may be extended to next year. Mayor Lauzon asked that the engineers who designed the temporary repairs inspect the spillway and submit an opinion letter affirming that the structural integrity of the temporary repairs will last until the permanent repairs can be completed.

**D) Review/Revision of Barre City Fee Schedules.**

Clerk Dawes reviewed the list of proposed fee changes, and said additional changes are being developed by the inspections program. Mayor Lauzon said he would like to see parking permit fees increased above the recommended levels. Councilor Poirier made the motion to approve the fee changes. Mayor Lauzon asked to hold off on any action until the inspections program makes its recommendations. Councilor Poirier withdrew his motion. Councilor Poirier talked about the inspection program and fees in Winooski and suggested Winooski be contacted for additional information. The fee schedule, with input from the inspection program, will be on the agenda for discussion at the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**E) Review/Revision of City Investment Policy.**

Council approved the City Investment Policy revisions as presented by Clerk Dawes on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Etlí. **Motion carried.**

Clerk Dawes said she spoke today with the attorney handling the Semprebon estate about the balance of the estate that has yet to be distributed. The attorney suggested the City draft a letter requesting the balance of the estate funds, and assuring the estate that any taxes that may come due on the estate will be paid by the City out of the distribution. Council concurred and the Clerk will draft the letter.

The Clerk distributed a spreadsheet with expenditures from the Semprebon Bequest Fund. Mayor Lauzon asked for one that includes the Semprebon annuity funds and the anticipated final estate distribution.

**F) Council Authorization of FY 13 Current Expense Note (CEN).**

Clerk Dawes said the paperwork for the CEN was not available in time for tonight's meeting, but will be on the agenda for next week.

**Other)**

Manager Mackenzie said he was prepared to present the final proposed Hope Cemetery renovations budget numbers to the Council this evening for approval. Mayor Lauzon said it will be placed on the agenda next week for discussion and action.

**Other)**

Mayor Lauzon said he will be bringing forward a Semprebon Fund request for funds to cover the cost of retaining a consultant to complete the City's TIF district application. The Mayor said the funds would come from reimbursement of Semprebon funds granted to the City Place project, which will be reimbursed by the developer. He said the Council will spend time over the summer and fall educating the voters about the TIF district, and place it on the November ballot for voter approval.

**Round Table –**

Councilor Boutin said he was glad to see the grass along Route 62 has been mowed. He asked if TIF funds could be used for development of the bike path, and Mayor Lauzon said yes. Councilor Boutin said he would support using TIF funds for the bike path rather than Semprebon Funds.

Councilor Smith reviewed the activities for tomorrow's Wednesdays in Barre.

Councilor Herring said Front Porch Forum is up and running, and said he would like to update the Council on FPF at next week's meeting.

Councilor Poirier asked if there has been any communication since the Council's visit to the stream next to Beverage Baron. Manager Mackenzie said an email was sent to the property owner, but he is not aware of any response to date.

Mayor Lauzon said he is concerned about the incident in which a man crashed a vehicle into a Barre City cruiser and the Barre Town cruiser. The Mayor said he is disappointed that the perpetrator was not held on more significant bail, and is concerned for the safety of the public and the City's police officers. He said he would like to have a conversation with the judge about his motivation in setting the bail amount.

Council went into executive session at 9:02 PM to discuss negotiations, litigation and personnel issues on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried with Mayor Lauzon and Councilor Etlh voting against.**

Council came out of executive session at 9:42 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 9:42 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk