

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held August 7, 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 Clerk Carolyn Dawes.

We Dig Barre Treasure Dig Drawing. We Dig Barre chair Mary Jane Magnan and mascot Digger invited Councilor Chadderton 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 Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular Meetings of July 24, 2012
- City Warrants as presented, including a Community Development Warrant payable out of a municipal planning grant.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Entertainment license for the Barre Lions Club's Grills Gone Wild event at the Granite Museum on Saturday, August 25, 2012 from 1:00 PM – midnight.

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

- The first quarter tax payment is due by August 15th.
- Early/absentee ballots are available for the August 28th primary election.

Clerk Dawes asked if Council wants to move the August 28th meeting to Monday, August 27th due to the primary election. Council voted to move the meeting to the 27th on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Building Permits –

Council approved the following building permits on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Boutin.

Motion carried.

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Ray & Joyce Marshall	21 Jorgensen Ln.
Tammy Lin LaClair	23 Palmisano Plaza
Brian & Katie Lane-Karnas	164 Camp St.
Richard & Driscoll Morey	123 Elm St.
Mehmed & Muradija Malagic	26 Colby St.
Adeleke Fajobi	99 Maple Ave.
Kevin & Donna Scott	41 Park St.
Scott & Vicki Langevin	14 Nichols St.

Liquor Control Board –

Council approved a Request to Cater permit from The Quarry Grill & Tavern for the Lions Club's Grills Gone Wild event at the Granite Museum on Saturday, August 25, 2012 from noon – 2:00 AM under the conditions imposed by Chief Bombardier on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

Visitors and Communications –

Cambria Street resident Nancy Pearce said there were a number of people present who live in the area surrounding the former North Barre Granite building, and they are here to share their concerns about a recent newspaper article that says a biomass firm is slated to occupy the building. Ms. Pearce said she and other

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neighbors have heard reports from someone living near a similar facility in South Barre about smoke and putrid odors coming from the facility twice a week.

Mayor Lauzon asked Councilor Smith to take over chairing the meeting so he could respond as owner of the building in question.

Mr. Lauzon passed out a map of the area and reviewed the history of the property. He said there is no permit required for the proposed biomass business which will manufacture gasification systems. He said he spoke with the Barre Town planning & zoning department to see if there have been any complaints filed with regards to the South Barre facility, and was told no complaints have been received. Mr. Lauzon said this matter rests in the hands of the Barre City Planning & Zoning Department.

Councilor Boutin asked if there's an opportunity for neighbors to appeal, and Manager Mackenzie said an appeal can be filed with the City Planner, and would be heard by the Development Review Board.

There was discussion about OSHA, EPA, emissions and health issues. Mr. Lauzon said he would be glad to meet with the neighbors and the business owner to discuss the issue.

Councilor Poirier said this discussion is not a Council matter, and any appeal needs to go to Planning & Zoning.

Acting Mayor Smith stepped aside and Mayor Lauzon resumed chairing the meeting.

City Manager Report –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- Attended meetings with/on:
 - DRB procedures.
 - Fact finding session for DPW union negotiations. Session led to a tentative agreement for a 4 year contract. Details will be shared with Council next week in executive session.
 - Union contract negotiation session with firefighters.
 - Big Dig.
 - VLCT health insurance re. next year's rate.
 - BEAR energy committee re. street lighting. They are recruiting volunteers to help assess the streetlights throughout the City.
 - Spillway bid opening.
- Reviewed schedule for upcoming Council tours of City facilities. Next week the Council meeting will begin with a tour of the wastewater treatment facility at 6:00 PM.

Old Business –

A) Public Safety Committee Updates:

- **Fire Department** – Councilor Poirier said there are three areas of focus; 1) separate or joint chiefs; 2) the need for deputy chiefs; 3) staffing rotation. He said he will be visiting with the White River Junction and Montpelier fire departments to talk with their chiefs, then the committee will sit down with Manager Mackenzie and Chief Bombardier and come up with recommendations for next year's budget.
- **Police Department** – Councilor Smith reported on the following:
 - The committee met with Citizens Public Safety Committee chair Rachel Piper, and Chief Bombardier to discuss ticket revenue. The Chief will be submitting updated reports to the Council.
 - Crime Stoppers is up and running again in the City.
 - Residents can sign up for the NIXL system to receive notices of alerts.
 - Working to come up with a plan to address graffiti on Main Street.
 - The Chief will give an update on the community interventionist program at next week's meeting. The program continues to offer community partners mini-grants, and there may be a

- way to use such a grant to address the graffiti issue.
- The Chief will update the Council on the Norwich University report on crime statistics in Barre City. The bike patrol Bees are using the report to identify areas for increased patrols.
- The City will be working with Norwich over the winter on a program similar to the Bees, which is being referred to as the Polar Bears.
- The Police Department, in conjunction with the Barre Partnership and Meyers Containers, is hosting the Community Picnic on Wednesday, August 15th.
- The Chief will be at the August 21st Council meeting to present the proposed parking program.

There was discussion about staining that occurred on the Youth Triumphant memorial during the Heritage Festival. Manager Mackenzie said the monument has been re-cleaned, and signs will be put up to limit food & drink. Mayor Lauzon said the City may need to put up permanent bollards to limit access.

New Business –

A) Council Consideration of Semprebon Fund Committee Proposals.

Committee chair Hannah Etli distributed a list of proposals that were received by the Committee, and the recommendations to Council. There was discussion about the past requests from the Granite Museum and the need to measure community support for the project before considering the requests.

Council discussed the \$50,000 recommendation to be put towards lighting at the Spaulding High School football field. There was discussion about placing the cost of the project on the ballot and sharing the cost with Barre Town.

Councilor Poirier made the motion to approve \$50,000 from the Semprebon Fund for the lighting project, seconded by Councilor Etli.

Mayor Lauzon requested a friendly amendment to \$90,000, with a contingency that Barre Town match the donation. Councilor Poirier agreed to the friendly amendment. Councilor Etli said he would prefer amending to \$180,000 to make sure the project gets done. Mayor Lauzon said he would like to discuss the issue with the Barre Town Selectboard before spending \$180,000.

Former SHS teacher Mike Gilbert said this is an important project for the kids. There was discussion about the need for the kids to help raise some of the funding, Barre City not funding the entire project, and not using Barre City tax dollars for the project.

SHS board member Giuliano Cecchinelli said the committee that's overseeing the athletic field improvements is willing to fund raise. Mayor Lauzon said the first step should be talking with the Barre Town Selectboard and the SHS school board. Art Dessureau said it needs to be jointly funded with City/Town tax dollars, and that money from the Semprebon Fund should be at a reasonable level.

Councilor Etli agreed to second the friendly amendment.

Councilor Boutin called the question. **The calling of the question failed with Mayor Lauzon and Councilors Chadderton and Boutin voting in favor and Councilors Smith, Etli and Poirier voting against.**

Councilor Etli made the motion to amend the original motion to \$180,000 with no contingencies. The motion was seconded by Councilor Poirier.

There was continued discussion about the purpose of the Semprebon bequest and options for fundraising and bonding. City resident Pete Fournier said this is a joint Barre City/Barre Town project. Semprebon Committee member Tom Semprebon said the Council is chipping away at the fund and his brother wanted the money used for the bike path. Mayor Lauzon said the City is exploring other options for funding the bike path, including a

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TIF district and reaching out to our congressional delegation.

Council voted on the motion to amend the contribution to \$180,000 with no contingencies. The motion failed with Councilors Etli and Poirier voting in favor, and Mayor Lauzon and Councilors Smith, Chadderton and Boutin voting against.

Council voted on the original motion as amended by friendly amendment to contribute \$90,000 contingent upon Barre Town matching the contribution. The motion carried with Mayor Lauzon and Councilors Etli, Boutin, and Poirier voting in favor, and Councilors Chadderton and Smith voting against.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the rest of the list of projects recommended by the Committee for funding. The Mayor said he has no closure on the Tarquinio Park project. He said he would like to present a proposal to increase the contribution to the Vermont History Center so as to have a permanent display honoring Charles Semprebon and his bequest, and recommended having one of Mr. Semprebon's bikes on display at the History Center. He said he would like to have additional conversations with VHS and the Semprebon family before making a decision on the contribution to VHS. Council concurred.

Ms. Etli asked if Council wants the Committee to oversee projects that have been funded. Mayor Lauzon said yes, the Committee can provide guidance and report on progress monthly or quarterly.

Council approved \$3,000 to the Barre Opera House to support the camp program scholarships on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Councilor Etli made the motion to approve \$15,690 for the Civic Center sign and \$63,713 for improvements to the City Hall/Opera House building. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith. Manager Mackenzie said the estimates for both projects are low and recommended waiting until firmer estimates are available. Councilors Etli and Smith withdrew their motion.

Whitney Maxfield asked the Council for \$3,000 as the final amount necessary to complete the Civil War monument previously approved by the Council for City Hall Park. Council approved the request on motion of Councilor Etli, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

B) Errors and Omissions #1.

City Assessor Joe LeVesque reviewed the list of five properties proposed for errors & omissions adjustments. Mr. LeVesque said out of respect for privacy, he would refer to the properties by their numbers on the list. Council discussed the five properties, and voted to approve numbers 1, 2 and 5, and deny numbers 3 and 4 on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Etli. **Motion carried.**

C) Ordinance Revisions #2012-01: Trash Ordinance – Review of Corrections and Ratification of Approval.

Councilor Boutin reviewed the typographical error in Sec. 18-16(e). Councilor Boutin made the motion to remove the word "not", seconded by Councilor Chadderton.

City landlord Herbert Heath addressed the Council, saying he had participated in the drafting of the original ordinance. Mr. Heath said there are issues with the language that would require enclosure of containers, and that the City should have jurisdiction over placement. He said color of the containers could also be controlled and passed out photos showing color options.

City landlord Chuck Houle asked why the Council is blanketing landlords and not commercial properties. Mr. Houle said the City needs to be fair across the board.

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A representative from Meyers Container said enclosures would be difficult to work with and they would need to charge extra for accessing containers in an enclosure.

There was discussion about overflowing dumpsters around the City, theft of services by those who put their trash in someone else's container, location and condition of dumpsters impacting marketability of property and apartments and frequency of pick-ups.

Councilor Boutin read the ordinance language about exemptions and noted a typo in section 18-17(e). Councilor Boutin made the motion to amend his original motion to add replacing the word "with" in section 18-17(e) with "will", seconded by Councilor Chadderton.

There was continuing discussion about enforcement of the existing ordinance, regulating the placement of dumpsters and totes, rubbish language in ordinance chapter 7, non-payment, underservicing, zoning setbacks, and the possibility of a City staff person serving as a circuit rider by driving around the City and enforcing the ordinance by issuing tickets.

Councilor Boutin said he is willing to bring the ordinance back for additional review and revision.

Mayor Lauzon said the City could take over all trash collection in the City, put the contract out to bid, and then include collection in the property taxes.

Council voted to approve the amendment.

Council voted to approve the original motion as amended with Mayor Lauzon and Councilors Chadderton, Boutin, Smith and Poirier voting in favor, and Councilor Etli voting against.

Councilor Boutin said he would like to warn a new first reading for ordinance revisions for next week. He made the motion to warn the reading, seconded by Councilor Smith. Mayor Lauzon reviewed the timeline for the ordinance going into effect and said there was time for the Council to consider revisions. Councilors Boutin and Smith withdrew their motion.

D) Update on Orange Spillway Bid Results.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the bid tabulation list and said qualifications are being reviewed. The Manager said there is a meeting tomorrow with FEMA to review the bids, and he will come back with a recommendation in the next two weeks.

Round Table – NONE

Council adjourned at 10:36 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk