

**Special Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held September 18, 2012**

The Special Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order at 5:58 PM by Mayor Thomas Lauzon. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilor Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin (arrived at 6:02 PM) and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring (arrived at 6:00 PM).

Council went into executive session at 5:58 PM to discuss litigation and personnel on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.** Manager Mackenzie, City Attorney Oliver Twombly, Chief Tim Bombardier, Constance Pell, and Jim Carroll and were invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 6:52 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

The special meeting of the Barre City Council adjourned at 6:52 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held September 18, 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, Councilor Paul Poirier; 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 Carolyn Dawes.

We Dig Barre Treasure Dig Drawing. Barre Partnership board member Mary Jane Mangan and mascot Digger invited Councilor Chadderton to draw last week's winner, and announced this week's clue. Ms. Mangan said there will be one more drawing this year before the grand prize drawing in October.

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:
 - Special and Regular Meetings of September 11, 2012
- City Warrants as presented, excluding the Project Independence warrant, which will be taken up later in the agenda.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office: NONE

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

- Three properties were sold at tax sale last week.
- The Board of Civil Authority is scheduled to hold tax appeal hearings on September 20th.
- Ballots for the November 6th general election are expected to be sent electronically to military and overseas voters on Friday, September 21st, to comply with federal law. Paper copies of the ballots should be available next week, and will be mailed out to those who have requested early absentee ballots. The Clerk's office is accepting requests for early absentee ballots.
- The Clerk reported that the Spaulding Union High School Board has approved a warning to have a special ballot item before the voters at the November general election. The ballot article will be for a bond vote for replacement of the roof at the high school. Those who request early absentee ballots will receive both ballots.
- The registered voters from Ward I are invited to attend a ward caucus on Thursday, September 27th at 7:00 PM at Alumni Hall to fill a council seat vacancy until the March Annual (Town) Meeting.

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- The Board of Abatement is scheduled to hear appeals on Tuesday, October 9th starting at 5:00 PM.

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Location</u>
Courtnie & John Lange	24 N. Parkside Terrace

Liquor Control Board – NONE

Visitors and Communications – NONE

Old Business –

A) Public Safety Committee Updates:

- **Fire Department** –NONE
- **Police Department** – NONE

City Manager Report –

- Manager Mackenzie reported he attended meetings on/with Barre Area Development Corporation; Nelson Street hydro project; Vermont Granite Museum forum planning; museum segment of the bike path.
- The Manager and other City officials met with representatives from Concord, NH to tour the North Main Street Reconstruction Project and discuss how such a project is coordinated. Concord is in the planning stages for a similar project.
- The Manager updated the Council on the street paving program, saying 10 streets have been recently completed, with a few left to be done before the end of October.

Mayor Lauzon said he spoke with representatives of the Barre Town Selectboard and the Spaulding Union High School District board to invite them to a joint meeting to discuss the proposed football field lighting project. The Mayor said both boards declined to participate in a joint discussion.

New Business –

A) Code Enforcement Program Update.

Captain Matt Cetin, Chief Tim Bombardier and Deputy Chief Joe Aldsworth gave a presentation to Council on the code enforcement program. Capt. Cetin reviewed the record-keeping system and showed examples of the reports being generated. There was discussion on biannual inspections of hearing systems, requirements for smoke detectors, difficulties in contacting property owners, challenges with vacant buildings, and the issuance of citations for violations.

Mayor Lauzon asked that copies of citations be given to the Clerk so as to be available to people doing research in the land records.

There was continued discussion about citations, traffic court, issuance of health orders, and mandatory reporting in cases of child neglect.

Mayor Lauzon said he would like to invite members of the Vermont Senate & House Housing Committees to shadow the inspectors on an inspection so they can see the conditions in which some children are living.

There was continuing discussion about reaching out to other service providers to help in certain cases, using the City health officers and state health statutes, and re-emerging issues with bedbugs and fleas. Cpt. Cetin invited Councilors to go along on an inspection.

D) Resolution #2012-10 – Relating to VCDP Acceptance of 2012 CVCLT Scattered Site Grant.

City Planner Michael Miller and Martha Englert, deputy director of Central Vermont Community Land Trust (CVCLT), addressed the Council about the scattered site grant. Mr. Miller said the City was the lead applicant on the grant, which has been awarded to CVCLT for use throughout its service area. Ms. Englert said the \$352,000 grant will be used to improve aging housing stock through low interest loans. Mr. Miller said City Attorney Oliver Twombly recommends that paragraph four of the resolution be amended to read, "...that Central Vermont Community Land Trust, Inc. is designated as a non-profit community development organization (NCDO) for purposes of the grant agreement."

Council approved the resolution, with the amendment as recommended by Mr. Twombly, on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

B) Downtown Tax Increment Financing District – Future Public Hearing – Meeting Schedules.

Mr. Miller said the Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC) is scheduled to hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 27th in Barre City, when it will tour the proposed district and take public comment. Mr. Miller said VEPC is expecting to hold an additional hearing on Barre City's TIF application in November, moving towards approval in December. There would be an article on the debt ceiling on the March Annual (Town) Meeting ballot. Mayor Lauzon encouraged the public to read the City's TIF District application and the state report on other TIF districts. He asked that the state document be put up on the City website.

C) Downtown Tax Increment Financing District – Public Hearing 7:45 p.m.

Mayor Lauzon said any time the Council is discussing the TIF District, it will be warned as a public hearing so as to invite public input and participation.

E) Project Independence – Short Term Advance Pending Insurance Settlement.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the situation at Project Independence related to a sewer line break during the North Main Street Reconstruction Project, and the impact on cash flow for PI. The Mayor said PI receives voter-approved funds from the City, which are usually paid out quarterly, but it was recommended by the Clerk that the City pay out the balance of the FY13 funds in one payment to assist PI with its cash flow issues.

Council approved a special warrant payable to Project Independence in the amount of \$7,350 on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon said Project Independence does great work in the community and encouraged people to support the organization.

F) Ratification of Legal Settlement – Possible Action.

Councilor Smith made the motion to ratify the settlement reached through VLCT PACIF, the City's insurer, on terms and conditions reached during the early neutral evaluation on September 13, 2012, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon said there will be no comments on advice of counsel. The Mayor said the details of the settlement will be public after finalization.

Round Table –

Councilor Herring said there are 189 members on Front Porch Forum. He asked if Council was interested in revising the IT Committee. Councilor Herring and Councilor Boutin agreed to serve on the committee.

Councilor Herring asked about the request for ice fishing at the Dix Reservoir, which was brought to the Council several months ago. Manager Mackenzie said the request was withdrawn.

Councilor Herring asked when Council will take up the discussion on truck traffic on North Main Street. Mayor

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Lauzon said it will be on the agenda in October.

Councilor Poirier said he has heard from people that the use of computers by Councilors during a meeting is rude. He asked that a discussion on the topic be placed on the agenda after the vacant Ward I seat is filled.

Councilor Smith said the Vermont Granite Museum will be holding a public forum on October 11th to discuss the future development of the museum. He said there is a survey being conducted, and the link will be placed on the City website.

Manager Mackenzie said Studio Place Arts has invited the Council to an informal open house next week before the Council meeting to meet the artists selected for two of the Semprebon-funded public granite sculptures.

The Manager said the street lighting survey has started. He also said the Big Dig contractor, Luck Bros., has announced there will be changes in traffic flow on Elm/North Main/Washington/Summer Streets over the next several nights, as work continues in those areas.

Mayor Lauzon reminded people to support Project Independence. The Mayor said he was disappointed that the Barre Town Selectboard and Spaulding Union High School Board were not willing to participate in a discussion about the proposed football field lighting project. The Mayor said the Semprebon funds originally approved by the Council for that project were contingent upon a Barre Town match, and without the match, the funds will no longer be appropriated.

Council adjourned at 9:10 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk