

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held October 2, 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 Charles Dindo and 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 Magnan and mascot Digger invited Councilor Dindo to draw last week's winner. Ms. Magnan said this is the final weekly drawing, and the grand prize drawing will be next week during Digger's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday party. In celebration of Digger's upcoming birthday, cups of "dirt cake" topped with gummy worms were distributed to the Council and those in the audience.

**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 September 25, 2012
- City Warrants.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
  - Entertainment license for Phil Scott for Lieutenant Governor gathering in Currier Park on Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 6:00 PM.

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

- The registered voters from Ward I held a caucus on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> to fill a council seat vacancy until the March Annual (Town) Meeting. Charles Dindo was elected and sworn in at the caucus.
- The Board of Abatement is scheduled to hear appeals on Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:00 PM.
- Both general election ballots and SUHSD bond vote ballots have been received by the Clerk's office, and early absentee ballot requests are being processed as they are received. More than 350 requests have been received to date.
- The Board of Civil Authority is scheduled to meet on Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM to hear the report of the inspection team from the September 20<sup>th</sup> assessment appeal hearings. The BCA will also discuss procedures for conducting appeal hearings in the future.

**Approval of Building Permits** – NONE

**Liquor Control Board** – Clerk Dawes called attention to copies of DLC violations and payment of fines that were included in the Council packet.

**Visitors and Communications** –

Mike Jarvis from Flags for Veterans said the committee places flags on all identified veterans' graves in all seven Barre area cemeteries. The committee recently completed identifying 2,400 veterans buried in the Barre area, and he presented a book of the listings to be placed in the permanent City records. He said other copies of the book are on file in Barre Town, the library, and are available for purchase. Mr. Jarvis said anyone who knows of any veterans buried in Barre cemeteries that are not included on the list should contact him. Mayor Lauzon said the City will put information about the book and the continuing search for vets buried in Barre cemeteries on the City website.

Jeffrey Friot appeared before the Council as a prospective appointee to the Planning Commission. Mr. Friot discussed his reasons for wanting to join the commission. Council appointed Mr. Friot to the Planning Commission on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Ron Tallman from the Barre Area Veterans Council updated the Council on the Veterans Day ceremonies scheduled for Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. They plan on re-dedicating Youth Triumphant during the ceremonies and are working with Manager Mackenzie to issue invitations to those involved in the recent restorations. Mr. Tallman said the Veterans Council is willing to help the City with funds to replace flags as needed.

Mayor Lauzon said members of the Council toured the City playgrounds before tonight's meeting to review the recent improvements which were funded primarily through the Semprebun Fund. The Mayor said the City received word about the final disbursement from the Semprebun estate, and that an additional \$1,049,641.34 will be received in the near future.

Mayor Lauzon talked about last night's special Council meeting at the Spaulding Union High School board meeting. The Mayor said SHS will be going forward with fundraising efforts for the football field lighting project, and next week's Council agenda will include an item to review and revise the previous Semprebun Fund contribution to the project.

#### **City Manager's Report – NONE**

#### **Old Business –**

##### **A) Civil War Monument Location Review.**

Mayor Lauzon said there was a meeting earlier today to finalize the details for the placement of the monument. Manager Mackenzie said all parties have agreed on placement in City Hall Park opposite a bench located near the fountain at the Church Street/Washington Street end of the park. Mayor Lauzon said the City will provide necessary excavation of the site. Mr. Whitney said installation is scheduled to be completed by November 1<sup>st</sup>, and the monument will be dedicated on Memorial Day 2013.

Council approved the placement location as presented on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

#### **New Business –**

##### **A) 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading and Public hearing for Ordinance #2013-02 Water Shut Off Ordinance Review – Warned for 7:15 PM.**

Mayor Lauzon opened the public hearing at 7:33 PM. Clerk Dawes reviewed the revisions, and said the proposed language was published in the newspaper over the weekend. Mayor Lauzon invited public comment, and hearing none, closed the public hearing at 7:35 PM.

Council approved the proposed ordinance changes on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

##### **B) 1<sup>ST</sup> Reading of Ordinance #2013-03 Ordinance Revisions Chapter 18 Trash.**

Councilor Boutin reviewed the proposed revisions. There was discussion about minor edits and removal of sec. 18-17(c).

Council approved scheduling a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and public hearing for next week's Council meeting on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

**C) Orange Spillway Repair – Contract Award Approval.**

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the memo and bids for the spillway repairs, and recommended Council award the contract to low bidder JP Sicard, as recommended by Dufresne Group, the engineering firm working with the City on the project.

Councilor Boutin made the motion to award the contract to JP Sicard as recommended, seconded by Councilor Dindo. There was further discussion.

Mayor Lauzon said the references included in the memo are not glowing and he is not convinced. Manager Mackenzie discussed the references, “responsive and responsible” criteria, federally funded projects, FEMA and local match funding, and potential consequences should the City not award the bid to the low bidder as recommended.

Mayor Lauzon asked for a motion to table the matter. Councilor Poirier made the motion to table, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried with Mayor Lauzon and Councilors Dindo, Smith, Herring and Poirier voting for, and Councilors Boutin and Chadderton voting against.**

Mayor Lauzon asked for a motion to suspend the rules so discussion on the matter could continue. Councilor Herring made the motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon said he would like the Manager to provide additional information to the Council. Councilor Poirier said he wants the Manager to look at the issue closely and come back with a recommendation. Mayor Lauzon said he would like representatives from JP Sicard to attend next week to meet with the Council. The Mayor said he would also like to explore checking references on the second low bidder, SD Ireland. Manager Mackenzie said he will talk with Dufresne Group about the issue, and he will have representatives from JP Sicard at next week’s meeting.

**D) Authorization to Submit Grant Application to VT Historic Preservation Grant Program for City Hall/Opera House Façade Repair.**

Manager Mackenzie said the City is working with architect Jay White and representatives from the Barre Opera House on exterior restorations, and have prepared a grant application for \$20,000 from the state. The Manager said the application was filed yesterday, and he requested that Council approve the filing of the application and voice its support.

Council authorized the application on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

**E) Authorization of TIF District Market Viability Study.**

Manager Mackenzie said TIF consultant Stephanie Hainley recommended the City contract for a marketing study as additional support material for its TIF district application currently before the Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC). The Manager reviewed the proposal from Doug Kennedy Advisors. He said the estimated cost for the market study is \$6,500 - \$7,000, and it will be completed before the next presentation to VEPC, which is scheduled for November 5<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Lauzon said submittal materials for the next VEPC hearing are required by October 21<sup>st</sup>, so the study will need to be completed by then. There was discussion about where the funds will come from to pay for the study. Mayor Lauzon said the funds will be paid for out of the Semprebbon Fund and will be covered by the reimbursement funds that will be received from the City Place developer.

Council authorized Manager Mackenzie to enter into the marketing study contract with Doug Kennedy Advisors on motion Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

**Round Table –**

Councilor Poirier said the packet of materials for tonight's meeting included copies of a DLC citation issued to Gusto's for serving an intoxicated person. He said there has been at least one other similar citation in the past, and he requested that representatives from Gusto's attend a Council meeting over the next two weeks to let the Council know what is being done to prevent similar incidents in the future. Councilor Poirier said he would like any establishment that receives two or more DLC citations to meet with the Council to discuss the issue.

Councilor Herring said he gave a Front Porch Forum presentation to the Spaulding Union High School board at its meeting last night. He reminded everyone of the upcoming Vermont Granite Museum forum on Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 9:15 PM at the museum, and of the survey being conducted on-line by the Museum in advance of the forum.

Councilor Smith said he echoes the information about the Granite Museum's forum and survey.

Councilor Boutin welcomed Councilor Dindo.

Councilor Dindo reviewed the current program that is inventorying Barre City's streetlights.

Mayor Lauzon reiterated that last night's meeting with the high school board went well.

Council adjourned at 8:52 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