

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held October 30, 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, Councilor Michael Boutin; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring. Also in attendance were City Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk Carolyn Dawes.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Council approved the following consent agenda items as presented on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meeting:
 - Regular Meeting of October 23, 2012
 - Special Meeting of October 27, 2012
 - Special Meeting of October 29, 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:

- Early absentee ballot requests are being accepted for the November 6th general election. Nearly 800 ballots have been mailed or picked up to date.
- The last day to register to vote for participation in the November 6th election is Wednesday, October 31st by 5:00 PM. Polls will be open at the Civic Center Auditorium on Tuesday, November 6th from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM.
- The Board of Civil Authority is scheduled to hold its pre-election meeting on Thursday, November 1st at 5:30 PM in the Opera House lobby.
- There will be a lawn debris drop off at the Civic Center on Saturday, November 3rd from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.
- 2nd quarter property taxes are due by November 15th.
- Due to the election, next week's Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 5th.
- Due to Hurricane Sandy, tomorrow's downtown trick-or-treating has been rescheduled to Thursday, November 1st.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control Board – NONE

Visitors and Communications –

Granite Hills Credit Union CEO Susan Poczobut said the Credit Union has been vandalized three times in the past six weeks. She said they have installed security cameras, which caught the third incident on tape. Mayor Lauzon said the public needs to report such incidents as they see them. Councilor Chadderton asked for a report from Chief Bombardier on all cases currently under investigation, and said that such information will be helpful as budget preparation begins. Mayor Lauzon said he will ask the Chief to provide statistical information in advance of the budget preparations.

Mayor Lauzon thanked the Public Safety and Public Works Departments for their work over the last several days on prepping for Hurricane Sandy. The Mayor said there was great communication and participation from the state on down.

Mayor Lauzon wished City employee Sheridan Crowningshield a happy birthday, which was this past Sunday.

City Manager's Report –

Manager Mackenzie reported on meetings and activities over the past week, including the following:

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- Attended meetings on the mitigation of contaminants from the City Place properties.
- Attended the Big Dig progress meeting.
- Bids were opened for Contract II of the Nelson Street hydro project.
- Attended last week's TAC meeting on the truck route. The next TAC meeting is scheduled for November 14th.
- Attended a meeting with the Mayor and representatives from St. Monica's about the truck route. Mayor Lauzon said the church's concerns are about safety of pedestrians in the crosswalk in front of the church, and the lack of school zone signs in the area. Councilor Poirier said it is inappropriate for the Mayor and Manager to meet with interested parties on this issue when the Council has charged the issue to the TAC. Councilor Dindo said there have been complaints about speeding on Summer Street. Manager Mackenzie said the City is borrowing a tracking device from the Regional Planning Commission and will track speed and number of vehicles on Summer Street for the next week or so.
- Seven people have expressed an interest in serving on the budget review committee. The Manager will bring a list of the appointees to Council, and will hold an organizational meeting with the committee in the near future.

Visitors and Communications, cont. –

Nancy Wolfe, City representative to the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District, said the CVSWM municipal assessment has been reduced over the past two years and is \$1 per person for the current fiscal year. They will be offering a grant program in the near future, which would grant up to \$3,000 to a municipality for a special project. More information will be forthcoming to the Clerk. Ms. Wolfe said she will be out of town for the January and February CVSWM board meetings, and is seeking an alternate to attend in her place. Mayor Lauzon said the City will add the position to its list of board vacancies and will let Ms. Wolfe know of anyone who expresses an interest.

Barre City property owner John Clark took the visitors' seat. Mayor Lauzon apologized to Mr. Clark for his part in last week's exchange. Mr. Clark thanked the Mayor for his apology. He said North Main Street is almost awe-inspiring, that he learned a lot about TIF districts at last week's meeting, that any discussion of the bike path should refer to it as a multi-use path, and he suggested that tour busses might be a bigger item in Barre City, and he would be willing to offer his services and expertise to those who deal with tours. Manager Mackenzie said he will put Mr. Clark in touch with the right people.

Old Business –

B) 2nd Reading and Public Hearing Ordinance #2013-03 Ordinance Revisions Chapter 18 Trash Warned for 7:15 PM.

Mayor Lauzon opened the public hearing at 7:47 PM and reviewed his proposed amendments to the ordinance revisions. City property owner Herb Heath said all containers that include any garbage should be emptied weekly to be fair to everyone. Mayor Lauzon said there are other provisions in the ordinance that would address odoriferous trash and overflowing containers. Mr. Heath recommended an amendment to Mayor Lauzon's proposed amendments.

Councilor Herring made the motion to approve the ordinance revisions as presented, with the amendments as presented by Mayor Lauzon and Mr. Heath. The motion was seconded by Councilor Boutin.

Leslie Sanborn of R & L Archery asked questions about the language and the consequences of an employee tossing leftover food into the dumpster. Resident Frank Mikan suggested businesses get small composting containers. Ms. Poczubut said there are other items than food that can cause odor issues, and that visibility of totes can be an issue. Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce executive vice president George Malek said he had underestimated the additional costs to businesses when they are required to move to weekly pick-ups. Mr. Heath said he ran the costs estimates for his bulk containers and found the costs between weekly and bi-weekly pick-ups to be comparable. Councilor Poirier said he hasn't heard any negative comments from the Barre Partnership or Barre Area Development Corporation. Ms. Sanborn said Barre businesses are more than just the Partnership, and some businesses don't feel adequately represented in this chamber. Mr. Clark said the

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ordinance revisions could go through the summer months and be looked at next fall to see if they have accomplished what was intended.

Mayor Lauzon closed the public hearing at 8:14 PM.

Council voted on the motion as made by Councilor Herring and seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried with Mayor Lauzon voting against.**

New Business –

B) Youth Triumphant Memorial – Drain Selection.

Youth Triumphant restoration contractor Joe Calcagni discussed the difference between replacing the drains around the memorial with stainless steel or bronze fixtures, and recommended the City go with stainless steel. Council approved stainless steel on Mr. Calcagni's recommendation on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

A) Main Street Plowing Plan.

City Engineer Reg Abare reviewed the plowing process for North Main Street, and said there have been concerns because of the new pedestrian crosswalk bulbouts. Mr. Abare reviewed the City's plowing equipment and plans, and said salt will not be spread on the new concrete this year as it continues to cure. Sand will be used on the new sidewalks this year. Mayor Lauzon suggested Mr. Abare attend a Barre Partnership meeting to discuss the sidewalks, as some merchants have requested that less sand be used so as to avoid being tracked into their establishments.

Mr. Abare said the City's street paving program is scheduled to be completed by the middle of next week.

Old Business, cont. –

A) Approval of City Place Parking Lease.

Mayor Lauzon called Council's attention to the draft parking lease memo distributed at last week's meeting. Mayor Lauzon said it's the same \$120 per permit price as has been approved by Council for Granite City Developers. There was discussion about the permit price, which CPI index will be used in calculating the annual increase, and the duration of the contract.

Councilor Boutin made the motion to approve the parking lease and authorize Manager Mackenzie to sign on behalf of the City. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dindo.

City Planner Michael Miller reviewed the list of parking lots for which the permits will be issued and said overflow parking will be at the auditorium. There was discussion about surface parking, parking along Summer Street and the potential for a parking garage.

Council voted on the motion made by Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

New Business, cont. –

E) Approval of Tax Anticipation Note Application.

Clerk Dawes reviewed the documents for the FY13 TAN in the amount of \$750,000. Council approved the TAN on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

C) City Place Project – CVCLT Tenant Relocation Agreement.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the draft relocation agreement, and said Central Vermont Community Land Trust will administer the program for those being relocated from the properties associated with the City Place project. The relocation program has a budget of \$105,000 for relocation services, and \$15,000 payable to CVCLT for administration, with all funds being paid in City Place developer DEW in advance.

Council approved the relocation agreement and authorized Manager Mackenzie to sign on behalf of the City on

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motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

D) City Place Project – 9 Merchant St.

- **Authorization for Interim Purchase / Master Lease Agreement with DEW Properties, LLC.**
- **Purchase and Sales Agreement with DEW Properties.**

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the list of properties that are included in the City Place project, and who is purchasing what properties. The Manager said some contamination has been identified underneath the North Main Street and 9 Merchant Street properties, which has triggered a need for remediation. He said DEW has commissioned the Phase I and Phase II work necessary to begin mitigation. The City currently owns the North Main Street properties, which were purchased through the Neighborhood Stabilization Grant program. Mayor Lauzon said there are funds available to the City through the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources for mitigation on the properties, however, the City must own them. The Mayor said the interim purchase / master lease agreement would call for the City to purchase 9 Merchant Street and hold it through the mitigation period, after which DEW will purchase the property. During the City's ownership, DEW will begin demolition and construction on the site. The documents call for DEW to purchase the property from the City by July 1, 2013. The scheduled closing for the City's purchase of 9 Merchant Street is next Tuesday, November 6th.

Councilor Poirier asked if the City is in negotiations for the purchase of the Downtown Rentals property. Mr. Miller said no.

Mayor Lauzon said the purchase agreement for 9 Merchant Street will be on the Council agenda for Monday's meeting.

Round Table –

Councilor Herring said he has arranged a ride-along with Roland Bellavance of Bellavance Trucking, as was offered by Mr. Bellavance at the special meeting to discuss the Summer Street truck route. Councilor Boutin, Mayor Lauzon and Manager Mackenzie said they are also interested in going along.

Councilor Herring reminded everyone that the holidays are approaching, and this is a time to help others. He said he will be working to set up meetings of the Recreation Committee and IT Committee. He asked for reports from Capt. Matt Cetin and Chief Bombardier, as were previously requested.

Councilor Boutin said he would like statistics from the police department. Mayor Lauzon said he should contact Chief Bombardier directly.

Councilor Dindo said in the future he wants the Council to look into creating a stump dump. He said the Cornerstone restaurant is holding its grand opening this weekend.

Mayor Lauzon reminded everyone that the downtown trick-or-treating has been re-scheduled to Thursday, November 1st, due to Hurricane Sandy, and cautioned everyone to drive carefully while kids are out trick-or-treating.

Council adjourned at 9:20 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, 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