

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held November 20, 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 (arrived 7:23 PM); 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 November 13, 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:

- 2nd quarter property taxes were due last week. The warrant will be turned over to the delinquent collections office tomorrow. The delinquent rate is currently at 4.84%. It will be finalized with the warrant is issued.
- The winter parking ban is in effect from November 15th through April 1st. Overnight parking permits are available in the Clerk's office.
- City Hall will be closed Thursday & Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Annual licenses are being sent out for renewal, and will be coming to the Council through December for approval.

The Clerk reviewed the schedule of Council meetings through the holidays, and noted that Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Tuesdays. Mayor Lauzon recommended no meetings on December 25th and January 1st, and holding a special meeting on Thursday, December 27th. Council concurred with that schedule.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control Board – Mayor Lauzon called Council's attention to copies of the letter he sent to the owner of South Side Tavern, as requested at last week's meeting. Councilor Poirier asked for a report from the police department on the number of calls for service at that establishment. Councilor Herring expanded the request to a report on the number of calls for service for all similar establishments in the City. Mayor Lauzon said he will ask Chief Bombardier to attend the meeting at which the Council receives the report on the VT DLC South Side Tavern disciplinary hearing, scheduled for December 7th.

Visitors and Communications – NONE

City Manager's Report –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- Participated in a conference call with VT Emergency Management on the hazard mitigation buy-out grant for the Hilltop Avenue properties damaged in the May 2011 flooding.
- Continuing firefighter union negotiations.
- Attended bike path committee meeting, BADC executive committee meeting, 2nd presentation to VEPC of the Barre City TIF application, regional public safety authority meeting.

New Business –

C) Barre Town Thunder Chickens Snowmobile Club Request to Use City Property.

Council approved the Thunder Chickens' request for use of City property, contingent upon the City reserving the right to revoke the permission at any time, on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Old Business –

A) Bike Path Committee Update.

Speaking as a member of the committee, Councilor Dindo introduced members of the committee who were in attendance, and Evan Detrick from DuBois & King. Mr. Detrick gave a PowerPoint presentation on the work that's been done to date on the three segments of the path:

- Granite Museum Segment – approximately 1.6 miles that runs from the Granite Museum/Berlin town line to Granite Street. The segment is largely designed and entering the right-of-way phase. The City will begin seeking easements in the near future and construction could begin as early as next summer, depending on funding. The estimated cost is \$3.25 million.
- Merchant's Row Segment – runs from Granite Street to Prospect Street. Designed as part of the Merchant's Row master plan. The estimated cost of the entire master plan, including the bike path, is \$3 million.
- Barre City/Barre Town Connector Path – runs from Prospect Street to the Barre Town line, mostly along the existing bike path. Conceptual plans are being developed and alternate alignments are being explored. The estimated cost is \$700,000.

There was discussion on how Prospect Street will accommodate vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles; bridges and maintenance along the path; and funding options. Mayor Lauzon said he would like to hold a joint Barre City/Barre Town/Berlin/Montpelier meeting to discuss the regional path and identify federal and state funding opportunities.

New Business –

A) Aldrich Library Board of Directors Presentation.

Library board chair Nancy Pope introduced director Karen Lane, young adult program manager Sarah Costa and fellow board member Mark Alexander. Ms. Lane talked about different ways the public can access the library, and the variety of programs offered over the past year. She thanked the Council for the appropriation from the Semprebond Fund that funded the young adult pilot program. Ms. Costa spoke of the teen and young adult programming she coordinates. Ms. Pope discussed library finances including the appropriation from the Semprebond Fund, the bequest from Ron York, and the Barre City appropriation. She asked that the Council appropriate \$122,000 - \$124,000 for the library in FY2014.

Councilor Poirier reviewed a memo from Clerk Dawes, outlining other ways the City supports the library through financial and payroll services, the service contract for the elevator and bond payments.

Councilor Poirier asked if the Council liaison to the library board could be a voting member of the board. Ms. Pope said voting membership on the board is controlled by the library by-laws. There was discussion about the role of Council liaisons and organizations keeping the Council informed through regular reports.

B) Holiday Free Parking.

Council approved making all regularly metered parking spaces free parking through the holidays, from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day, on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Other)

Mayor Lauzon distributed his cover memo and copies of the regional public safety authority report. The Mayor said there will be a joint Barre City/Barre Town/Berlin/Montpelier meeting on Monday, December 3rd, to discuss the report and his recommendations. There was discussion about representation on the governance board and phasing the transitions. The Mayor said he will also bring up the subjects of the regional bike and recreation path and a regional water & sewer commission at the same joint meeting. Councilor Herring asked if the Washington County sheriff's office can be useful in the regional public safety authority. Mayor Lauzon said it would be interesting to explore expanding to a county-wide model.

Round Table –

Councilor Herring said the IT committee met last week and is working on a draft social media policy, a policy on use of electronic devices, and short & long term goals. He said the recreation board held its 1st meeting, and they are gathering ideas and volunteers. He gave an updated report on Front Porch Forum.

Councilor Chadderton said she received calls reporting trucks on North Main Street in spite of the Summer Street truck route. Manager Mackenzie will speak with Bellavance Trucking to ask them to remind their drivers about the truck route, which is still in effect.

Councilor Dindo wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and reminded them to help those in need.

Mayor Lauzon echoed Councilor Dindo's comments. The Mayor said City Place continues to move forward.

Council went into executive session at 8:46 PM to discuss litigation on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council came out of executive session at 9:08 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 9:08 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