

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held December 4, 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 Charles Dindo; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith (arrived 7:27 PM); and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring. Also in attendance was Clerk/Treasurer 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 27, 2012
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Food Establishment License, L & M Diner, 240 N. Main Street. (includes 2013 license)

Councilor Herring noted the minutes from the November 27th meeting reference a motion to divide a question and that a second is not required. However, after researching the issue, Councilor Herring said a second is required for such a motion in the future.

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

- Annual licenses are being sent out for renewal, and will be coming to the Council through December for approval.

The Clerk asked Mayor Lauzon about the special Council meeting scheduled for Monday, December 10, 2012. The Mayor said the time and location have not been finalized.

Approval of Building Permits – Council approved the following building permits on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried with Councilor Chadderton abstaining.**

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Lucette Lentini/Gary Lentini	Abbot Avenue (vacant lot)
Chad & Deborah Chase	18 Jorgensen Lane
Lawrence & Anita Chadderton	32 Foster Street

Liquor Control Board – NONE

Visitors and Communications – Rose Wheeler-Stilson, coordinator for Toy Joy, passed out a flyer about this year's toy distribution on Saturday, December 15th at Bethany Church in Montpelier. Ms. Wheeler-Stilson said she is looking for guidance in establishing non-profit status for the organization. Mayor Lauzon said his accounting firm will assist in filling out the necessary paperwork. Ms. Wheeler-Stilson talked about the toy distribution and who is eligible to receive toys.

City Manager's Report – NONE

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

B) Code Enforcement Program Update.

Chief Bombardier, Capt. Matt Cetin, Deputy Fire Chief Joe Aldsworth and City Inspector Robbie

Strachan addressed the Council on code enforcement. Capt. Cetin reviewed the inspections data since the beginning of the fiscal year, the process for addressing violations and writing citations, and the most commonly found violations involving CO detectors, smoke detectors and inspections of heating appliances. Chief Bombardier said citations are handled through traffic court and the City receives approximately 60 cents on the dollar for fines paid.

Councilor Smith arrived at this time.

There was discussion about reasonableness with regards to issuing citations, fair & equal treatment of everybody, and working with the landlord association to address issues.

City property owner John Clark said electrical permits take several weeks to issue, and asked if that would be taken into consideration during the inspection and citation process. Capt. Cetin said there would be a re-inspection and another 30 days would be given to come into compliance. There was discussion about notification to tenants before entering an apartment, City ordinance requirements for written notification to landlords, stickers to be issued that include information about dates of inspections, dates when detectors need to be changed out and dates when heating appliances need to be inspected.

Capt. Cetin reviewed before and after photos of properties that were cleaned up through the inspection process. There was discussion about the properties that fall under the inspection program, and Chief Bombardier said condominiums are to be inspected for life safety issues.

Capt. Cetin said the revisions to the trash ordinance have gone into effect and he is receiving a lot of calls related to totes. Chief Bombardier said complaints about locations of totes are being triaged for priority.

Mr. Clark asked what the City's policy with regards to piles of tires is, and said tires left outside in the weather can accumulate standing water and be a breeding ground for mosquitoes. He mentioned a large pile of tires at Highgate and a business located on North Main Street. The Chief said the Department has discussed the tires with the business owner, and there is a rotation plan in place.

City property owner Robert Chartier said there is a vacant apartment building on Bugbee Avenue in which people have been squatting and lighting candles. Chief Bombardier said both the Police and Fire Departments are aware of the property and are working to make sure the building remains secure. Capt. Cetin reminded the public to call public safety if they see people in abandoned buildings. There was discussion about the possibility of condemning the property on Bugbee Avenue, and Mayor Lauzon said there is no danger of structural failure, so there is no opportunity to condemnation.

Mr. Clark said for the record that 25 Madison Avenue ceased to fall under the rental housing program oversight of the property when it became owner occupied in November. He asked about access to inspection reports, and Chief Bombardier said the reports are available upon request.

A) Granite City Grocery Update.

Granite City Grocery board members Emily Kaminsky and Hollie Friot updated the Council. Ms. Kaminsky said 258 people have indicated interest in becoming members. Once they have 600 interested people, they will hold their first membership meeting and begin collecting membership fees. Ms. Kaminsky said they have developed an FAQ document and it is available on the GCG website. She said there is a public informational meeting on Thursday, December 13th at 6:30 PM at the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Friot said GCG will have an informational table and items for sale at the Barre Holiday market this Friday from 3:00 – 7:00 PM at the Old Labor Hall. Ms. Kaminsky said they have been fundraising for a feasibility and marketing study, which they hope to begin in after the first of the year. She said they are reaching out to those for whom access to food and downtown is difficult, and they will

be starting a steering committee in January.

C) Truck Route – Discussion of Town Meeting Referendum.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed last week's Council action returning truck traffic to North Main Street from the temporary Summer Street truck route. There was discussion about placing an item on the March Annual meeting ballot to gauge public interest in evaluating other alternate truck routes. Maple Avenue resident Arnold Martin referenced a letter he wrote which was distributed to Council. Mr. Martin said he sees all the trucks he wants on Maple Avenue and most trucks break the speed limit. There was discussion about street parking on Summer Street, alternate truck route options, funding for construction of alternate routes, and exploring ways to clear congestion along the conjoined section of Routes 14 & 302.

Councilor Boutin made the motion to place the following question on the March ballot: Are the citizens of Barre City interested in pursuing an alternative route that is not Summer Street? After a brief discussion, Councilor Boutin withdrew the motion.

Councilor Boutin made the motion to place the following question on the March ballot: Are the citizens of Barre City interested in pursuing an alternative truck route through the Merchants Row area? The motion was seconded by Councilor Dindo.

Mr. Chartier said a moratorium should be placed on development along Merchant's Row until a decision is made. There was discussion about street parking on Summer Street, the recently completed conceptual plans for development in the Elm/Summer/Merchant/North Main Streets area, and alleviating congestion at the Seminary/Summer Streets intersection.

Councilor Boutin called the question, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion to call the question carried with Councilor Herring voting against.**

The Council voted on the motion made by Councilor Boutin and seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion did not carry with Councilors Dindo, Boutin and Herring voting for, and Mayor Lauzon and Councilors Chadderton and Smith voting against.**

Mayor Lauzon said he would like to change his vote, therefore **the motion carried with Mayor Lauzon and Councilors Dindo, Boutin and Herring voting for and Councilors Chadderton and Smith voting against.**

D) Review of Draft Policy: DLC Violations.

Councilor Dindo said he and Councilor Poirier were not ready to present a draft policy. Mayor Lauzon said he would still like to have the discussion. The Mayor said the state Department of Liquor Control has the inspectors and other resources to handle violations, and the City shouldn't be second guessing the state. He said new applicants come before Council for an interview, the Council has the opportunity for additional review of license holders during annual renewal process, and copies of violations and warnings are provided to the Council by DLC.

Attorney Jon Valsangiacomo said he represents a local license holder that originally had a DLC hearing scheduled for December 7th. Mr. Valsangiacomo said that hearing has been postponed.

There was discussion about trusting DLC, liquor license issues versus social issues such as fighting and noise, and the City attorney's opinion letter on the City's liability related to liquor issues. There was no interest by members of the Council in placing this item on the agenda again for further discussion.

Other)

Mayor Lauzon distributed a privileged draft copy of a ground lease agreement between the City and the City Place developers, and said a final version will be sent around before the end of the week and will be on the agenda next week for review and possible action. The Mayor said Council will need to approve the document before the closing which is scheduled for December 17th, so there may be a special Council meeting next week.

Clerk Dawes asked if the dollar amount associated with the closing is finalized, and if so, requested that the check be included in next week's warrants for Council approval. Mayor Lauzon said the dollar amount is finalized.

Round Table –

Councilor Dindo said there has been a rash of break-ins recently and reminded people not to leave valuables in their vehicles, and to lock their vehicles and homes.

Councilor Boutin reminded everyone of this Saturday's Dollar Drop, when Council members will collect money to ensure that all children in Barre City are able to celebrate Christmas.

Councilor Herring made the following announcements:

- The BCEMS chorus is participating in a tree lighting ceremony on Thursday.
- The BCEMS PTO is doing lots of great things in support of the school.
- The school is working on a secondary access road.
- GMTA is looking at expanding bus routes which would include service closer to BCEMS.
- The IT Committee is reviewing draft RFP language and draft policies for social media and computer usage.
- The Rec Committee is getting more information about programs out to citizens.

Mayor Lauzon reminded everybody of Saturday's Dollar Drop.

Council adjourned at 9:25 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