

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held December 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, 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/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

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

- Minutes of the following meeting:
 - Special and Regular Meetings of December 11, 2012
 - Special Meeting of December 13, 2012
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2013 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Waste Disposal Collector's License, DJ's Convenience Store
 - Waste Disposal Collector's License, Curt & Linda Doyle
 - Waste Disposal Collector's License, Haggett's Trucking

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

- Due to the holidays, there are no regular Council meetings on Tuesday, December 25th and Tuesday, January 1st. There will be a regular Council meeting on Thursday, December 27th.
- Information on the 2013 Annual (Town) Meeting election is posted on the Clerk section of the City website.
- All parking permits expire on December 31st. New permits are available in the Clerk's office.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control Board – NONE

Visitors and Communications –

Mayor Lauzon said Brian Amones has indicated an interest in being appointed to the Barre Housing Authority board. The Mayor will meet with Mr. Amones before making the appointment.

The Mayor thanked Manager Mackenzie for all his hard work bringing the City Place closing to fruition yesterday. The Manager said it was a team effort, including the Mayor, City Planner Michael Miller and Barre Area Development Corporation executive director Darren Winham, among others.

Mayor Lauzon invited Deputy Chief Joe Aldsworth to give an update on the gasoline leak at North End Deli Mart. DC Aldsworth introduced Joe Hayes from ECS, Ted Unkles from VT ANR and Matt Moran from VT Environmental Conservation. DC Aldsworth said the property owner is working closely with the City and State on mitigation efforts at effected properties.

Mr. Unkles gave a PowerPoint presentation that showed the cause and extent of the leak, what has been done to date and what still needs to be done. There was discussion about liability, and Mr. Unkles said the tank system is the owner's responsibility. There was discussion about the age of the system, repairs to the system, and recent inspections. Mr. Unkles said it looks like approximately 3,000 gallons of gasoline were leaked, based on inventory discrepancies.

Mr. Hayes gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Moran spoke about mitigation work in the basements of effected properties, looking for breaches in the sewer system, seepage of product into the sewer system and the potential for mitigating product entering the system.

Mr. Hayes spoke of continuing remediation efforts, including drilling to delineate the extent of the spread and putting in recovery wells.

There was discussion about the impact on property values for the effected properties and possible implications for future development in the area, disrupting the soil in the future, work on specific properties, and cost responsibilities for effected property owners. Mr. Moran said all current and future mitigation efforts are covered under the state's petroleum cleanup fund. Councilor Poirier said effected property owners should apply to the Board of Abatement for a tax abatement.

Mr. Hayes said ECS will be installing a full scale remediation system in the very near future, which will include a vacuum blower, oil water separator, air stripper and carbon treatments for water & vapor. He said it'll be 2-3 weeks before the full system is on line.

There was discussion about who the various parties working on the mitigation efforts report to. Mr. Hayes said ECS has been contracted the property owner to provide mitigation services. Mr. Moran said he is overseeing ECS's work. Mayor Lauzon said the state needs to sign off on all remediation plans. Mr. Moran said there is generally a public comment period when the plans are developed, and the plans are available in the Clerk's office and on the ANR website.

There was discussion about the total timeframe, and Mr. Hayes said it could take years to reach closure on the project. Mayor Lauzon suggested creating a contact list of effected properties to stay in touch with the owners about the status of the remediation. There was discussion about future replacement of the sewer lines under the street and issues of digging in contaminated soil. Mr. Moran said any such efforts would be covered through the petroleum cleanup fund. He thanked the Barre City Fire and Public Works Departments for their assistance and cooperation. Mr. Hayes echoed Mr. Moran's comments, and also thanked Allen Lumber for supporting the project.

Fire Captain Matt Cetin said building permits will come to the Council in the very near future for the above ground buildings that are to be installed as part of the mitigation efforts. He said the buildings will include a 250 gallon above ground propane tank. There was discussion about noise abatement related to the above ground buildings and their constantly running engines, aesthetics of the building, fencing and security.

City Manager's Report –

Manager Mackenzie said he spent most of last week getting ready for the City Place closing. He did participate in a mediation related to litigation and will update the Council in executive session.

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

A) Appointments: Housing Board of Review – Mr. Jeff Friot.

Council appointed Jeffrey Friot to the Housing Board of Review on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

D) Nelson Street PRV/Hydroelectric Project.

- 1) Authorization to Award Contract 1 (Turbine) to Rentricity, Inc. New York, New York.**

2) Authorization to Award Contract 2 (Vault) to J. P. Sicard, Barton, VT.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the bid documents and Manager Mackenzie's memo. Councilor Boutin made the motion to authorize the award of the following Nelson Street Hydro Project Construction Contracts and authorize the Manager to sign the contracts, contingent upon receiving approval to award from the State of Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation:

- Contract 1 to Rentricity, Inc. of New York City in the amount of \$175,000;
- Contract 2 to JP Sicard of Barton, VT in the amount of \$337,000.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

B) City Hall Façade Renovations/Upgrade.

Architect Jay White of RCWA Architects gave a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed façade improvements for the City Hall/Opera House building including removing the steps to the former police department entrance, re-locating the ramp on the front of the building, changes to the front entryway and façade, changing exterior lighting, cleaning and re-pointing the façade, sandblasting and re-painting the fire escape, cleaning and re-painting wood trim, replacing the windows in the planning and zoning office.

Mr. White said the estimated cost for the proposed work is \$114,000. Manager Mackenzie said the City has applied for a \$20,000 historic preservation grant from the state. Mr. White said the work can be prioritized and phased. There was discussion about tapping Semprebond funds for the work, who is identified to get the work done, and coordination with the neighboring Blanchard Block. Mr. White said the work would take approximately 3-4 months.

Mayor Lauzon said tapping into the Semprebond Fund would not affect the \$1.1 million that has been earmarked for the bike path. The Mayor said the Council will wait until it can review bids and make determination of what parts of the project to move forward with and where the funding will come from.

C) Errors & Omissions #3.

Clerk Dawes reported that this agenda item has been canceled. There won't be any additional errors & omissions this year.

Round Table –

Councilor Herring said the Recreation Committee met and is interested in seeing the Social Media Policy adopted so the committee can move forward with some of its initiatives.

Councilor Boutin wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilor Dindo said the state is offering free pertussis (whooping cough) vaccinations tomorrow at the Department of Health offices in the McFarland office building. He said there have been additional breaks in the City and he reminded people to take valuables out of their cars and lock their homes and cars. There was discussion about ways the City can combat the crime and drug problem.

Councilor Chadderton said she wants Chief Bombardier to come before Council to provide information about criminal cases, and that she recently met with the Chief and was told it was too much work for him to provide her with the information. Mayor Lauzon said he will get the Chief into a Council meeting to respond. There was discussion about holding people accountable, and engaging citizens, prosecuting attorneys, district attorneys and the police department. The Mayor said there will be a number of forums in January to discuss the issue with the public.

Mayor Lauzon said donations continue to come in for the Christmas for Kids program, and he wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

To be approved at 12-27-12 Barre City Council Meeting

Council went into executive session at 9:45 PM to discuss personnel and litigation on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Manager Mackenzie was invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 10:57 PM on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 10:57 PM on motion of Councilor Poirier, 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

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