

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held September 17, 2013**

The Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomas Lauzon at 7:00 PM at Barre City Hall. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilor Charles Dindo; from Ward II, Councilors Chadderton and Herring; and from Ward II, Alderman Michael Boutin and Councilor Michael Smith. Also in attendance were Acting City Manager Michael Miller and City Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

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

- Minutes of the following meetings:
  - Special and Regular Meetings of September 17, 2013.
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2013 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
  - Parade Permit for Spaulding High School homecoming celebrations. Parade scheduled for Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1:00 PM. Approval is contingent upon SHS coordinating with the Police and Fire Departments.

**The City Clerk and Treasurer Report** – Clerk Dawes reported on the following:

- Water/sewer bill payments are due by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Approval of Building Permits** – NONE

**Liquor Control Board** – Council approved a Request to Cater Permit application from Sugarsnap LLC for a reception at the Barre Opera House on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried with Alderman Boutin abstaining.**

**City Manager's Report** – Acting Manager Miller said the crosswalk signal on the corner of City Hall Park leading to the library was knocked down by the City's excavator while digging holes for the footings for the new flag poles. The signal will be repaired as soon as possible.

**Visitors & Communications** – NONE

**Old Business** – NONE

**New Business** –

**A) Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance 2013-06 Housing 7:15 PM.**

Mayor Lauzon opened the public hearing at 7:08 PM. In attendance for the hearing were Herb Heath, Chuck & Eileen Houle, Bob Nelson, Don Babic, Chief Tim Bombardier, Chip Castle and Frank Kochman. Fire Captain Matt Cetin and Zoning Administrator Janet Shatney reviewed the ordinance changes between the first and second readings. There was discussion among those in attendance on revised definitions, written documentation and orders, appeals, fees and fines, exemptions, invoicing procedures, vacant units, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, citing the relevant National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) codes, training for the Housing Board of Review, "intent" language and whether there is a cap on the annual fees. Mr. Nelson recommended adding language to specify the required type of smoke detector.

Mr. Castle, executive director of the Barre Housing Authority (BHA) said BHA is opposed to the inspection fee. He explained the organization's financial situation and said any such fees would need to

come out of the operating budget, which would have an impact on tenants. Mr. Castle introduced Frank Kochman, attorney for BHA. Mr. Kochman said BHA was created in 1965 and is tax exempt by state law. He said it is his opinion that the proposed fee is a tax and there are constraints on the use of HUD funding for taxes. He said such constraints are reflected in federal law and the 1965 cooperation agreement between Barre City and BHA, and he recommended the City get an opinion from the Attorney General on the tax exemption question.

Mayor Lauzon said the City's interpretation of the law is different. The Mayor said the fees are similar to building permit fees, which BHA pays, and are not a hidden tax. There was further discussion on different interpretations of law, HUD inspection standards, and the cooperative agreement. Mr. Kochman requested that Council table any action until there is an opinion from HUD. Mayor Lauzon said the City will not take any action this evening. The Mayor said the City has met the burden of the ordinance revision process as outlined in charter by having held the second reading and public hearing. He said the City will seek opinions on the matter and take up the discussion again within 30 days.

Mayor Lauzon closed the public hearing at 9:28 PM.

**B) Approval of the Purchase of Replacement Tasers.**

Chief Bombardier reviewed his memo on the proposal to upgrade the current Tasers and to enter into an agreement for a Taser assurance program (TAP), which offers a buyback option for old Tasers. There was discussion about cracking that's occurring in the current cartridges, length of warranty, anticipated savings by participating in the TAP, and possible sources for funding. Mayor Lauzon said he supports funding the initial upgrade through seizure funds and the TAP payments through the general fund, beginning in FY15.

Alderman Boutin made the motion to approve the upgrade and TAP as recommended by Chief Bombardier and supported by Mayor Lauzon. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dindo.

Chief Bombardier reviewed the history of the use of Tasers since their purchase nearly four years ago. The Chief said they have been used seven times, and they have also been an effective deterrent by virtue of being carried by the officers. There was discussion about ongoing training, and possible changes to current policy and procedure.

Council voted on the motion as presented. **Motion carried.**

**C) Approval of the Resolution 2013-15 for FY2014 Municipal Planning Grant Application.**

Acting City Manager Michael Miller said this year's planning grant will be in support of Barre Energy Awareness Resource (BEAR) developing a comprehensive energy plan for the City.

Council approved the resolution on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

**Round Table –**

Councilor Herring said discussions are being had locally about installing solar panels on City and school buildings. Mayor Lauzon said he has been exploring possible solar panel locations in the area.

Alderman Boutin reminded people of the SPA fundraiser, which will include chicken sh\*t bingo, on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>.

Councilor Dindo thanked Manager Mackenzie for the repairs on the Granite Street bridge. He announced a chicken pie supper and craft fair at the Congregational Church.

To be approved at 10-01-13 Barre City Council Meeting

Mayor Lauzon said he is proud of his wife, Karen, who is one of this year's honorees at the annual Joint Service Clubs Community Service Recognition Dinner. Clerk Dawes said the date of the dinner is October 9<sup>th</sup>, and announced all this year's honorees:

- Chet Briggs
- Harry Hinrichsen
- Karen Lauzon
- Linda Livendale
- John & Janet Poeton

Council went into executive session at 10:06 PM to discuss contracts, personnel and legal issues on motion of Alderman Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Chief Bombardier was invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 11:13 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 11:13 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

An audio recording of the meeting is available through the Clerk's Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk