

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held January 28, 2014**

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, Alderman Michael Boutin; and from Ward III, Councilor Lucas Herring. Also in attendance were City Manager Steven Mackenzie 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 Dindo. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular Meeting of January 21, 2014
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2014 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office: NONE

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

- Distributed list of candidates for election at the Annual (Town) Meeting.
- Early/Absentee ballot requests are now being accepted for the March 5th elections, and the deadline for voter registration is February 26th.
- Due to February 15th falling on a Saturday, and Monday, February 17th is President's Day, the third quarter property taxes are due by February 18th.
- All dogs must be licensed by April 1, 2014.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control Board –

A) Review of Liquor Control Policies and Procedures.

Clerk Dawes reviewed the draft policies and procedures, and asked for feedback. The Mayor suggested some revised language. The Clerk said she would revise the document and place it on next week's agenda for approval.

City Manager's Report – Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- The start of the Nelson Street hydro plant has been delayed until the latter part of February.
- VTRANS is reviewing the list of traffic signal complaints and other issues associated with the North Main Street Reconstruction Project and will present a proposal to address the issues.

Visitors & Communications – NONE

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

A) Warning: Final Public Hearing 7:15 PM – VCDP Close Out Community Development Block Grant for Gable Place CVCAC Campus.

Mayor Lauzon opened the public hearing at 7:11 PM. CVCAC executive director Hal Cohen reviewed the \$800,000 block grant, reported on what the funds were used for, and thanked the City and staff for supporting the project. There was discussion about increases in the number of those accessing services and the food shelf, increased staffing at the new campus, and the culinary and weatherization programs.

Mayor Lauzon closed the public hearing at 7:22 PM.

B) Warning: Public hearing 7:20 PM – Proposed Central Vermont Public Safety Charter.

Mayor Lauzon opened the public hearing at 7:22 PM. Council reviewed the revisions around the process of voting to approve the budget and made suggestions for additional changes. Clerk Dawes said she will get the information about changes to the Montpelier City Council for its review and approval, and will bring the revised language back to the Barre City Council for approval at next week's meeting.

C) Treatment Options for Drug Addiction.

This item was deferred.

D) Approve FY14 Streets/Capital Budgets Allocations.

Manager Mackenzie offered presentations on the paving program and capital equipment improvement plan. City Engineer Reg Abare reviewed the City street map and said over the last 30 years all City streets will have been paved at least once by the end of this fiscal year.

Manager Mackenzie recommended adjusting the paving schedule by one year to allow for funds to be allocated to the capital equipment improvement fund. There was discussion about spreading out equipment purchases to manage funds to allow for emergency needs, developing four year plans for street, sidewalks and capital equipment purchases and posting them on the City website. Budget & Finance Committee Chair Justin Johnson said the committee shares the Manager's view that it is important to invest in replacing equipment. Mayor Lauzon said Councilors will spend time in the City garage this summer familiarizing themselves with the City's equipment.

Council approved Manager Mackenzie's recommended FY14 streets/sidewalks and capital equipment allocations as follows on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

- Streets/sidewalks \$358,300
- Capital equipment \$452,500

E) Review of Revenue from Enforcement of Traffic and Ordinance Violations.

Chief Tim Bombardier reviewed the number of tickets issued by City police officers, and the percentage of the ticket fines actually received by the City. The Chief suggested revising City ordinances to allow for higher fines and a higher percentage being retained by the City. He outlined expenses associated with issuing a ticket and defending it in traffic court, and said the principal reason for traffic stops is three-fold:

1. Safety issues.
2. Correcting bad behavior.
3. Criminal activity.

There was discussion on what the City should be accomplishing when issuing tickets, the Bees bicycle patrol program, and partnering with Norwich University to provide internship and job opportunities.

Chief Bombardier said he had just come from a meeting with merchants and police personnel from surrounding communities, state police and ATF to discuss recent robberies, do's and don'ts, and offers to help inventory merchant safeguards and make suggestions for changes and improvements.

F) Review of FY14 Mid-Year Budget Status.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed his memo and quarterly budget analysis, and said the projected year end fund balance is \$12,000+. There was discussion about booking fund transfers on a monthly or quarterly basis, billing for the school's portion of the school resource officers, reviewing the numbers again at the end of March, and discussing cost overruns with specific department heads. Mr. Johnson said these quarterly reviews are a new management tool and an opportunity to make mid-year adjustments to manage funds.

G) Presentation of Proposed Final FY15 Municipal Budget.

Manager Mackenzie gave a brief overview of the estimated FY14 property tax rate calculations, year-over-year comparisons and new initiatives. There was discussion about tax stabilizations and the local agreement rate.

H) Approval of 2014 Annual Meeting Warning.

Clerk Dawes presented the draft warning. Mayor Lauzon and Manager Mackenzie requested revisions. Council approved the warning as amended on motion of Alderman Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

I) Obtain Final Council Input (Dedication, Photos, etc.) for Annual Report.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the photo options, including the spillway, Youth Triumphant, and cemetery improvements. Mayor Lauzon said he would like a photo montage showing crowds of people at downtown events such as the Heritage Festival and farmer's market. There was agreement from the Council on the dedication to Oreste and Helen Valsangiacomo.

Round Table –

Councilor Dindo said there is a dedication of one of the Semprebou-Funded sculptures in front of City Place tomorrow at 4:00 PM.

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:44 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Alderman Boutin. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk