

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held February 11, 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 Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Alderman Michael Boutin and Councilor Michael Smith; 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 Alderman Boutin. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular Meeting of February 4, 2014
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented, including a community development warrant payable out of the Scattered Site Grant.
- 2014 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Food Establishment License:
 - Maureen's Sweet Treats, 162 North Main Street.

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

- Third quarter property taxes are due by February 18th.
- Early/Absentee ballot requests are now being accepted for the March 4th elections.
- All dogs must be licensed by April 1, 2014.
- The Board of Abatement is holding hearings on February 19th, and the Board of Civil Authority is holding its pre-election meeting on February 27th.

To encourage people to license their dogs, Mayor Lauzon said pictures of the dogs will be posted on the bulletin boards in the City Hall lobby if the owners bring them in when completing their license.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control Board –

A) Approval of Liquor Control Policies and Procedures.

Council approved a new 2013 2nd class liquor license and tobacco license for DJ's Maple Ave. Deli LLC, 31 Maple Avenue, on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried with Alderman Boutin abstaining.**

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

- Received official notification that the City has been awarded a \$30,000 grant for the installation of two electric vehicle charging stations.
- Met with Barre Energy Action Resource (BEAR) to discuss upcoming initiatives including a weatherization audit of Alumni Hall, an energy audit of City Hall, developing a community energy plan, and working with Jeff Bergeron as he develops a facilities capital plan.
- A representative for the traffic signal cameras and controllers was in town reviewing and improving functionality.
- Attended kick-off meeting with Dubois & King on the design work for the Merchant's Row remediation system. Work could begin on the project as soon as funding is secured.
- Holding weekly parking team meetings as City Place comes on line.
- Getting close to closing on the Hilltop Avenue properties.

Mayor Lauzon talked about the Nelson Street hydro project and said there have been problems with

execution leading to delays. The Mayor thanked affected property owner Mr. Damore for his patience, and said Mr. Damore has requested an abatement of taxes on the vacant lot where the project is located. The Mayor said he would support offering Mr. Damore a refund on those taxes, payable out of the project budget. Manager Mackenzie said equipment testing will begin soon with the commissioning done by the end of the month.

Mayor Lauzon said he has been in contact with Green Mountain Power which is offering the possibility of installing two additional electric vehicle charging stations along Metro Way.

Visitors & Communications – NONE

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

a) BADC Update.

Barre Area Development Corporation (BADC) executive director Joel Schwartz gave an update of activities over the past year, including:

- Working with the Tax Stabilization Committee on revising the process and application.
- Obtained tax credits for buildings looking to make fire safety and façade improvements.
- Working with the consultant on the possible expansion of the designated historic downtown.
- Promoting the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District.
- Assisting in identifying additional funding for the Depot Square clean-up.
- Worked on the grant for the electric vehicle charging stations.
- Working with the Barre Partnership and VDAP team on branding initiatives.
- Worked on the issues surrounding the holiday pennants on North Main Street.
- Assisting on the transfer of Studio Place Arts' loan portfolio to Community Capital.

Items for the future include:

- Working on tax stabilization applications which will be coming to Council in the near future.
- Working to improve functionality of the BADC website.
- Focusing on job creation, production centers, expansion of visioning towards the City gateways.
- Looking at the Quarry Street intersection project and its impact on the Wilson Industrial Park.

There was discussion about the two long-term vacant buildings on North Main Street, filling upper floor spaces, expansion of the downtown historic district, working with Barre Town to allow truck traffic up Middle Road, and working with the City on preparation of documentation requesting amendment of the current FEMA flood maps.

Mr. Schwartz will prepare a memo for the Council on the historic district expansion project, letting them know of the status and completion of that project. He will also add the Council to the monthly BADC board packet distribution list.

Councilor Smith left the meeting at this point.

B) Circle/Barre City Police Arrest Grant Requesting Sponsorship and Authorization.

Circle co-director Meg Kuhner and Barre City Deputy Police Chief Andy Marceau updated the Council on the Arrest Grant program and requested authorization to apply for continuing funding. Ms. Kuhner said that since its initial receipt in 2005, the grant has allowed for increased collaborations and closer working relationships between the Department of Corrections and other service providers. Deputy Chief Marceau said the current grant expires on October, and this would be the third grant received for this

collaborative program. The current grant application is for \$300,000 over three years and the funding partially covers the cost of two Barre City Police Department detectives and three positions at Circle. Ms. Kuhner said the grant also provides funding for staff to attend training opportunities around the country.

Councilor Poirier made the motion to authorize applying for the grant, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

C) Barre City/Community Capital of Vermont MOU Regarding Studio Place Arts VCDP Loan. Mayor Lauzon said this item will be deferred until next week to allow all parties to review the paperwork.

D) Approval of Contract for Development of Form Based Codes in the Designated Downtown. Mayor Lauzon reviewed the memo from City Planner Michael Miller. Council approved Mr. Miller's recommendation of awarding the contract to Dreher Design for an amount not to exceed \$18,000 on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Alderman Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Other)

Mayor Lauzon said he shared with the Council an email he sent to the Greater Barre Community Justice Center (GBCJC), and said he would like to schedule a meeting with the GBCJC board, perhaps before a Council meeting.

Mayor Lauzon said the Council is scheduled to tour City Place before next week's meeting, starting at 5:45 PM.

Round Table –

Councilor Poirier said things are busy at the legislature. At the Mayor's request, he will look into whether legislation has been drafted to address the issue of pennants or banners along state highways that are also downtown main streets.

Councilor Herring said there will be a ribbon cutting at Maureen's Sweet Treats on Thursday. He reminded people of the Barre City Council/Barre City Elementary & Middle School Board joint budget community forum being held on Thursday, February 20th from 6:30 – 7:30 in the Opera House.

Alderman Boutin said he attended a meeting at the GBCJC last night, and they are receptive to City-appointed board members. Mayor Lauzon said the Council will discuss the issue with the GBCJC board.

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:18 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