

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held February 25, 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, Councilors Dindo and 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 Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Special & Regular Meetings of February 18, 2014
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented, with the exception of check #106485, payable in the amount of \$151,000 to Nortrax Northeast. The Manager said this check is part of the discussion under agenda item New Business (B) and will be acted upon at that time.
- 2014 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office: NONE

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

- Early/Absentee ballot requests are being accepted for the March 4th elections. Polls will be open at the auditorium from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM.
- Third quarter property taxes were due on February 18th. The delinquency rate is 4.83%.
- All dogs must be licensed by April 1, 2014.
- The Board of Civil Authority is holding its pre-election meeting on February 27th.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control Board –

Mayor Lauzon called the Council's attention to the Amended Notice of Hearing received from DLC.

City Manager's Report – NONE

Visitors & Communications –

Councilor Dindo passed around color-coded business cards with information about the parking meters. Clerk Dawes will share the cards with the Barre Partnership, which is working on a similar handout.

Old Business –

A) Barre Farmers Market Location Request.

Barre area farmer Alan LePage requested that the Council bless the move of the Barre Farmers Market to the Granite Museum for the upcoming year. The Market is also being moved from Wednesday afternoons to Saturdays. There was discussion about location, timing, and visibility. Mr. LePage said the Barre Partnership approves of the move. Councilor Herring said for the record that he serves on the boards of the Granite Museum and the Barre Partnership. Mr. LePage said the Market will be open from May 17th through mid-October.

Council voted its wholehearted support of the move for the Farmers Market on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

B) Resolution #2014-05 – Authorization to Transfer the Studio Place Arts VCDP Loan Portfolio Over to Community Capital of Vermont.

Barre Area Development Corporation executive director Joel Schwartz reviewed the SPA loans, the negotiated payoff memo and repayment schedule. Mr. Schwartz said all of the principal from the loans will be available for the revolving loan fund, with the possible exception of a portion of the initial payments. The revolving loan fund will benefit Barre businesses first, following by those in the surrounding areas and lastly statewide.

To be approved at 03-03-14 Barre City Council Meeting

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

Mayor Lauzon asked that the email communications on this discussion be included in the record.

New Business –

B) Authorization to Purchase (New) 2012 John Deere 624k Bucket Loader.

Manager Mackenzie said the loader in question is the one the City is currently leasing, and said the loader has been reviewed against the City's specifications. Most of the City staff that runs such equipment have operated the loader and are satisfied with its performance. The Manager said that based on the need and the lack of opportunity to go out to bid, City Engineer Reg Abare and he are recommending that Council approve the purchase of the loader. The gross cost is \$194,000, but with a municipal discount and credit for lease payments made to date, the net cost to the City is \$151,000.

There was discussion about the City's procurement policy, obtaining comparison bids, and timing for closing the purchase.

Mayor Lauzon requested that Manager Mackenzie and staff secure additional bids or pricing information for Council review, and he called a special Council meeting for Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 5:30 PM to review the additional material and make a decision with regards to the purchase of the bucket loader.

A) Public Information Hearing 7:30 PM For Public Questions to be Voted at Annual (Town) Meeting Election on March 4, 2014.

Mayor Lauzon opened the public information hearing at 7:40 PM. The Mayor noted it is a statutory requirement to hold such a meeting in advance of Australian ballot voting at the Annual (Town) Meeting Day elections. The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments. Hearing none, the Mayor closed the public information hearing at 7:41 PM.

C) FY2015 Budget Presentation.

Manager Mackenzie presented his PowerPoint presentation on the proposed FY15 budget, featuring a breakdown of the components of the budget and the new initiatives contained therein.

Round Table –

Councilor Herring said the Freezing Fun for Families annual fundraising event is this weekend.

Councilor Poirier said this is the time of year for potholes and encouraged people to drive carefully. He said he will not be at next week's meeting.

Mayor Lauzon asked voters to come out and support the City at the polls next week. He reminded Council that due to the Annual (Town) Meeting on March 4th, next week's meeting will be on March 3rd.

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk