

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held March 11, 2014**

The Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order by Acting Mayor Michael Smith at 7:00 PM at Barre City Hall. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilors Charles Dindo and Paul Poirier (arrived 7:07 PM); from Ward II, Councilor 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 March 3, 2014
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented, with the exception of #106670, which will be considered later in the meeting.
- 2014 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office: NONE

Mayor Lauzon arrived at this point in the meeting. Clerk Dawes administered the oath of allegiance and the oath of office to Mayor, who was re-elected at the March 3, 2014 Annual (Town) Meeting. Upon taking the oath, Mayor Lauzon assumed the chair.

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

- March 4<sup>th</sup> election results were included in the Council packet and are posted on the City website.
- All dogs must be licensed by April 1, 2014.
- Water & sewer bills are due by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Included in with the bill is information about direct debit of water & sewer bills. Customers may sign up to start this service with the June 2014 bill.
- The Clerk & Police Department have been working on revisions to the parking sections of Barre City Ordinance Chapter 17. Traffic. The first draft was included in the Friday packet. It will be on the March 18<sup>th</sup> agenda for discussion. Clerk Dawes said she is working with the Police Department on some additional language related to bagging meters.
- The Brusa Trust will be on the agenda for the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting for discussion of applying to Probate Court to expand the restrictions on the Trust so as to benefit more children in Barre City.

**Approval of Building Permits** – NONE

**Liquor Control Board** – NONE

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

- There is a summit meeting on Friday to discuss traffic signals.
- The City has received the formal buyout offers for the Hilltop Avenue properties damaged in the May 2012 flooding. Those offers have been passed along to the property owners and City attorney for review before moving towards closing.
- The closing for the transfer of the City Place properties is scheduled for tomorrow.
- There is a public hearing on the draft municipal plan updates on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Council chambers.
- There is a public informational meeting on parking on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at Alumni Hall.

Mayor Lauzon said the traffic signals don't seem to have been adjusted for Daylight Savings Time. The Manager said he will look into it. The Mayor said there is a significant winter storm predicted for the next two days, and he encouraged everyone to keep an eye on their roofs and vents.

**Visitors & Communications –**

Councilor Dindo thanked the Civic Center staff for their great work at the recent high school basketball tournaments. He said he noted some issues with traffic control as people are waiting for the ticket offices to open, and suggested there be additional traffic control next year.

**Old Business – NONE**

**New Business –**

**A) Council Approval of Stipulation re. Assessment Appeal.**

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the memo written by Clerk Dawes, outlining the stipulation and refund. Clerk Dawes recommended that Council approve the stipulation and authorize City Attorney Oliver Twombly to sign on behalf of the City. The Clerk said the motion should also include approval of the warrant for check #106670, which represents a refund payment to the property owner.

Councilor Herring made the motions as recommended by the Clerk, seconded by Councilor Boutin.

**Motion carried.**

**Other)** Mayor Lauzon said he has been in touch with the Agency of Natural Resources about the former All Fired Up property, recently acquired by the City. The Mayor said he is seeking authorization to remove the foundation and pave the area to add parking spaces. ANR has requested that the City submit a plan for the work to be done. Manager Mackenzie said Dubois & King is most familiar with that area, and he will develop the specifications for the requested plan and bring them back to the Council for consideration at the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. There was discussion about the number of possible parking spaces that could be added, the timeframe for completion of the plan, possible liabilities related to working on the contaminated site, and other changes to traffic and parking patterns that might yield additional parking spaces.

**Round Table –**

Councilors Dindo and Poirier said they were disappointed in the turnout at last week's Annual (Town) Meeting election. Councilor Dindo said he will work to increase participation at the budget re-vote. Councilor Poirier said the voters have spoken.

Councilor Herring asked that information on the proposed Civic Center Marketing Director position be on the Council agenda in two weeks, and review of the department reorganization book be on the agenda in three weeks.

Mayor Lauzon said the Council's intention is to warn the budget re-vote for May 13<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Herring said BCEMS will re-vote the school budget at the same time.

Mayor Lauzon thanked those who turned out for last week's election, and the Council will begin working on budget revisions at a March 22<sup>nd</sup> work session.

The Council meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk