

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held May 20, 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, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and 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, as corrected:
  - Regular Meeting of May 12, 2014
  - Special Meeting of May 14, 2014
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented, including a community development warrant payable out of municipal planning grant funds.
- 2014 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
  - Entertainment License:
    - Barre Veterans Council, Flag Day ceremonies in City Hall Park, June 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 6:45 PM. Approval includes access to the gazebo and electricity.

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

- Third quarter property taxes were due May 15<sup>th</sup>. The delinquency rate is 4.61%.
- Results from May 13, 2014 special election are in the Council packets.
- There are three properties scheduled for tax sale on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Approval of Building Permits** – NONE

**Liquor Control** – NONE

**City Manager's Report** –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- There are three days left in the yard waste disposal at the Barre Town stump dump.
- The speed cart and sign arrived last week and will go out this week. Residents can call the police department to request placement of the cart on specific streets.
- The Department of Public Works is coordinating a heavy equipment yard sale.
- Next week the City will be submitting the application for a \$1 million disaster relief grant on behalf of the Merchants Row project.
- The City Place ribbon cutting is Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The Nelson Street hydro project commissioning ceremony is tentatively set for June 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Visitors & Communications** – NONE

**Old Business** – NONE

**New Business** –

**A) Coin Drop Request – Barre Heritage Festival.**

Barre Heritage Festival committee member Renee Proteau requested Council authorization to hold a coin drop on Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM to benefit the Festival. Ms. Proteau requested an exception to the policy which states that coin drops will be held on lower Washington Street, and requested they be allowed to hold the coin drop on North Main Street in front of Domino's Pizza. There was discussion about location, safety concerns, frustrations voiced by the public, opportunities for vehicles to avoid the area, and making the area more visible to passing motorists.

To be approved at 05-27-14 Barre City Council Meeting

Councilor Boutin made the motion to approve the coin drop and allow the Heritage Festival to choose a location near Dunkin Donuts. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dindo.

Councilor Herring said he wanted the record to reflect that he serves on the Heritage Festival promotions committee, and is prepared to recuse himself from the vote if requested to do so. No such request was forthcoming.

**Council approved the motion as presented.**

Ms. Proteau gave an update on the Festival, which runs July 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, and reviewed the schedule of events. Barre Partnership board member Bob Sager invited the Council to participate in the July 23<sup>rd</sup> dessert fundraiser at the Old Labor Hall by preparing and entering a dessert for judging.

**B) Discussion of the Civic Center Promoter RFP.**

Manager Mackenzie said this item is deferred until after the next Civic Center Committee meeting.

**C) Appointment of J. Shatney as alternate to the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission.**

Council appointed Ms. Shatney on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

**D) Consideration of Revisions to City Fees.**

Clerk Dawes reviewed the proposed fee revisions. There was discussion about the fees for long-term parking meter rentals and meter bagging. Council set the bagging fee at \$20/meter for bagging and bag removal.

Councilor Boutin requested that the burn permit fee be eliminated. Councilor Herring recommended revisions for the vacant building registration fees. Councilors concurred on the vacant building registration fee revisions.

Councilor Herring made the motion to approve the fee revisions as presented and amended, and to reduce the annual burn permit fee to \$20.

There was further discussion on the burn permit fee. Councilor Boutin seconded the motion.

**Council approved the motion as presented.**

**E) Authorization to Negotiate City Hall Phone Upgrade Procurement.**

Manager Mackenzie reviewed his memo and the memo from HR Administrator Rikk Taft, and recommended Council authorize him to negotiate the phone system upgrade contract with SoVerNet. There was discussion about sole source procurement, the quality of VoIP phone service, the cost of the project, and reaching out to other local vendors.

Council approved authorizing Manager Mackenzie to negotiate the phone upgrade contract with SoVerNet and return to the Council for final approval of the contract on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

**F) 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter FY14 Budget Status Review.**

Mayor Lauzon said this agenda item will be deferred to next week. The Mayor said he has done a preliminary review of the current fiscal year budget status, and is confident it can be managed through the rest of the year.

**G) FY15 Budget Discussion.**

Mayor Lauzon said he recommends the budget re-vote be held on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Council approved that date on

To be approved at 05-27-14 Barre City Council Meeting

motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon said he forwarded a list of recommended budget adjustments to the Manager, and will share the list with Council at next week's meeting. The Mayor said he is not recommending cuts to the Barre Partnership or Barre Area Development Corporation, as they are doing economic development work for the City. He is not recommending a cut to the Aldrich Library appropriation, but it could be considered. The Mayor said he will be sending a copy of his recommendations to the chair and members of the Citizen Finance Committee. He recommended Councilors review the budget and bring their recommendations to next week's meeting, when the final number and the ballot language will be finalized.

Clerk Dawes said Council had scheduled reorganization work sessions for May 27<sup>th</sup> and June 10<sup>th</sup>, and asked if they will be rescheduled due to the budget revote. Mayor Lauzon said the work sessions will be rescheduled as follows:

- June 17<sup>th</sup> – work session on reorganization of the Department of Public Works
- July 1<sup>st</sup> – work session on reorganization of the public safety departments

**Round Table –**

Councilor Chadderton asked when the fence will be installed along the Foster Street wall. Manager Mackenzie said he will ask city engineer Reg Abare.

Councilor Dindo said there will be a joint of the Barre City and Barre Town bike path committees at a public informational meeting at the Vermont Granite Museum at 5:00 PM on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Councilor Smith thanked those who participated at last week's special election to vote on the revised budget, and encouraged them to come out again on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Councilor Herring said the Vermont Granite Museum is holding a volunteer meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Lauzon reminded everyone of the City Place ribbon cutting on Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk