

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held July 1, 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, Councilor Michael Boutin; 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 Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
  - Regular Meeting of June 24, 2014
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2014 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
  - Food Establishment License:
    - The Alley Cat, 10 Keith Avenue
  - Entertainment License:
    - The Alley Cat, 10 Keith Avenue

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

- Election results from yesterday's school budget revote are on the City website.
- With the approval of the school budget, the clock has started ticking for the 30 day reconsideration period. On July 31<sup>st</sup>, the Agency of Education will accept the school budget data and work with the Department of Taxes to calculate the City's education tax rates. That data is expected to be received on August 5<sup>th</sup>, with tax bills being processed and mailed by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Council will need to set a new first quarter due date that is at least 30 days after the mailing date.
- City Hall will be closed Friday for the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

**Approval of Building Permits** –

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Andrew & Olivia Glover	43 Daniel Drive
Ronal & Judith Raymond	55 Lewis Street

**Liquor Control** –

Anthony and Rita-Marie Avery, owners of The Alley Cat at 10 Keith Avenue, addressed the Council with regards to their first class liquor license and outside consumption permit applications. Mr. and Mrs. Avery said they are renovating the former Green Mountain Tavern space and hiring all new employees, and The Alley Cat will have a more casual atmosphere than the previous establishment.

Council approved the first class liquor license application and outside consumption permit application for The Alley Cat on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

**City Manager's Report** –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- The Budget Committee has set two goals for the new fiscal year: 1) deliver a draft budget by December 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2) come to Council by September to discuss goals and objectives. The committee is interested in conducting a community survey, possibly in conjunction with the August primary.
- Review and adjustment process has begun for water and sewer rates. New rates are expected to be in

effect for the September billing cycle.

- Paving at the Mathewson Playground is complete and the playground is reopened.
- There will be a party at the municipal pool this Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, beginning at noon.
- There is a retirement party in the engineer's office for City Engineer Reg Abare tomorrow, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, beginning at 2PM.
- The City is working to ensure that the grass along Route 62 gets mowed at least twice during the summer.

#### **Visitors & Communications –**

Stanley Sabens of 969 North Main Street addressed the Council on two issues:

1. He and his family have difficulty pulling out of their driveway due to sightlines and traffic speed. He asked for assistance in addressing the issue. Mayor Lauzon said he will talk with VTRANS about possible remedies.
2. Mr. Sabens passed around photos of a pile of brush and debris located on the Knoll Motel property next to his home. He has spoken to Capt. Matt Cetin about the pile, and was told it will be burned, and there is no expectation that any citations will be issued. Mayor Lauzon said the Manager will look into the situation.

#### **Old Business – NONE**

#### **New Business –**

##### **A) Raw Milk Delivery Presentation.**

Susan Hayes from Farm of Milk & Honey in Washington, Vermont, told the Council about her family's farm and their local delivery service for raw milk, pork and honey. They just started offering home delivery and currently have one customer in Barre City. Clerk Dawes said a vending license is required, and she will email the application to Ms. Hayes.

##### **B) Budget Committee Appointment Mary Ellen Boisvert.**

This item was deferred as Ms. Boisvert was not present.

##### **C) Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Presentation.**

Ann Smith, executive director of the Friends of the Winooski River, told the Council about the detection and elimination program, which maps all storm water systems in a municipality, and then examines them for discharge. If any discharge is found, it is screened and tested, and if necessary, repairs or and corrections are made. The program has been successful in decreasing the amount of phosphorous flowing into Lake Champlain.

There was discussion about how repairs and corrections are funded, and the schedule for reviewing storm water outflows in Barre City and the surrounding communities along the Stevens Branch. Mayor Lauzon asked Ms. Smith to report back to the Council at the completion of the review.

##### **E) 2014 Roadside Mowing Bids.**

City Engineer Reg Abare reviewed his memo and recommended Council award the contract for roadside mowing to low bidder Donnel Dexter of Williamstown. Councilor Herring made the motion to award the contract to Mr. Dexter, seconded by Councilor Dindo.

John Cartier, representing Green Mountain Lawn and Landscape LLC, said his company had also submitted a bid, and while the bid was slightly higher than Mr. Dexter's, Mr. Cartier hoped the Council would take his years of service to the City and the quality of his work into consideration when making the decision. Mr. Abare said Mr. Cartier's work has always been good, but the numbers speak for themselves, and Mr. Dexter's bid is lower. Mr. Abare said Mr. Dexter is a City employee in the Public Works department, and the mowing work would be done by other people or outside of Mr. Dexter's work schedule.

Council voted on the motion as presented. **Motion carried with Councilor Chadderton voting against.**

**F) 2014 Paving Bids.**

Mr. Abare reviewed his memo and recommended Council award the paving contract to low bidder Engineers Construction Inc. out of South Burlington. Council awarded the contract to ECI on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

**D) Phase II Street Reconstruction Program.**

Mr. Reg Abare reviewed the next five years' worth of proposed schedules for street reconstruction work, and the estimated costs. He said the original 10 year plan for reconstructing the poor quality streets will be completed next year, two years ahead of schedule.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed his street reconstruction program spreadsheet and his estimate of the funds available for the capital improvement plan over the next seven years. There was discussion about reconstruction work on South Main Street, Washington Street and North Main Street north of Route 62, all of which are state highways. There was also discussion about the condition of infrastructure under these streets, closing off part of Pearl Street and turning it into a pedestrian way providing access to the public parking that will be constructed on the Ormsby property, and infrastructure needs under Pearl Street and Keith Avenue.

Mayor Lauzon asked that the street reconstruction lists be posted on the City website, and requested that the Manager expand the capital improvement plan numbers to include details on the items to be purchased in each year.

Councilor Dindo asked about the pending litigation on paving from a few years ago. Manager Mackenzie said he needs to work with the City attorney on a resolution.

**G) Retirement Recognition – Reg Abare, Director of Public Works.**

Mayor Lauzon said Mr. Abare is retiring after nearly 45 years of service to the City of Barre, and asked Mr. Abare what his most memorable experience is. Mr. Abare said it's the tremendous improvements to the downtown; that millions of dollars have been spent on upgrades and the finished products sell themselves.

Clerk Dawes read the resolution honoring Mr. Abare for his service. Council approved the resolution on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

**Round Table –**

Councilors thanked voters for approving the school budget at yesterday's special election.

Councilor Herring reminded people of the Heritage Festival scheduled for the last weekend of this month, and said today marks the second anniversary of Front Porch Forum in Barre City.

Mayor Lauzon congratulated the school board on the approved budget, and wished everyone a Happy Fourth of July.

Mayor Lauzon recessed the meeting at 9:02 PM for five minutes before going beginning the workshop.

Mayor Lauzon called the meeting back to order at 9:07 PM.

**New Business – cont.**

**H) DPW Reorganization Workshop.**

Special Project Manager Pat McDonald reviewed her recommendation for reorganization of the Department of Public Works. There was discussion and amendments were suggested on who reports to who, who would

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do evaluations, changing the name of office worker to "administrative", and realigning staff in the organizational diagram.

Council voted to accept the DPW reorganization structure as amended on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

The Council meeting adjourned at 10:02 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk

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