

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held July 15, 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, Councilor Anita Chadderton. 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 Smith, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
  - Regular Meeting of July 8, 2014
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2014 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
  - Animal License:
    - Amanda Gilman-Bogie, 338 Prospect Street, 16 ducks.
  - Entertainment License:
    - Barre Partnership, Downtown WiFi kickoff in City Hall Park, Wednesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30 – 6:00 PM
  - Fireworks Permit:
    - Barre Heritage Festival, Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup> beginning at dusk.

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

- The Board of Civil Authority will hold its organizational meeting on Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM for this year's property tax assessment appeal hearings.
- Early/absentee ballots are available for the August 26<sup>th</sup> primary election. The clerk's office mailed out 150+ absentee ballots today.

**Approval of Building Permits** – NONE

**Liquor Control** – Council approved a request from Green Mountain Orthopedic Surgery for BYOB alcohol at Rotary Park for a baby shower on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

**City Manager's Report** –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- Street reconstruction project for this construction season are underway.
- The Hilltop Avenue properties buyout closings are tentatively scheduled for this Friday. Demolition of the properties must take place within 90 days of the closing.
- Proposed water/sewer rate revisions will be presented to the Council on July 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The City is working on removal and replacement of the dead and dying juniper bushes along North Main Street, and on an ongoing maintenance plan for the plantings.
- The City is clearing overgrown vegetation in City parking lots. It was mentioned that DOC might be a source for labor.
- The gazebo is being repaired. Repairs will be completed in time for next week's Heritage Festival.
- DPW has placed six donated granite benches around the City; 2 at the Cow Pasture entrance on Maplewood Avenue and 4 in Currier Park.
- The state has mowed the area along the lower portion of Route 62. The City is applying for a permit from VTRANS to allow the City to continue mowing the area.
- An RFP has been issued for the demolition of 1 Campbell Place, and a DRB application has been submitted for the Ormsby parking lot plans.

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- The Fire Department is hosting cadets from the Fire Academy later this week.
- The Manager will coordinate on a regular basis with Emily Kaminsky, who is writing a “Barre Beat” column in the Montpelier Bridge newspaper.
- The Manager will be on vacation next week and has named Jeff Bergeron as acting city manager.

Manager Mackenzie was asked about progress on filling the City Planner and City Engineer positions. The Manager said the offer on the City Planner position will be sent before the end of the week. He said the City Engineer search will be re-opened.

Mayor Lauzon thanked VTRANS for mowing along Route 62.

**Visitors & Communications – NONE**

**Old Business – NONE**

**New Business –**

**E) Acknowledgement of Donations for Monument Cleaning.**

Barre Granite Association executive director Ed Larson and Rock of Ages tourism director and Swenson Granite representative Todd Paton appeared before the Council. Mayor Lauzon thanked BGA, RoA and SG for recent donations received to assist with monument cleaning in the City’s cemeteries. Mr. Larson said the cemeteries are treasurers and selling tools for the industry. Mr. Paton said the cemeteries are a major tourist draw, and the donations are in honor of those buried in the cemeteries.

**A) New Budget Committee Members Mary Ellen Boisvert and Alexandra Pastore.**

City resident Mary Ellen Boisvert expressed her interest in serving on the Budget Committee. Council approved the appointment on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

City resident Alexandra Pastor expressed her interest in serving on the Budget Committee. Council approved the appointment on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

**B) Policies for Meeting Procedures.**

Clerk Dawes reviewed the draft policies. There was discussion about incorporating language presented by Councilor Herring. Council approved the policies and procedures as presented by Clerk Dawes on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

**C) Approval of 2014-2015 Municipal Tax Rate.**

Clerk Dawes reviewed the proposed municipal tax rate of \$1.6463, and said the education tax rates will be set by the state in early August. Council approved the municipal tax rate as presented on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

**D) Resolutions #2014-12 through #2014-16: Corporate Resolutions Associated with Changes in Cemetery Department Investment Accounts.**

Clerk Dawes said the cemetery investment accounts are being changed to list her as the authorized individual on each of the five accounts. The Clerk said this move is part of the actions necessary due to the cemetery charter change that went into effect July 1, 2012, and the reorganization of the Cemetery Department. Council approved the resolutions on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

**Round Table –**

Councilor Dindo said the bike path committee is meeting tomorrow afternoon.

Councilor Smith reminded everyone that the Heritage Festival is next week.

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Mayor Lauzon said there are still opportunities to volunteer to help out with the Heritage Festival, and people can sign up on the Heritage Festival website.

Mayor Lauzon recessed the meeting for ten minutes at 7:50 PM.

Mayor Lauzon reconvened the meeting at 8:00 PM.

**F) Re-Organization Workshop (Fire/Police, Manager's Office, Miscellaneous).**

Special Projects Manager Pat McDonald reviewed her reorganization recommendations. Council discussed the recommendations for the Police and Fire/EMS Department. Councilor Smith said he was opposed to maintaining a single chief. Council approved all Ms. McDonald's Police and Fire/EMS Department recommendations as presented on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried with Councilor Smith voting against.**

Council expressed its support of the recommendation to create a confidential executive secretary position to serve as an assistant to the City Manager.

With regards to the Planning, Permitting and Inspection Services Department, Council approved Ms. McDonald's recommendation to re-name the department and to designation the department director as the administrative supervisor of the assessor on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Council discussed the relationship between the City and the Barre Area Development Corporation. Mayor Lauzon asked Ms. McDonald to discuss the BADC board makeup with Barre Town, and proposed that the City and Town each appoint 1/3 of the BADC board members, and those board members appoint the balance of the board.

Council discussed the recommendation to create a financial position, and requested that Ms. McDonald discuss with Barre Town the possibility of sharing such a position.

Council discussed the recommendation that they move to a twice a month schedule, and decided to remain on a weekly schedule.

Council went into executive session at 9:30 PM to discuss litigation and personnel issues on motion of Councilor Dindo, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Manager Mackenzie, Ms. McDonald and Chief Tim Bombardier were invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 10:31 PM on motion of Councilor Dindo, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

The Council meeting adjourned at 10:31 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