

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held August 12, 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 Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular Meeting of August 5, 2014
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2014 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Animal License:
 - Kari Powers, 105 Hill Street, 2 Rhode Island Red hens
 - Food Establishment License:
 - Barre Buffet Inc., 435 North Main Street (formerly Granite City Grill)

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

- Property tax bills will be mailed by August 15th, and the first due date is September 15th.
- Early/absentee ballots are available for the August 26th primary election. Last day to register to vote is August 20th.
- The Clerk is visiting with all boards and committees to review the changes in the open meeting laws.

Mayor Lauzon said the Tuesday, August 26th meeting will be moved to Monday, August 25th to accommodate the Primary election.

The Mayor asked about the cemetery accounts. The Clerk said she is working with department staff and the City auditors to review records and facilitate relocating cemetery records to City Hall, and expects to have the report completed by September 1st.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control – NONE

City Manager's Report –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- Barre City has been selected as one of seven communities that will be working on identifying flood risks. The program will help the City understand how water moves through the City.
- There have been no responses from Limelight with regards to its mold remediation work at the BOR. The City will be soliciting proposals to get the rest of the work completed before the fall ice season begins. The work will be paid for out of the retainage that has been withheld from Limelight.
- Received a Route 62 mowing permit from VTRANS, and will be mowing the sides and median of Route 62 between the North Main Street and Berlin Street intersections.
- Held meeting last week with property owners surrounding the Enterprise Aly/Depot Square project to discuss project plans.
- The Ormsby's parking lot site plan received DRB approval at last week's meeting.
- Sent a letter to BADC in acknowledgment of the assistance provided to the City by BADC executive director Joel Schwartz.

There was discussion about the staff vacancies. Manager Mackenzie said he needs to prepare the offer for the

To be approved at 08-19-14 Barre City Council Meeting

City Planner, and expects to have that done by the end of this week. The Manager said the responses to the ads for the City Engineer position have not been overwhelming, and he will focus on that search this coming week. The other staff position in the Engineer's office is being held vacant until the new City Engineer is on board so that person can have a say in filling the position.

Mayor Lauzon said several weeks ago Council heard from one of the bidders on the roadside mowing RFP, who had concerns that the contract was awarded to a company that did not meet the minimum specifications. The Mayor asked the Manager for a follow-up report. Manager Mackenzie said he is satisfied that the minimum specifications have been met, and the work was completed by the July 31st deadline.

Visitors & Communications –

Councilor Dindo said Booth Brother Dairy has a 5,000 gallon tank for sale, and asked if the City is interested. The Manager will check with the Public Works and Public Safety Departments to see if there is any interest or need.

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

A) Tax Stabilization Request: 14 Ayers St – Brassard.

Applicants William and Pamela Brassard and City Assessor Joe LeVesque appeared before the Council to answer any questions they might have on the project. Manager Mackenzie reviewed his memo and recommended Council enter into a four year tax stabilization agreement with the Brassards for their property located at 14 Ayers Street. The agreement would be for municipal taxes only and would not be applicable to education taxes. There was discussion about out-of-pocket investments and the timeline for the project.

Council approved the 4 year tax stabilization agreement as recommended on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

B) Review of Budget Committee Survey.

Committee chair Justin Johnson reviewed the draft survey and said they plan on distributing it on-line and possible insertion in The World newspaper. Mayor Lauzon encouraged the Committee to consider having the survey at the Primary election polls. Council voiced its support of the poll.

C) Award of Alumni Hall Air Sealing & Insulation Project.

Facilities Director Jeff Bergeron reviewed his memo on the Alumni Hall energy audit and air sealing & insulation project, and recommended Council accept the low bid of \$19,000 from Weatherization and Renovation of Montpelier Inc. (WARM). Mayor Lauzon said Efficiency Vermont shows a four year payback from energy savings. The Manager said the project will be paid for through a lease agreement, and lease payments will be made out of the Alumni Hall operating expenses through the energy savings.

Council accepted the WARM bid on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

D) Authorization to Execute Lease Agreement for Alumni Hall Energy Project.

Manager Mackenzie said he will work with Mr. Bergeron and Clerk Dawes to identify the most cost-effective funding mechanism and bring it back for Council approval.

E) Set Interim Water/Sewer Rates.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the history of the City water & sewer rates and his memo on estimated rate increases and proposed interim rate increases. There was discussion about fund balances and review of the FY13 audit figures as compared to the FY14 unaudited figures. Mayor Lauzon said he no longer has a sense of urgency around adjusting the rates, and would like to take time to meet with staff and review the figures. Manager Mackenzie said staff is recommending Council approve a new rate sheet that cleans up the current rate

To be approved at 08-19-14 Barre City Council Meeting

sheet to reflect current practice. The Manager said a resolution approving the new rate sheet will be on next week's agenda.

F) Progress Report on Enterprise Aly.

Manager Mackenzie said this item has been deferred.

G) Appointment of Barre City Representatives to the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority.

Council interviewed resident John Hannigan about his interest in serving on the Authority. Mr. Hannigan expressed his interest and history of service to the Montpelier and Barre City fire departments, and said he still serves on the Barre City call force. Mayor Lauzon asked Mr. Hannigan if he can serve objectively and with integrity, and Mr. Hannigan answered in the affirmative.

Council appointed Mr. Hannigan as a Barre City representative to the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Councilor Smith said he is interested in serving as the Council representative to the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority. Mayor Lauzon asked him if he can serve objectively and with integrity, and Councilor Smith answered in the affirmative.

Council approved the appointment of Councilor Smith to the Public Safety Authority on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried with Councilor Smith abstaining.**

H) Ratify Resolution 2014-17: VCDP Grant Application Authority.

Clerk Dawes requested that Council ratify the resolution previously approved at the July 31st meeting, noting the original approval had not been warned. Council ratified the resolution on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

I) Ratification of Labor Contract Extension with USW Bargaining Unit.

Council approved the extension on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Round Table –

Councilor Dindo said there is a Bike Path Committee meeting tomorrow evening.

Councilor Smith said he participated in the river cleanup at the Vermont Granite Museum over the weekend. He said the floor has been poured in the main part of the museum, which is open three days a week for visitors.

Councilor Herring said the IT Committee met today to discuss replacement of the City Hall phone system and the web site revamping. Councilor Herring said he stepped down as chair of the committee to allow someone else to serve in that capacity.

Mayor Lauzon thanked the Barre City Fire Department for its response to his structure fire earlier in the week. The Mayor said he will be applying for a permit to erect a new structure on the site.

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, 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