

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held September 23, 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; 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.

Adjustments to the Agenda – Acting Mayor Smith said he wasn't aware of any adjustments to be made.

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 September 16, 2014
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2014 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office: NONE

The Clerk noted the office received an Animal License application for a boa constrictor, but the Health Officer hasn't been able to make contact with the owner to arrange for an inspection. Phone calls and visits to the property have gone unanswered. The Health Officer must sign off on the application before it comes to Council for approval.

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

- The first quarter property tax collection delinquency rate ended up at 4.49%. That is the second lowest rate since the Clerk took office in 2008.
- Early/absentee ballot requests are being accepted for the November General Election. Over 170 absentee ballots went out in the mail on Friday, September 19th.
- The BCA will hold property tax assessment appeal hearings on September 25th.
- Water & Sewer bills are due by September 30th.

Approval of Building Permits – Council approved the following building permits on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
William & Pamela Brassard	14 Ayers Street
Paul & Alyson Flint	17 Averill Street

Liquor Control – Council approved a Request to Cater application from Three Penny Taproom for a benefit concert at the Old Labor Hall, Friday, October 3, 2014 from 6:00 – 11:00 PM on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried with Councilor Chadderton voting against and Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

City Manager's Report –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- The date for the Gunner's Brook flooding mitigation community forum is October 27th.
- Demolition of 1 Campbell Place will begin on October 4th and is expected to take 3-4 days.
- Met with City staff and staff from the Barre Opera House to discuss possibly partnering on the proposed Civic Center promoter position.
- The Central Vermont Public Safety Authority is still looking for people interested in being appointed to the three at-large board positions.

- The state has renewed its efforts on reconstruction of the Route 14/Merchant Street intersection near Hope Cemetery. Any utility relocations will be fully reimbursed. The estimated construction date is 2017.
- The Council will tour the Civic Center complex this Saturday, September 27th beginning at 8:30 AM in Alumni Hal.
- The Manager clarified that the City does not allow any water craft usage on the Dix Reservoir in Orange. Fishing is allowed from designated areas on shore.

There was discussion about the status of the Hilltop Avenue properties damaged by flooding in May 2011. Manager Mackenzie said the two properties have now been purchased by the City and demolition will occur in 45-90 days. Due to the federal funding that was used to acquire the properties, the spaces will be forever green. There was a question about whether the areas could house playground equipment. The Manager will look into that.

Visitors & Communications –

Dan Jones, executive director of the Barre Partnership, and Lori Baker, executive director of the Greater Barre Community Justice Center, told the Council about their upcoming collaborative re-entry simulation event. The public is invited to “walk in the shoes” of an offender as he/she returns to the community. The event is October 16th, from 4:30 – 8:30 PM, and is funded through a mini-grant from the City.

Resident Jean Merrill asked about CO detectors in schools. Fire Capt. Matt Cetin said state and federal law does not require detectors in schools. Ms. Merrill said the City schools could voluntarily install the detectors. It was suggested she speak with the school boards about the issue.

Old Business –

A) Resolution #2014-19 Upon the Retirement of Sheila Lunt, Senior General Accounting Clerk. Clerk Dawes read the resolution honoring Ms. Lunt. Several people at the Council table spoke highly of Ms. Lunt’s service to the City. Ms. Lunt thanked the Council and said she was always proud to say she worked for the City of Barre. Ms. Lunt received a standing ovation in honor of her years of service.

New Business –

A) Approval of Nonresident Cemetery Rates Increase.

Council approved the rate increases as recommended, effective October 1, 2014, on motion of councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

B) Update on Housing and Inspection Program.

Fire Capt. Matt Cetin, Chief Tim Bombardier and Deputy Fire Chief Joe Aldsworth were in attendance for the presentation. Capt. Cetin reviewed the statistical report and the new online complaint form.

There was discussion about how to address bed bugs and other infestations, new and revised ordinances being developed, the MobileEyes software used to track inspections, and junior fire setter evaluations. Capt. Cetin said they will be back in the near future to have a more substantive discussion on vacant houses.

C) Review/Discussion of 2014 Municipal Budget & Services Survey.

Budget committee chair Justin Johnson, and committee members John Hannigan, Linda Couture and Alex Pastor were in attendance for the review. Mr. Johnson said there were 150+/- responses to the survey and the committee is still analyzing the data. They will be back in a few weeks to discuss with the Council what the budget should look like going forward.

D) Preliminary Discussion of Council FY16 Budget Goals & Objectives Input.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed his memo and said this will be part of the discussions with the Budget Committee when they come back in a few weeks. Councilor Poirier said he would like the committee to perform the exercise of reviewing what a level funded budget would look like. Mr. Johnson said the committee can look at a level budget and a budget with no change in the tax rate.

E) Barre City Yard Waste Disposal Schedule.

The Manager reviewed the schedule which will run in the newspaper and be posted on the City website.

Round Table –

Acting Mayor Smith reminded everyone that the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority is looking to fill the two at-large board positions.

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk