

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held November 11, 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 Lucas Herring. Also in attendance were City Manager Steven Mackenzie and City Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Absent: Councilors Paul Poirier, Ward I, and Anita Chadderton, Ward III.

Adjustments to the Agenda – Mayor Lauzon said there will be an executive session at the end of the meeting.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Council approved the following consent agenda items on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular Meeting of November 3, 2014
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2014 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Animal License – Daniel Carver, 19 College Street, 4 chickens.

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

- Results from the November 4, 2014 election are in the Council packets and posted on the website.
- Second quarter property taxes are due by November 17th, because the 15th falls on a Saturday.
- The Elks Club will hold their annual Memory Tree Lighting ceremony in City Hall Park on December 7th at 5:00 PM.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control – NONE

City Manager's Report – Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- Bids for the Ormsby building demolition are due by November 13th, and the contract will be awarded at the November 18th Council meeting.

Visitors & Communications – NONE

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

A) Ordinance #2014-04 U-Turns – Second Reading and Public Hearing Warned for 7:15 PM.

Mayor Lauzon opened the public hearing at 7:08 PM and asked for comments. Hearing none, the hearing was closed at 7:09 PM.

Council approved the ordinance change on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

B) Appointment of Two New Committee Members to the ADA Committee.

ADA Committee chair Ericka Reil introduced two proposed new members for the committee; Dale

Hackett, who was in attendance, and Anita Bergeron, who attended last week's Council meeting. Mr. Hackett expressed his interest in serving on the committee.

Council appointed Mr. Hackett and Ms. Bergeron to the ADA Committee on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

C) Enterprise Aly Redevelopment Project Site Plan Presentation.

John Benson from Dubois & King and Bob White from ORW gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Enterprise Aly site plan. There was discussion on Dumpster locations, traffic flow, bike path routes, and an estimated increase of 20 parking spaces. There was further discussion about pedestrian routes through the area, possible relocation of a crosswalk on North Main Street, turning radii, and a proposed bus slip for expanded GMTA bus service.

Mayor Lauzon suggested amending the design to make the proposed bus slip area more flexible. Patty Meriam from the Vermont Granite Museum, owners of the Pinsley Depot building, said VGM is in support of the bus slip, which will decrease reliance on cars and increase tourism. Mr. White said they will offer an amended proposal for that area.

Abutting property owners Mark Nicholson and Bill Patno expressed their support of the increase in parking, and asked how the new parking will be allocated. Mayor Lauzon said the parking will not be limited to a specific business or building, but will most likely be mixed use with some meters and some permit parking.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the schedule, and said Council needs to approve the final version of the site plan by mid-December. Construction is scheduled to begin on May 1, 2015 and be completed no later than October 15, 2015. Mayor Lauzon said the Council will make its decision at the December 2nd meeting. The Mayor said he would like to see the alternatives for the bus slip area, and hear about the possibilities of relocating the North Main Street crosswalk, which must be run by VTRANS. The Mayor also requested 10 copies of both the current and the revised proposed site plans for posting around the City.

D) Approval of the FY15 Water Fund Budget.

E) Discussion/Approval of December 1st Water Rate Adjustment Resolution.

These two agenda items were discussed together. Manager Mackenzie reviewed his memo, the proposed budget, and spreadsheets, and said the recommended water rate increase is just under 19%. The Manager said the proposed increase is due to no increase in the last three years, the age of the water treatment facility, increased debt service and the addition of a recommended new part time maintenance staff person.

Mayor Lauzon said he needs to see the sewer fund numbers before setting a rate increase, and needs to review the balance sheets in conjunction with the proposed budget and rate increase. The Mayor recommended approving the budget so it can be forwarded to Barre Town, which has requested it. He recommended looking at a 15% water rate increase and an 8% sewer rate decrease at next week's meeting. The Mayor also said he wants to confirm whether the proposed increase includes the 6% increase approved by the Council back in August. Manager Mackenzie said he reluctantly recommends Council wait another quarter before implementing any rate changes so as to allow time to have ironclad numbers for both water and sewer.

Councilor Herring made the motion to approve the FY15 water system budget of \$2,434,316, and to have information for next week's Council meeting on rate adjustments of 15% water rate increase and 8% sewer rate decrease, along with information on why the proposed rate changes do not include changes to

To be approved at 11-18-14 Barre City Council Meeting

the flat, sprinkler, private hydrant and SDC rates. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith.
Motion carried.

F) Adoption of New MOU for Central Vermont Public Safety Authority.

Councilor Smith reviewed the revisions to the MOU following Barre Town's defeat of the CVRPA charter at the November 4th General Election. Council approved the MOU on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

G) Merchants Bank Property Tax Appeal Settlement Affirmation.

Manager Mackenzie showed a PowerPoint slide of the proposed settlement. Mayor Lauzon noted Council approved the settlement at last week's meeting, but the item had been unwarned. Councilor Herring made the motion to reaffirm the vote from last week's meeting, seconded by Councilor Smith.
Motion carried.

H) Purchase of Used 1 Ton Dump Truck for DPW.

Manager Mackenzie said this item will be deferred until next week.

Round Table:

Councilors noted today is Veterans Day and thanked past and present veterans for their service.

Councilor Dindo read a statement in response to a recent letter to the editor which said the City isn't cleaning up residential neighborhoods. Councilor Dindo's response spoke of the City's inspection program and vacant building registration program.

Councilor Herring said he and Manager Mackenzie recently attended a civics class at Spaulding High School, and one of the topics of discussion was vacant buildings.

Other:

Mayor Lauzon said the Manager's report on his proposed plans for addressing the Limelight/BOR mold remediation issue can be discussed in open session. Manager Mackenzie said he will be seeking quotes on the costs to complete and repair the work done by Limelight, and will use that information as the financial basis to file a claim. Mayor Lauzon suggested Manager Mackenzie contact City Attorney Oliver Twombly to get him involved.

Executive Session:

Manager Mackenzie said he would like to discuss police union contract negotiations and a proposed resolution for the Luck Brothers claim. Councilor Herring made the motion to find that premature general public knowledge of the items proposed for discussion would clearly place the City at a substantial disadvantage should the discussions be public. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith.
Motion carried.

Council went into executive session at 9:37 PM to discuss contracts and legal issues under the provisions of 1 VSA §313 on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Manager Mackenzie was invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 9:50 PM on motion of Councilor Dindo, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Dindo.
Motion carried.

To be approved at 11-18-14 Barre City Council Meeting

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk

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