

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held February 17, 2015**

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 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 Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

**Absent:** From Ward I, Councilors Charles Dindo and Paul Poirier.

**Adjustments to the Agenda:** NONE

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

Council approved the following consent agenda items on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith.

**Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
  - Regular meeting of February 10, 2015
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2015 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
  - Food Establishment License:
    - Delicate Decadence, 15 Cottage Street
  - Food Takeout License:
    - Quality Market, 155 Washington Street
  - Pool Table/Video Machine License:
    - Planet Rock N' Metal – downstairs, 123 North Main Street. 1 pool table

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

- 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter property taxes were due by February 17<sup>th</sup>. The delinquency rate currently stands at 8% with more payments expected in tomorrow's mail.
- March 3, 2015 Annual (Town) Meeting ballots are now available. The office is accepting requests for early absentee ballots. The deadline to register to vote is Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Dog licenses are available. All dogs must be licensed by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Approval of Building Permits** – NONE

**Liquor Control** – Positive Pie owner Carlo Rovetto appeared before the Council as a new liquor license holder. Mr. Rovetto said the restaurant in the City Place building will have 100 seats and a 16 seat bar. They own three other Positive Pies around central Vermont, and seven other establishments in Vermont and New York. The soft opening is scheduled to begin around February 24<sup>th</sup>, with the official opening tentatively scheduled for March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mayor Lauzon welcomed Mr. Rovetto and Positive Pie to the City.

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

- The City has been responding to a number of broken water pipes as a result of the cold weather. Residents are urged to check for cold spots and keep a stream of water flowing if necessary to prevent freezing.
- Residents are also encouraged to check the snow depths on their roofs, and to report any dangerous icicles.
- As a follow up to last week's discussion, the Manager reported the City has gone through 84% of its salt reserves. He anticipates we will be fine for the rest of the season.
- Participated in police union negotiations earlier today and expects to be coming to Council in the near future for an executive session discussion about proposals and counterproposals that are being developed.

**Visitors & Communications** – NONE

To be approved at 02-24-15 Barre City Council Meeting

**Old Business – NONE**

**New Business –**

**A) Central Vermont Public Safety Authority FY16 Budget Presentation.**

CVPSA board chair Tom Golonka and board members Michael Smith, John Hannigan, Alex Pastor and Doug Hoyt were present for the budget presentation. Mr. Golonka noted that a quorum of the board is in attendance, so he called the warned CVPSA meeting to order at 7:15 PM. He reviewed the budget numbers and the Barre City and Montpelier portions, and said the funds will be used to hire a part time executive director to move the authority towards implementation. The board has been meeting with different community and municipal groups, including representatives from the different public safety unions and department heads. Board meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 6:30 PM at the Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce, and are open to the public.

Mr. Golonka closed the CVPSA meeting at 7:25 PM.

**B) Discussion on the Removal of the Assistant Director BCS – Cemetery.**

Cemetery Committee members Giuliano Cecchinelli (chair), Connie Godin, Dan Barlow, Norena Zanleoni and Syliva Malnati appeared before the Council. Mr. Barlow read a letter from the committee, encouraging the Council to restore the assistant director position that has been eliminated from the FY16 budget, saying such a staffing change threatens the stability of the cemeteries. Mayor Lauzon reviewed the budget-building process and said the elimination of the position is one of many cuts that were needed to keep the budget increase to no more than 2%. The Mayor said the Buildings and Community Services Department Head has assured the Mayor and Manager that the current level of service will be maintained.

There was discussion about the cumulative effect of the staffing cut, conditions at the St. Monica cemetery, revisions to the rules and regulations of the cemeteries, necessary skill sets, types of granite allowed in City cemeteries, storage and access to cemetery records, and developing a list of approved vendors for setting stones in City cemeteries.

**C) Review/Approval of 2015 Municipal Budget & Services Survey.**

Members of the Budget Committee – John Hannigan, Alex Pastor and Maryellen Boisvert – presented a draft of the survey to the Council for its review. Suggestions were made for possible revisions and additional questions. Manager Mackenzie said the survey will be available through Survey Monkey, and at the polls during the Annual (Town) Meeting. Responses are due by April 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was discussion about including some school-related questions in the future.

**Round Table –**

Councilor Herring said there was a fire alarm during last night's school board meeting, as a pipe burst in the building. BCEMS was closed today due to repairs and lack of potable water in the building.

Mayor Lauzon suggested people check on their neighbors during the cold weather. The Mayor offered condolences to Mrs. Lucienne Houle on the recent passing of her husband, Antonio.

**Executive Session: NONE**

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk