

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held February 24, 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 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 Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

**Absent:** From Ward I, Councilor Paul Poirier.

**Adjustments to the Agenda:** NONE

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

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

- Minutes of the following meetings:
  - Regular meeting of February 17, 2015
  - Special meeting of February 18, 2015
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2015 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
  - Waste Disposal Collector's License:
    - Meyer's Container Corp., 11 vehicles, pick-up only

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

- The delinquency rate for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter property taxes is 5.19%. The delinquency rate is higher than usual because one owner with 51 properties is included in the delinquencies.
- The office is accepting requests for early absentee ballots for the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual (Town) Meeting elections through Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The deadline to register to vote is Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Polls will be open at the auditorium from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Because of the Annual (Town) Meeting on Tuesday, next week's Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Water bills are going in the mail this Friday and will be due by March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Dog licenses are available. All dogs must be licensed by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Approval of Building Permits** – NONE

**Liquor Control** – NONE

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

- The 2014 annual reports have arrived and are available in the clerk's office and on the City website. They will also be available at the polls next Tuesday.
- Continuing reminders about water pipes freezing due to the prolonged cold weather. Residents should be on the lookout for cold spots in their homes, and keep water trickling to avoid freeze-ups. People should also be watching out for snow loads on their roofs.
- There was a presentation on the Civic Center promoter position in advance of issuance of the RFP. There were 3-4 attendees.
- High school basketball tournaments run this week and next at the auditorium.
- Public Safety and Public Works Departments are beginning to plan for the spring thaw and potential flooding.
- The City received the sixth disbursement from the Semprebon VCF Annuity: \$58,013.
- The City is seeking volunteers for the newly formed solid waste committee. The Manager read off all committee openings.

To be approved at 03-02-15 Barre City Council Meeting

Mayor Lauzon said the City continues to monitor the salt inventory, and may need to limit usage through the rest of the season, depending on spring weather. The Mayor recommended drivers be cautious as the snow begins to melt and streets freeze overnight.

#### **Visitors & Communications –**

Wilfred Langevin told the Council he owns two building lots on Prospect Street, which he has been excavating for the last 10 years. Mr. Langevin reviewed the history of the City's requests for him to clean up the property, and the subsequent court order to do so. He said he is fed up with the situation and wants to keep his land. Mayor Lauzon said Mr. Langevin has had several opportunities to be heard, including in court, however, the City is willing to work with him. Mr. Langevin said he had previously been denied copies of documents related to his property that are on file with the City. Mayor Lauzon said the City will provide Mr. Langevin with copies of documents on file. The Mayor scheduled a special Council meeting for next Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 5:30 PM to discuss Mr. Langevin's property. The meeting will be held in open session.

#### **Old Business – NONE**

#### **New Business –**

##### **A) Ward 5 School – Approval for BHA to Sell.**

Barre Housing Authority executive director Chip Castle requested that Council write a letter of support for BHA's divestiture of the Ward 5 school building located at 4 Humbert St. Mr. Castle reviewed the history of BHA's ownership of the building, beginning with its purchase in 1997. The building was used for administrative purposes until two years ago when BHA relocated its administrative offices. Mr. Castle said the letter from a municipal official is necessary to begin the divestiture process through HUD, which oversees BHA operations. He said any funds received from the sale of the building must be reinvested in BHA-owned properties.

There was discussion about the history of the sale of the building from the City to BHA, and whether BHA would be willing to deed the building back to the City. Mr. Castle said he will ask the board of commissioners.

Council approved issuing a letter in support of BHA's desire to divest itself of the property at 5 Humbert Street, with serious discussion about deeding the property back to the City, on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon will draft the letter and get it to Mr. Castle tomorrow.

##### **B) Discussion on the Displaying of Student Artwork in City Hall.**

Councilor Herring said downtown merchants will be hosting student artwork in their windows from late March through April. He said the total number of students participating is approximately 475, and so there will likely be a need for additional space, and he requested use of City Hall for display space. Council approved displaying student art in City Hall on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

##### **C) Reappointment of CVSWMD Representatives.**

Council reappointed Steve Micheli as the Barre City representative to the CVSWMD board, with Rikk Taft as alternate, on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

##### **D) Public Informational Hearing 7:15 PM for the Public Questions to be Voted at Annual (Town) Meeting Election on March 3, 2015.**

Mayor Lauzon opened the public hearing at 7:40 PM. Manager Mackenzie gave a PowerPoint presentation on the FY16 budget. Resident Connie Godin asked questions about whether any police officers were added last year, and if there are any dedicated to downtown patrol. Chief Tim Bombardier said yes, the City added an officer through a funding program, and Officer Mott does downtown patrols through the school vacation times and summer months. Ms. Godin said her biggest complaint is bicycles on the sidewalks. The Chief said the police department will address that issue.

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Councilors thanked the Budget Committee for its work on the FY16 budget, and encouraged people to get out and vote at next week's Annual (Town) Meeting. Mayor Lauzon said it was the most difficult budget process he has gone through during his time as mayor, and he is thankful for the past support received from voters.

Mayor Lauzon asked for any additional questions or comments from the Council or those in attendance. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing at 8:20 PM.

**Round Table – NONE**

**Executive Session: NONE**

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith.  
**Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk

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