

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held March 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 I, Councilors Charles Dindo and Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Councilor Michael Boutin; 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 II, Councilor Michael Smith.

Adjustments to the Agenda: Mayor Lauzon said the fee schedule adjustment and CVPSA appointment agenda items will be deferred to a future Council 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 March 2, 2015
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2015 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Food Establishment Licenses:
 - Simply Subs Inc., 70 North Main Street
 - Mulligan's Irish Pub, 9 Maple Avenue
 - Espresso Bueno, Inc., 248 North Main Street
 - Entertainment Licenses:
 - Espresso Bueno, 248 North Main Street, annual license
 - Mulligan's Irish Pub, 9 Maple Avenue, annual license
 - Pool Table/Video Machine Licenses:
 - South Side Tavern, 107 South Main Street, 1 pool table, 2 video machines

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

- Results from last Saturday's recount are included in the Council packets. The Clerk thanked the BCA members who worked at the recount.
- Water bills are due by March 31st.
- Dog licenses are available. All dogs must be licensed by April 1st.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control – NONE

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

- Met with department heads to review emergency response plans for potential flood conditions. Rivers are being monitored.
- Hilltop update – asbestos assessment is complete and abatement is in the works. Demolition is expected to be completed by April 18th. Grounds will be groomed in the spring.
- There have been numerous reports of malfunctions of the traffic signals at the Route 62/North Main Street intersection. The service contractor has made temporary adjustments that should alleviate the issues until the state replaces the cameras with radar later this summer.
- The same service contractor is looking into replacing pedestrian push buttons for better functionality.

- Pothole season – please be careful. City crews are out almost daily making repairs.
- The Budget Committee survey is available on the City website and through downtown merchants through April 3rd.
- The Manager announced committee vacancies.
- The Big Dig is receiving a public scape merit award later this week. The Studio Place Arts zipper park is receiving a similar award.
- Buildings and Community Services Director Jeff Bergeron is preparing a memo on the maintenance and operations of the cemeteries, to be presented at next week's Council meeting. Mayor Lauzon asked Clerk Dawes to present an update on the cemetery finances at the same time.

Visitors & Communications –

Mayor Lauzon noted each Councilor received a CD containing the City's Emergency Operations manual. The Mayor thanked the voters who supported the budget at the Annual (Town) Meeting election. He said the City was recently recognized as one of the top 10 arts communities of its size in the country. There will be a ribbon cutting later this week at the new Central Vermont Medical Center offices in the Blanchard Block. The Mayor referenced a recent newspaper article that talked about the behavior of a Barre City police officer, and he asked the Manager to work with Chief Bombardier to conduct a thorough investigation and present a written report to the Council by March 31st.

Resident Jeffrey Tuper-Giles announced there will be a life-size Candyland game at the Congregational Church this Saturday from 10AM – 1PM to raise funds for a family in need.

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

A) Briefing Re: Federal Arrest Grant Program Partnership Between Barre City Police Dept. and Circle.

Circle co-directors Karol Diamond and Meg Kuhner said the City and Circle have been partnering on similar grants since 2005. Circle is in the process of applying for the next round of grants, which would provide \$450,000 to support the program for an additional three years. The program would increase first response and provide for homicide reduction throughout Washington County, and would continue to cover part-time expenses for two Barre City police officers and two part-time staff at Circle. Circle serves approximately 1,500 people each year, and receives 400 hotline calls/month. The shelter houses 12 beds, and there is rarely a vacancy.

Ms. Diamond and Ms. Kuhner said they need a letter of support from the City to complete the grant application. Council approved showing its support for the grant and the program by authorizing Manager Mackenzie to sign a letter of support on behalf of the City on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

B) Fee Schedule Revision Request.

Deferred.

C) Revision to Liquor Control Board Policies.

Clerk Dawes reviewed the proposed revisions, which would make approval of most request to cater permit applications administrative rather than requiring Council approval. There was a suggestion that the proposed language be revised to say the Clerk "may" approve rather than "shall" approve.

The revisions were approved as amended on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo.

Motion carried.

D) Town Services Officer Reappointment.

Council re-appointed Chief Tim Bombardier as the town services officer on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

E) Re-appointment of John Hannigan to the CV Public Safety Authority for a 2 Year Term.

Deferred.

Round Table – NONE

Councilors wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day, and thanked voters for supporting the budget at Town Meeting Day.

Councilor Herring said Freezing Fun for Families raised \$30,000 for families in need.

Executive Session: NONE

The Council meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk