

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held May 19, 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 was City Manager Steven Mackenzie.

**Absent:** From Ward I, Councilor Paul Poirier; and Clerk Carolyn Dawes.

**Adjustments to the Agenda:** Mayor Lauzon noted he will be adjusting the order of the agenda to accommodate those in attendance.

**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 May 12, 2015.
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2015 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
  - Food Vending License
    - Barre Community Baseball, concession stand food at Spaulding High School baseball field May through September.

**The City Clerk/Treasurer Report – NONE**

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Vermont Granite Museum	7 Jones Brothers Way
Greg & Jedediah Forbis	11 Grant Ave
David Blosser & Sally Redpath	233 Camp St
Janice King	58 Tremont St
Jeremiah St. Peter & Jill Pruitt	9 Cambria St

**Liquor Control – NONE**

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

- Toured cemetery roads; repairs are being made to sink holes. Cracking is minimal, and may be sealed.
- Flexible hoses are being added to the spigots in the cemetery.
- Meeting with code enforcement officer about vacant buildings and the planned updates to the ordinance.
- Enterprise Aly pre-bid meeting well attended.
- New sign kiosk being erected at the Maplewood Avenue entrance of the Cow Pasture on Thursday.
- Police Department looking for one more bike patrol bee for this summer.
- This is the last week of yard waste drop off event.

There was additional discussion on vacant buildings. Mayor Lauzon said he expects to have draft

ordinance language in the next few weeks, including frequent visits and additional fees.

**Visitors & Communications –**

Pierre Couture from Millstone Trails Association requested Council authorization to lease the City-owned Wheelock House for an antiques center. Mr. Couture talked about establishing an antiques corridor between White River Jct. and Burlington, with Barre serving as an antique center. They are looking for a one year commitment for the Wheelock House. A grant has been applied for to assist with marketing. They are willing to cover utility and heating costs in exchange for usage with no rental fees. The front of the building could be dedicated to an information center.

Mayor Lauzon asked Councilor Smith to serve as Council liaison in discussions with Mr. Couture. There was discussion about support from local antiques dealers, support from the Barre Partnership, the historic nature of the building, and removal of the first floor kitchen not being a threat to historic preservation grants. Mr. Couture said they would like to be open by late June.

Barre Area Development Corporation executive director Joel Schwartz reviewed grant opportunities, and said the Barre Partnership has submitted an application for \$35,000, which would provide technical assistance and marketing.

**New Business –**

**A) Termination of December 1998 Grant Agreement Between CVCLT and the City of Barre.**

Mayor Lauzon said this is a voluntary termination. Mr. Schwartz reviewed the history of the agreement and read a letter from the ACCD grants manager, saying the City is free to do with the agreement what it wishes.

Council approved the voluntary termination, agreed to by both the City and CVCLT, and authorized the Manager to sign on behalf of the City, on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. As part of the motion, the Clerk will review the termination to confirm that it meets with the aforesaid terms before the Manager signs. **Motion carried.**

**B) Reappointment of Development Review Board Members.**

Deferred to next week.

**C) Stone Art Legacy Program and Barre City Arts Update.**

**D) Approval of Merging Art Bike Rack & Public Art Semprebon Fund Appropriations.**

Studio Place Arts executive director Sue Higby talked about the National Center for the Arts' designating Barre as the #10 key area for arts vibrancy in the country. Ms. Higby urged people to give support to all the local arts organizations, and she said Frank Gaylord's retrospective opens tomorrow at SPA and runs for two weeks. SPA is participating in the annual open studio weekend over Memorial Day weekend. Ms. Higby also shared the Art Stoll map for Barre.

Ms. Higby gave an update on the Semprebon Fund funded public art projects, including the bike racks and statuary. There will be 2 additional bike racks sited this summer, and a large scale sculpture will be sited this fall or winter. Commissions have been recently awarded for one more bike rack and one more large scale sculpture.

Ms. Higby discussed the funding available from the two different Semprebon Fund line items, and requested that the balance of the bike rack funds be rolled into the public art fund. The combined funding will cover the remaining commissions.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the original appropriations, and said he has no issue combining the two columns

into a single public art fund.

Council approved combining the funds on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon said he would love to see a Frank Gaylord piece as part of the Barre City public art collection.

**Old Business –**

**A) Insurance Services Office (ISO) Rating System Briefing.**

New England ISO representative Paul Levesque answered the Council's questions on the ISO rating system. Mr. Levesque said the City is currently at a 4 and will be going to a 3 later this summer or fall. Mr. Levesque said removal of the tower truck would likely change the City's rating back to a 4. The aerial truck is a key component of the gain. Mr. Levesque said Barre City is the only community that has scored 100% for bonus points for community outreach and preventative measures. Mayor Lauzon said the impact on public safety from the loss of the ladder truck is more important than the impact on the ISO.

There was discussion about the impact the ISO rating has on insurance rates; differences between ISO and life safety issues; ways the City could reduce its rating to 2 including water infrastructure, training facilities, staffing levels, communications, and length of a new ladder truck.

**B) Tower Truck Purchase Discussion (Cont'd): Additional Background and Bid Process Determination.**

Chief Tim Bombardier said he had a few updates for the packet of information provided following last week's discussion:

- It is possible to re-chassis the current tower truck at an estimated cost is \$550,000-\$600,000, provided nothing went wrong,
- There have also been a few changes made to the draft aerial proposal.

There was discussion about the public safety needs for a tower truck; possible need for changes in building code should there be no tower truck; developing bid specifications for a new or used replacement tower truck; thorough evaluation of the current truck and develop cost estimates for repairs/replacements; researching financing options; and establishing list of vendors to receive bid package.

Mayor Lauzon said the City could run concurrent paths of seeking bids for a replacement and getting estimates for repairs.

There was continued discussion about some of the available trucks included in the Chief's package of materials, setting a time table for soliciting bids and getting the current truck evaluated, what repair work would be needed on the current truck to get the City through while a replacement truck is on order, and comparing recent maintenance costs to replacement costs.

Mayor Lauzon said the Manager and Chief will develop the timeframe for soliciting bids.

**New Business – continued.**

**E) FY15 Budget Status Update.**

Mayor Lauzon said the projected fund balance is estimated at \$169,000. Additional discussion is deferred to next week.

**Other) Public Access Easement for Vermont Granite Museum.**

Council authorized the Manager to enter into an easement on behalf of the City on motion of Councilor

To be approved at 05-26-15 Barre City Council Meeting

Boutin, seconded by Councilor Dindo. The motion includes that the easement will include language that specifies the easement exists only as long as the multiuse path remains open to the public. **Motion carried with Councilor Herring abstaining.**

**Round Table –**

Councilor Herring wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day.

Councilor Smith gave an update on the CV Public Safety Authority executive director search.

**Executive Session: NONE**

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:08 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

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