

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held January 26, 2016**

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 present 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 Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular meeting on January 19, 2016.
 - Special meeting on January 23, 2016.
- City Warrants as presented: week 2016-04.
 - Accounts Payable: \$294,007.36
 - Payroll (gross): \$122,923.05
- Licenses & Permits:
 - 2016 Food Establishment License:
 - L&M Diner, 240 N. Main Street
 - 2016 Food Take-Out License:
 - Central Market, 50 Summer Street

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

- Third quarter property taxes are due by February 16th, due to the February 15th Presidents' Day holiday.
- Yesterday was the deadline for nominating petitions. The Clerk distributed a list of names that will appear on the March 1st Annual (Town) Meeting ballot.
- Requests for early absentee ballots are being accepted. Ballots will be available by February 10th.

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Scott Mears	115 Berlin Street
Enough Ministries	92 Summer Street
Washington County Mental Health	23 Summer Street
Granite City Developers LLC	14 N. Main Street

Liquor Control –

Attorney Merrill Bent appeared before Council representing Dollar General and its new 2016 2nd class liquor license applications for the two stores located in the City. Mayor Lauzon recused himself from the discussion and decision, as Dollar General is a tenant in one of his buildings. Councilor Smith assumed chairing the meeting. Ms. Bent said this will be a new service provided in DG's Vermont stores.

Council approved the 2016 2nd class license applications for the Dollar General locations at 74 South Main Street and 540 North Main Street on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo.

To be approved at 02-02-16 Barre City Council Meeting

Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.

Mayor Lauzon resumed chairing the meeting.

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

- The City has taken delivery on \$70,000 worth of salt, which represents a good portion of the FY16 salt budget.
- Met with Friends of the Winooski to discuss their run-off projects. There will likely be another meeting and then a presentation to Council.
- Interviewing potential permit specialists this week. Hope to make an offer in the near future.
- Received an application from a strong possibility for the DPW director position. Meeting with the candidate over the weekend.
- The Manager will be focusing on capital purchases in February.

Council asked about the internal control responses due to the auditor. The Manager said they should be filed by the end of next week.

Mayor Lauzon said he is working with the Manager on a FY16 mid-year report, which will be presented to Council in the near future.

Visitors & Communications –

Councilor Dindo said he has drafted language for a question related to chickens in Barre City to be included on the Annual (Town) Meeting ballot. There was discussion around the draft language, its intent, and whether it's legal. Clerk Dawes will run the proposed language by the Secretary of State's office for clarification. Councilor Dindo said there will be a public meeting in the Council chambers on Thursday, February 4th from 6:00 – 8:00 PM to hear from people on the subject of chickens. Resident John LePage said the subject was tabled last week for thirty days to allow time for discussion, and putting it on the ballot doesn't balance with last week's decision.

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

A) FY17 Budget Presentation and Approval.

Manager Mackenzie presented the latest draft of the budget and said it meets the Council's directive to keep the total combined municipal and education tax rate increase to 1.5%. There was discussion on the possibility of performing some deferred maintenance in the current fiscal year if there is an anticipated surplus, and making the OIG settlement payments out of the FY15 surplus as prior period adjustments.

Council reviewed the budget numbers and amount to be raised by taxes. Manager Mackenzie said his office will confirm the health savings numbers with VLCT.

Clerk Dawes distributed a draft of the warning. Council discussed the intention of the flood mitigation bond question and the order of the articles on the ballot. The warning will be approved at a special Council meeting on Saturday, January 30th at 8:00 AM.

Rob Spring spoke in support of the Aldrich Library, requesting that Council re-consider the current FY17 budget allocation and change the increase from \$15,000 to \$30,000. Mr. Spring spoke of the library's finances, and the programs and services being provided to City residents. Mayor Lauzon said he continues to support annual increases at a rate of inflation plus. Aldrich Library board chair Nancy Pope said library director Sarah Costa would like an opportunity to address the Council again about library

services. Mayor Lauzon said Ms. Costa will be included in the budget presentations in the weeks leading up to the Annual (Town) Meeting.

B) Approval of TIF Appeal to Vermont Department of Taxes.

Clerk Dawes reviewed the need for the appeal as discussed at last week's meeting. Council approved sending an appeal letter to the Department on Taxes on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Round Table:

Councilor Herring said he would like Council to discuss capital improvement priorities after Town Meeting. He also asked for an updated debt service retirement schedule.

Councilor Dindo reminded everyone of the February 4th meeting on chickens.

Mayor Lauzon reminded everyone of the following upcoming special Council meetings:

- Thursday, January 28, 2016 – first public hearing for proposed charter changes
- Saturday, January 30, 2016 – approve warning for 2016 Annual (Town) Meeting

Executive Session – NONE

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

An audio recording of this meeting is available from the City Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk