

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held April 5, 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, Councilors Charles Dindo and Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilor Lucas Herring. Also present were City Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Absent: From Ward III, Councilor Anita Chadderton.

Adjustments to the Agenda: Mayor Lauzon said the agenda would be rearranged to accommodate those in attendance.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Council approved the following consent agenda items on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried with Councilor Dindo voting against.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular meeting on March 29, 2016
- City Warrants as presented: week 2016-14.
 - Accounts Payable: \$374,686.19
 - Payroll (gross): \$116,569.16
- Licenses & Permits:
 - Animal Licenses:
 - Carey Miller, 3 Cooley Street, 6 chickens.

Council approved an Entertainment License application from Naomi Watker for a candlelight vigil for Drew Bernier in City Hall Park on Sunday, April 10th from 6:30 – 8:00 PM on motion of Councilor Dindo, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Council approved a change of location for the May 7th Project Graduation coin drop from Washington Street to N. Main Street, contingent upon Police Department approval, on motion of Councilor Dindo, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

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

- Dogs were due to be licensed by last Friday, April 1st. The Clerk's office issued 475 licenses by close of business that day; 250 of them were issued last week.

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Granite Industries of VT Inc.	22 Stewart Lane
Matt & Courtney Laggnier	18 Delmont Avenue

Liquor Control – Council approved the following liquor licenses on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

<u>Establishment</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>License</u>
Asian Gourmet	276 N. Main St.	1 st class
Champlain Farms #14	15 S. Main St.	2 nd class
Champlain Farms	169 Washington St.	2 nd class
Cornerstone Pub & Kitchen	47 N. Main St.	1 st class

Elks Club	10 Jefferson St.	1 st class
Fastop	377 N. Main St.	2 nd class
Mr. Z's	379 N. Main St.	1 st class
Mutuo Inc.	20 Beckley St.	1 st class
North End Deli Mart	475 N. Main St.	2 nd class
Positive Pie	219 N. Main St.	1 st class
Simply Delicious	14 N. Main St.	1 st & 2 nd class
Soup N' Greens	325 N. Main St.	1 st class

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

- Introduced new administrative assistant Nick Landry.
- Enterprise Aly chemical injections begin on April 18th.
- Firefighter union contract mediation session scheduled for this Thursday.

Visitors & Communications –

Resident Linda Shambo thanked Councilor Dindo for his service to the neighborhood and the City.

John Clark delivered notes to Mayor Lauzon and Councilor Dindo.

New Business –

B) Civic Center Use Policy.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the draft policy that would offer up to three discounted Civic Center rentals per year. Councilor Poirier said he will vote against the policy as it is too limiting and the number of discounted events is arbitrary. Councilor Herring said he supports the policy. Councilor Dindo said the City is already generous in its support of area non-profits through voter approved appropriations, so he will not support the policy. Councilor Boutin said he does not support the policy if the Civic Center Committee does not support it.

Councilor Herring made a motion to approve the policy as presented. Motion died for lack of a second.

Old Business –

A) Connecting Hope Request for Reduction in Auditorium Rental Fees.

Mayor Lauzon asked if any Councilor wanted to make a motion to offer a fee reduction to Connecting Hope. No motion was forthcoming.

B) Authorization of B.O.R. Ceiling Paint Contract with Dunham Brothers.

Mayor Lauzon said he would like to discuss this item in executive session at the end of the meeting.

D) Authorization of Wheelock House Lease with Pierre Couture (The Antiques Center).

Councilor Smith said he does not support the lease because of the low rental rate. Council approved the lease and authorized the Manager to sign on behalf of the City on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried with Councilors Boutin and Smith voting against.**

C) Animal License Application (Chickens & Turkeys) for 38 Railroad Street.

Clerk Dawes said the applicant, Shannon Capron, and Health Officer Capt. Matt Cetin are in attendance. Capt. Cetin reviewed the application and his meeting with Ms. Capron at her property. He said the license application and property comply with current ordinance and received his approval. There was discussion about the size of Ms. Capron's lot, the number of birds included on her license, the lack of prior complaints against Ms. Capron, and using the Barre Town school chicken coop as a good example of a properly constructed and maintained structure.

Mayor Lauzon asked Ms. Capron if she would consider reducing the number of birds on her Animal License application. Ms. Capron said she would like to reduce the number to 24 total birds, which would be a mixture of chickens and turkeys.

Councilor Boutin made the motion to approve the amended license, seconded by Councilor Smith. Clerk Dawes said Ms. Capron paid the application fee for 46 birds, and requested that the motion include refunding her the difference. The mover and seconder agreed. **Motion carried with Councilors Dindo and Poirier voting against.**

New Business –

A) Annual Update from Cow Pasture Committee.

Committee member Chris Russo-Fraysier reported on 2015 activities and upcoming 2016 projects. Ms. Russo-Fraysier thanked the partnering organizations that have supported the committee's work. Past projects have included signage and trail improvements. The plans for 2016 include improving the entrance from Maplewood Avenue, additional signage, covering or closing abandoned wells throughout the property, and development of a management plan. The committee will tap the Semprebun Fund allocation for \$5,000 to assist in paying for the management plan.

Ms. Russo-Fraysier said there are three people who have expressed an interest in joining the committee. Their letters of interest will be forwarded to the Manager's office.

D) Vermont Granite Museum Request to Waive Building Permit Fee.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the discussion from last week, and requested that Council reduce the permit fee to \$500. Council granted the reduction on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried with Councilor Herring voting against.**

E) Consideration of \$250 Allocation from Semprebun Fund to Cover ½ of Granite Museum Building Permit Costs.

Mayor Lauzon said Barre Town has approved covering ½ of the now approved \$500 building permit fee, and requested Council approve paying the other ½ out of the Semprebun Fund. Councilor Dindo made that motion, seconded by Councilor Boutin. Councilor Herring said he will personally cover the City's \$250 portion of the fee. The mover and seconder withdrew the motion.

C) Building Permit Policy.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the draft policy that would require all organizations with the exception of the municipality to pay building permit fees. Council approved the policy on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

F) Approval of Keith Avenue CAFI/CAP Contract with Stone Environmental, Inc.

Council approved the contract on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

G) Approval of Chemical Bids for Enterprise Aly Project – O&M Phase.

Mayor Lauzon said the bids received are very favorable to the budgeted amounts. Manager Mackenzie said the intention is to enter into a contract with the low bidder, however, he would like the flexibility to do additional research on the low bidder and offer the contract to the second lowest bidder, should that choice be in the best interest of the City.

Council approved the Manager's recommendation on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

H) Authorization to Submit Phase 2 HMGP Buy-Out Applications (85 & 87 Brook Street).

Mayor Lauzon said the property owners would be offered 75% of the pre-flood assessed values of their homes. The Mayor said he wants the record to reflect the Council's enthusiasm for the flood mitigation plans, including these buy-outs. Council approved authorizing the Manager to submit the applications on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Manager Mackenzie said Dubois & King has identified a possible grant source to assist with the construction phase of the mitigation projects. D&K will prepare the grant application at no additional charge.

I) Setting Date for Ward 1 Caucus.

Clerk Dawes said her recommendation is to hold the Ward 1` caucus on June 1st, which is the day after Councilor Dindo's resignation goes into effect. Because of statutory requirements, Council will warn the caucus at its April 26th meeting.

Round Table-

Councilor Boutin announced he will not be at next week's meeting.

Councilor Herring said he would like to bring the animal ordinance revisions back for consideration. He will work on the draft language.

Mayor Lauzon reminded Council that there are two special Council meetings on Thursday, April 7th; one at 6:30 PM, and another at 7:30 PM.

Executive Session –

Councilor Boutin made the motion to find that premature general public knowledge of pending contract, personnel and litigation issues to be discussed would clearly place the City of Barre at a substantial disadvantage should the discussion be public. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council went into executive session at 8:40 PM to discuss pending contract, personnel and litigation issues under the provisions of 1 VSA sec. 313 on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Manager Mackenzie was invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 9:08 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk