

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held July 21, 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, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring. Also in attendance were Acting City Manager Jeff Bergeron and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Absent: NONE

Adjustments to the Agenda: NONE.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

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

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular meeting on July 14, 2015.
 - Special meeting on July 15, 2015.
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2015 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Animal Licenses
 - Normand Fortier, 39 Fortney Place, 12 chickens.

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

- Property tax bills were mailed last week. The office is handling a lot of questions about homestead declarations and rebates.

Approval of Building Permits –

There were no permits to approve. Mayor Lauzon requested that Council approve waiving the fees for any permits associated with the flood damage from Sunday evening. Council approved waiving the fees on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon said all permit applications still need to be filed with the Planning & Zoning office, even if done retroactively.

Liquor Control –

Councilor Herring moved to take the Cornerstone request to cater permit application from the table, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Cornerstone owners Keith Paxman and Rich McSheffrey, and Heritage Festival director Renee Proteau reviewed the layout around City Hall Park as was discussed with members of the Council before this evening's meeting. There was discussion about allowing a stand-alone beer garden, how multiple requests will be handled in future years, Cornerstone's participation in the Festival as a sponsor, the organization of the festival, and conditions on the permit as approved by Chief Bombardier. Ms. Proteau said it is the recommendation of the Barre Partnership, which oversees the Festival, to approve the permit.

Council approved the Cornerstone request to cater permit application with conditions from Chief Bombardier on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried with Mayor Lauzon and Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

Visitors & Communications –

Frederick Venner said his father, Thomas Venner, was a former Barre City fire chief, and is honored with

To be approved at 07-28-15 Barre City Council Meeting

a memorial in front of the Public Safety Building. Mr. Venner said there will be an interment of his father's ashes at Hope Cemetery this Sunday, July 26th. He requested that his father's ashes have a last ride on a fire truck during Saturday's parade. Chief Bombardier said that can be arranged. Mr. Venner also requested that the City provide \$1,500 to cover the costs of the services being coordinated by Hooker Whitcomb Funeral Home and a round of drinks in his father's name at the American Legion. He said he is looking into other funding options including the Fireman Fund and a coin drop. Mayor Lauzon said Council cannot take action this evening as the item was not warned. It will be warned for action on next week's agenda. Mayor Lauzon ordered the City Hall Park flag be lowered to half-staff on Sunday, July 25th, in honor of Chief Venner.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the damage from the flooding on Sunday evening, July 19th. The Mayor said the damage was mostly north of Route 62 along North Main Street to Fifth Street, Maple Avenue, Brook Street, Harrington Avenue and surrounding areas. He thanked the local and state officials who provided assistance with high water rescue, assessment of properties, and ongoing clean-up efforts.

Chief Bombardier said people should report property damage by calling 211. He described the event, and said debris from upstream as far as Plainfield washed down into the City and the Harrington Avenue bridge created a choke point, causing Gunner Brook to back up and spill over its banks. One hundred residences have been inspected, along with 20+ businesses. Seven electric meters were pulled and most have been re-energized at this point. Four properties have noticeable structural damage, including three homes and one garage. Muck out crews are being arranged for, and muck out kits are available at the Public Safety Building.

There was discussion about supervision of the emergency response and clean up, and assessment of storm damage. Councilor Poirier asked that next week's agenda include an update on filling the Director of Public Works position.

Mayor Lauzon said he is confident the public damage in the effected towns will top the \$1 million threshold that will allow for a presidential disaster declaration and bring FEMA to the area to address repairs of public damage. Chief Bombardier said the City has enlisted help from Montpelier, Berlin and Barre Town for cleaning the silt off streets, and VT Department of Corrections assisted with the clean-up in Dente Park. Dumpsters are being arranged for and will likely be located at the city garage on Burnham Street to help mitigate unauthorized usage. A page is being added to the City website where people can get up-to-the-minute information about the flood and services available.

City Manager's Report –

Manager Mackenzie is away on vacation this week. Acting Manager Bergeron reported on the following:

- Central Vermont Economic Development Council is offering programs to assist business owners who are dealing with flood issues.
- The BOR ceiling is being sandblasted, which should be completed later this week or early next week. Painting of the ceiling will be completed by the end of August.
- In preparation for the Heritage Festival, the Youth Triumphant memorial has been cleaned. The Burns memorial was partially cleaned due to limited access, and will be finished after the festival. The Italian Stonecutter memorial in Dente Park will be cleaned before the end of the week.

Old Business –

A) Award Contract for Audit Services FY15, FY16, & FY17.

Mayor Lauzon reminded Council of last week's discussion on the audit proposal finalists, Corrette & Associates and Sullivan & Powers. Councilor Poirier made the motion to award the contract for audit services to Sullivan & Powers, seconded by Councilor Dindo. There was discussion about cost differences, risk assessments and the Manager's and Clerk's recommendations from the previous week. Clerk Dawes was asked if she stands by her recommendation to award the contract to Sullivan & Powers, and she said yes. Clerk Dawes said both firms are well qualified and she looks forward to working with

To be approved at 07-28-15 Barre City Council Meeting

whichever one secures the contract.

Councilor voted on the motion as presented. **Motion failed to pass with Councilors Poirier and Dindo voting in favor, and Mayor Lauzon and Councilors Chadderton, Herring, Smith and Boutin voting against.**

Councilor Boutin made the motion to reconsider last week's question to award the contract to Corrette & Associates, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried with Mayor Lauzon and Councilors Chadderton, Herring, Smith and Boutin voting in favor, and Councilors Dindo and Poirier voting against.**

Councilor Boutin made the motion to award the contract for audit services to Corrette & Associates and authorize the Manager to sign the contract, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried with Mayor Lauzon and Councilors Chadderton, Herring, Smith and Boutin voting in favor, and Councilors Dino and Poirier voting against.**

New Business –

A) Authorization for the Barre Lions Club to Hold Coin Drop August 22nd.

Council approved the coin drop request from the Barre Lions Club, contingent upon coordination with Police Department, on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

B) 7:15 PM: First Reading Ordinance Revision #2015-01: Depositing Snow & Ice on Streets, Sidewalks and Water Ways.

Mayor Lauzon opened the First Reading at 8:35 PM. There was brief discussion about the draft language, and a proposed amendment.

Council approved the draft as amended for a second reading and public hearing at next week's meeting on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

C) Resolution #2015-08: Grant Anticipation Note Paperwork.

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

Round Table:

All Councilors thanked City staff who have been working tirelessly on the flood and aftermath, and thanked the surrounding communities and state officials for their ongoing assistance.

Councilor Chadderton reminded drivers to be careful of extra kids in the downtown during this weekend's Heritage Festival.

Councilor Poirier said a Spaulding High School graduate, Troy Evans, recently qualified for the US Amateur Gold Tournament. Funds are being raised to help send Mr. Evans to the tourney.

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, 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