

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held August 11, 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, Councilor Anita Chadderton. Also in attendance were City Manager Steve Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Absent: From Ward III, Councilor Lucas Herring.

Adjustments to the Agenda: Mayor Lauzon said he may rearrange agenda items to accommodate those in attendance.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Council approved the following consent agenda items on motion of Council Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular meeting on August 4, 2015.
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2015 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office. NONE

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

- First quarter property tax payments are due by August 17th because the 15th falls on a Saturday.
- Early absentee voting is available for the August 18th special election to vote on the aerial truck. Polls will be open at the auditorium next Tuesday from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM.
- The Clerk reminded the Council there is no meeting next week.

The Clerk asked if Council was ready to make a decision on the allocation of the flood donation fund. Mayor Lauzon asked that this item be placed on the August 25th meeting agenda.

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Dion & Terri Carlyle	56 Westwood Parkway
Faith Copeland	48 Currier Street
Alfred Dubuque	209 Hill Street
Thomas & Ellen Sivret	134 Elm Street
Paul & Crystal Charron	24 Vine Street
Marco Romagnoli	11 First Street
Irvin & Josephine Sayman	20 Vine Street
James Coletti	240 N. Main Street

Liquor Control – NONE

City Manager's Report –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- Beginning to plan for the fall yard waste pick-up.
- In negotiations with three bargaining units: Police, Steelworkers, and Fire. The DPW contract expires in December, so those negotiations will begin this fall.
- Setting up meetings between VLCT and union leadership teams to discuss required transitioning to the state health plans.
- The Enterprise Aly project is running about a week behind schedule, due to the elevated ground

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water and a larger than anticipated hot spot. The contractor is on the lookout for alleged canisters of chemicals that may have been buried in the vicinity of the former Howe Cleaners building. The work is still comfortably within the substantial completion timeline.

Mayor Lauzon asked about painting line dividers at the Washington/Elm/North Main Street intersection. Manager Mackenzie said DPW is currently working on painting projects, and that's on the list.

Councilor Dindo asked about mowing the median on Route 62. Manager Mackenzie said the City has an agreement with the state that allows the City to mow the edges and median between North Main Street and Berlin Street, however, beyond that point is the state's responsibility.

Councilor Poirier asked about the pedestrian signals at the traffic light near the Mathewson School. The Manager said the pedestrian buttons aren't functioning, so the signal is on an automated cycle until the buttons can be replaced. The Manager said he is exploring options for the installation of "no right on red" signals at certain intersections. The topic will be on the August 25th meeting agenda for discussion. Mayor Lauzon requested the agenda also include a discussion on the ped buttons that were installed during the Big Dig, and whether they were the appropriate model based on the City's climate and usage.

Visitors & Communications –

Auditor Randall Northrop, Corrette & Associates, introduced himself to the Council. Mr. Northrop said he expects to begin work on the FY15 audit around September 1st and completion should be around December 1st. His office is sending questionnaires and planning information to each Councilor, and will schedule individual meetings with each one during their time on site in September. Mayor Lauzon welcomed Mr. Northrop and said the City is looking forward to working with Corrette & Associates.

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

B) Discussion of Water Fording Vehicles.

Before Chief Bombardier began the discussion on the vehicles, Mayor Lauzon extended his sympathies to the Sobel & Herring families impacted by this past week's shootings. The Mayor voiced his appreciation for the respect, courtesy and professionalism exhibited by the Barre City Police Department and Chief Bombardier, and the cooperation by the department with Vermont State Police, Berlin and Montpelier police departments.

Chief Bombardier said the City is part of the federal government 1033 military surplus program, which gives the City access to surplus equipment. The City currently has some surplus firearms that aren't needed and the Chief has been exploring options for giving them back. In the process of having those discussions, the City has been offered two water fording Humvees. The vehicles would be provided free of charge to the City, with the City picking up the costs of painting and outfitting the vehicles, along with ongoing maintenance. The vehicles would be outfitted so as to be able to ford water depths up to 60", and would have space in the back for rescue equipment and personnel. The City is currently dependent upon others for high water rescue assistance, and it can take up to 3 ½ hours for such rescue vehicles to arrive.

There was discussion about any strings attached to accepting the vehicles, costs for painting and outfitting, and the fact that use of the vehicles is limited to the police department.

Council approved authorizing the Chief to negotiate and accept two water fording vehicles on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

A) 7:15 PM ordinance 2015-02 Funeral Parking Second Reading & Public Hearing.

Mayor Lauzon opened the public hearing at 7:43 PM, noting there are no members of the public present. There were no questions or discussion from the Council. The Mayor closed the hearing at 7:44 PM.

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Council approved ordinance revision #2015-02 as read a second time and adopted on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

C) Authorization to Execute Easements for Enterprise Aly Propane Tanks and Access Ramp.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed Manager Mackenzie's memo, saying the propane tanks behind L&M Diner and Espresso Bueno will be relocated and buried as part of the Enterprise Aly project, which will provide additional public safety and increase the aesthetic appeal of the area. Manager Mackenzie said all appropriate permits are in place.

Council approved authorizing the Manager to execute the easements on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

D) Engagement of Engineering Services for Flood Mitigation Study.

Manager Mackenzie said this item was on the agenda by mistake.

E) Update on Gunner Brook.

Manager Mackenzie said he participated in a walk along the brook last week and photo documented areas of concern, including areas of erosion and scour, wood and other debris, stone debris from collapsed retaining walls, and the quality and conditions of retaining walls. He said he has reached out to the Department of Corrections to remove some of the debris from the brook.

There was discussion about trying to determine the sources of the debris, preliminary plans for mitigation efforts being reviewed with the engineering team, and applying for flood mitigation funds by the November 1st deadline. Council offered informal approval to apply for the funds. Manager Mackenzie said preliminary plans might include a limited buyout of 3-4 properties, taking out the Harrington Avenue bridge and dealing with debris collection.

There was further discussion about receiving email updates, reviewing the engineer's scope of work by October 1st, and the creation of a storm water fund and 10 year plan by this time next year.

Round Table:

Councilor Smith said this week is the last Wednesday for the Authors at the Aldrich and the Concerts in Currier Park.

Mayor Lauzon again expressed his pride in the community regarding the recent events. The Mayor said he echoes the Governor's call to push back against negative comments about state and municipal workers.

Executive Session: NONE

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk