

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held September 22, 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 there would be some minor adjustments to the agenda, including the addition of an item for discussion only.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

Councilor Smith made the motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Councilor Dindo. Councilor Poirier said he had an issue with the minutes from the September 16<sup>th</sup> special meeting. He said Robert's Rules of Order do not allow a member to change their vote after the results of the vote have been announced, and that is what happened at the meeting, therefore Councilor Dindo's change of vote was out of order. Mayor Lauzon agreed with Councilor Poirier's interpretation of Robert's Rules. Clerk Dawes said the minutes of the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting accurately reflect what happened at the meeting, and should not be altered. The Clerk recommended that there be a notation in this meeting's minutes that indicates that due to Robert's Rules, Councilor Dindo's change of vote at last week's special meeting was out of order and is considered void. With these notes, Council then considered the original motion to approve the consent agenda.

Council approved the following consent agenda items, including the notes above about the September 16<sup>th</sup> special meeting, as moved by Council Smith, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
  - Regular meeting on September 15, 2015.
  - Special meeting on September 16, 2015.
- City Warrants as presented.
- Licenses & Permits: NONE

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

- Water/sewer bills are due by September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The auditors' schedule has been adjusted again. They are now scheduled to be on site starting October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The Board of Civil Authority will meet on October 15<sup>th</sup> to hear the reports of inspection teams and deliberate on property tax assessment appeal hearings.

**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>
Kenneth Hepburn	90 Brook Street
Geneva Milne	118 Camp Street
Seventy-Four South Main Limited Co.	31 Brook Street
Harmony Holdings LLC	12 Veeder Avenue
Johanne Simpson	97 Granite Street

Mayor Lauzon said he has been talking with people affected by the July 19<sup>th</sup> flooding who are worried

about being able to make timely payments on their September water bills. The Mayor said he would like to assure them that the City will waive any late penalties and interest, on a case by case basis. Council concurred.

**Liquor Control – NONE**

**Visitors & Communications – NONE**

**New Business –**

**B) Update from Barre Partnership.**

Partnership executive director Josh Jerome reported on the following:

- The summer concert series was a success. They are looking into more food options for the future. They are looking into offering pop-up music venues for additional concerts throughout the summer, and possible collaborations with ReSource for the use of its stage.
- Economic Development committee working on recruitment package. Three new businesses are opening up over the next month or so. There will be a pitch event where businesses can pitch ideas to possible investors.
- The 5K race is scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup>. It will benefit area veterans and the holiday lighting fund. Promotions Committee is looking to add more events in the coming year.
- Exploring the formation of a merchants' group.
- Heritage Festival was a great event, with 12,000-15,000 attending. Next year's management will be handled through committees and volunteers.
- Design Committee had difficulties selling the new banners. The Partnership picked up the additional cost. Banners expected to be up in 2-3 weeks.
- Looking at options for the walkways and alleyways, and exploring grant opportunities to make them more pedestrian friendly.
- Teaming up with ReSource/YouthBuild on planter containers for North Main Street.
- Held annual meeting last week. Lucas Herring is the new board president. They are beginning work on a 5 year strategic plan.
- Launching the fall membership campaign.

**City Manager's Report –**

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- The woody debris has been removed from Gunner's Brook.
- Dates and arrangements are being finalized for the fall yard waste drop off and pick up options.
- New pedestrian push buttons have been ordered, in addition to one "no turn on red" sign which will be installed at the intersection near the library. The ADA Committee has been updated on the scheduled repairs and improvements.

Jeff Bergeron and BOR ceiling painting contractor Damien Dunham said in spite of sandblasting, there are still areas of loose paint on the BOR ceiling. Mr. Dunham is concerned that any paint applied this fall will not stick well. There was discussion about the options, required time for the paint to cure, and the impact of leaving bare wood exposed through the winter. Mr. Dunham recommended priming the bare wood areas this year, and completing the painting in the spring. He said areas that are already primed are secure. Manager Mackenzie said he will meet with Mr. Bergeron and Mr. Dunham, and will report their decision and reasonings back to the Council via memo.

**Old Business – NONE**

**New Business – continued**

**A) Pearl Street Pedestrian Way Concept Discussion.**

Manager Mackenzie said 16 people attended this evening's kick off meeting at Pearl Street to share their thoughts and concepts on the proposed pedestrian way. The project manager expects to come back to the Council for a public presentation and continued discussion in early November. The design exhibit and contact information for the project manager will be posted on the City website so people can continue to give their input.

**Other) Ownership of Locomotive.**

Mayor Lauzon said he has been unable to find any documentation regarding the ownership of the locomotive that was recently moved to the Vermont Granite Museum from his property at Metro Way. The Mayor reviewed a draft documentation and agreement in which the City would assert ownership of the locomotive and agree to put it on permanent loan to the Granite Museum for the purposes of maintenance and display. The Mayor said the agreement will be on next week's agenda for approval.

**Round Table:**

Councilor Dindo requested that next week's agenda include Council consideration of approving a donation to cover a portion of the cost of moving the locomotive to the Vermont Granite Museum. Councilor Poirier said he will also be bringing forward information he has received from Manager Mackenzie and Barre Area Development Corporation executive director Joel Schwartz about the history of the move.

Mayor Lauzon said last Saturday's Granite Festival was a wonderful event.

**Executive Session:**

Councilor Smith made the motion to find that premature general public knowledge of litigation and personnel 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 Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Council went into executive session at 8:10 PM under the provisions of 1 VSA sec. 313 to discuss litigation and personnel on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

City Attorney Oliver Twombly, Attorneys John Durrance and Rick Davis were invited into the litigation portion of the executive session. Manager Mackenzie was invited into both portions of the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 9:15 PM on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

No action was taken.

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM on motion of Councilor Dindo, 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