

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held October 27, 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 (arrived 7:07 PM); and from Ward III, Councilor Lucas Herring. Also in attendance were City Manager Steve Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Absent: From Ward III, Councilor Anita Chadderton.

Adjustments to the Agenda: NONE

Approval of Consent Agenda:

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

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular meeting on October 13, 2015.
- City Warrants as presented: week 2015-44
 - Accounts Payable: \$439,661.82
 - Payroll (gross): \$102,405.98
- Licenses & Permits: NONE

Councilor Smith arrived during the following.

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

- The auditors are on site and expect to finish up later this week or early next week.
- The Board of Abatement is meeting on October 29th to hear abatement requests related to the July 19th flooding.
- Following the property tax rebate download error two weeks ago, the files have been corrected, and revised/corrected tax bills were mailed out last week. The Clerk will work with any taxpayer negatively affected by the snafu.
- Second quarter property taxes are due by November 16th, as the 15th falls on a Sunday.

Clerk Dawes distributed a memo and noted the Board of Civil Authority made a recommendation to Council during the recent property tax assessment appeal hearings. The BCA is recommending that through errors & omissions the Council adjust land values on the three industrial condominium units located at 15 Blackwell Street that were not among those under appeal. The BCA granted a reduction to the six condo units under appeal, and recommended Council grant similar reductions so that all units at that location will have similar assessments. Mayor Lauzon requested that it be placed on next week's agenda for discussion.

The Clerk distributed a memo from Health Office Capt. Matt Cetin, requesting that Council name an Animal Control Committee as is called for in ordinance to hold a hearing on a dog that has been involved a number of biting incidents. Council named Councilor Dindo, Councilor Poirier and Councilor Herring to the committee, with Councilor Smith as an alternate, on motion of Councilor Dindo, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.** The Committee will hold the requested hearing next Tuesday, November 3rd, at 6:00 PM.

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>
Timothy & Janelle Brennan	89 Country Way
Armando & Jean Coello	30 Nordic Lane
Chad Perkins	789 N Main Street

To be approved at 11-03-15 Barre City Council Meeting

Liquor Control – NONE

Visitors & Communications –

Ron Tallman from the Barre Area Veterans Association, and several other guests, presented American flags to the City to be displayed on North Main Street during appropriate occasions. Mr. Tallman said he understands that timing is short, but it would be nice to see some of the flags up for the upcoming Veteran's Day holiday. Mayor Lauzon and the Councilors joined Mr. Tallman and guests for a photo, and thanked Mr. Tallman and the Barre Area Veterans Association for the flags and all the work they do on behalf of veterans.

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

A) Preliminary Discussion of Charter Change for BCEMS School Board.

Councilor Herring, who serves as chair of the BCEMS board, said the board would like to pursue a charter change that would reduce the number of board members from 9 to 7. The charter change would be voted on at the March Annual (Town) Meeting. As it is the City's charter, the change must flow through the Council. Councilor Herring presented the draft language to the Council. It was agreed to place it on the ballot. The December 29th Council meeting agenda will include warning the 1st and 2nd public hearings, as required by statute.

B) Presentation of 2015 Municipal Budget & Services Survey.

Manager Mackenzie said this item is deferred to next week.

C) Approval of Campbell Parking Lot Paving Bid.

Mayor Lauzon said due to timing, the Manager awarded the paving bid last week to low bidder Green Mountain Paving. Council needs to ratify the Manager's actions. Council ratified the Manager's awarding of the contract on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

D) Ratification of the Police Contract.

Councilor Herring made the motion to ratify the contract, seconded by Councilor Smith. Manager Mackenzie gave a brief overview of the contract, which is retroactive to July 1, 2014, and includes a 90/10 split for health insurance. Councilor Poirier said he will be voting against the ratification as it's a terrible precedent to set by going with the 90/10 split, as teachers and many others have an 80/20 split. Manager Mackenzie said the contract calls for an increase to the 90/10 level, and it was not possible to move from a lower level all the way to 80/20 in this negotiation. Several Councilors thanked both negotiating teams for their hard work.

Council voted on the motion as presented. **Motion carried with Councilor Poirier voting against.**

E) Approval of Contract with ECS, Inc. for Enterprise Aly Five (5) Year O&M Contract.

Manager Mackenzie said this item is deferred.

City Manager's Report –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- The first draft of the Gunner Brook phase 1 mitigation study is available on the City website. There will be a public informational meeting on Thursday, October 29th at 7:30 PM at Alumni Hall.
- The Depot area of the Enterprise Aly project is expected to be open again this Friday. Paving is scheduled to begin this week, weather permitting, and substantial completion is on track for November 6th.
- Repairs to the pedestrian push signals have begun.
- The 1 Campbell Place parking area is scheduled to be paved next week.
- Saturday, October 31st is the last day for lawn debris drop off at the Barre Town stump dump.
- Next week is the curbside lawn debris pick up. Items must be at the curb by Monday, November 2nd.
- Downtown truck or treating on North Main Street is this Friday, October 30th from 4-5 PM.

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Councilor Poirier said he would like to know the following by December 1st:

- Will there be a holiday luncheon for staff this year? Manager says yes, there will be.
- Will staff have a ½ day off on Christmas Eve?

Round Table:

Councilor Dindo asked about getting bike path committee updates and minutes on the City website. Clerk Dawes said she will post them if they are forwarded to her.

Councilor Herring reminded people of the upcoming 5K run/walk scheduled for November 7th.

Mayor Lauzon reminded everyone of the Gunner's Brook mitigation plan public informational meeting this Thursday at 7:30 PM at Alumni Hall. The Mayor said Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District is proposing to increase the City's annual fee from \$1/person to \$2/person, and asked if Council would like to invite a CVSWMD representative to make a presentation to Council in the near future. Council concurred.

Executive Session -

Councilor Smith made the motion to find that premature general public knowledge of the litigation discussion would clearly place the City of Barre at a substantial disadvantage should the discussion be public. The motion was seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Council went into executive session at 7:52 PM under the provisions of 1 VSA sec. 313 to discuss personnel 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 8:11 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Councilor Herring made the motion to authorize the Manager to sign the digester cover settlement agreement with Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, #31272, in the amount of \$16,650, the purpose of the motion being to signal the Council's intention to approve the settlement, but with recognition that this item must be warned next week for ratification. The motion as presented was seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk