

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held December 1, 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, Councilor Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring.

**Absent:** From Ward II, Councilor Michael Boutin. Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes were not present.

**Adjustments to the Agenda:** Mayor Lauzon said he will be rearranging the agenda 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.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
  - Regular meeting on November 24, 2015.
- City Warrants as presented: week 2015-49.
  - Accounts Payable: \$2,270,402.67.
  - Payroll (gross): \$124,731.46.
- Licenses & Permits: NONE

**The City Clerk/Treasurer Report** – NONE

**Approval of Building Permits** – NONE

**Liquor Control** – NONE

**City Manager's Report** – NONE

**Visitors & Communications** –

Jeffrey Tuper-Giles announced the Miracle on Granite Street fundraiser at the Labor Hall on December 12<sup>th</sup> to benefit the Good Samaritan Haven.

**Old Business** – NONE

**New Business** –

**B) Stowe St. Sewer Concerns.**

Rachel & Michael Hickory said there was a sewer backup in their cellar on October 30<sup>th</sup>, with a similar backup a year ago. A private contractor cleared the blockage at the Hickory's expense. The blocked part of the pipe is under the street which is owned by Herb Heath; purchased by him in 1989. The Mayor said Mr. Heath has not deeded the street over to the City. The Mayor said effective today City crews will place the line on a 30 day maintenance schedule – every 30 days the line will be flushed. The City is prepared to accept the street from Mr. Heath, if he will have a deed prepared to convey the street to the City. The line will be fixed in the spring provided the street is deeded to the City by that time.

**A) Ordinance #2015-04: Animal & Fowl Ordinance Revisions – First Reading Warned for 7:15 PM.**

Capt. Matt Cetin introduced Animal Control Officer Paula Russell, quarantine kennel owner Sam Puncher, and US Humane Society cat specialist Katie Lisnik.

Capt. Cetin reviewed the draft and suggested changes. He distributed a list of the ACO involvements from

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the past year. There was discussion on what the health officer inspects, community (feral) cats, designating cat licensing fees to cover a trap/neuter/return program, rabies vaccination of cats, licensing cats, radio chipping pets, allowing cats to roam free provided they are identified with a collar and tags or a radio chip.

Councilor Poirier made the motion to not take the cat portion of the ordinance to a second reading, and get the word out about the need to identify cats when they are outdoors. The motion died for lack of a second.

Mayor Lauzon said the tool to deal with cats off the owner's property seems to already be in the ordinance. Capt. Cetin said South Burlington has an online process for licensing cats.

The discussion moved on to Sec. 3-25 poultry. Capt. Cetin reviewed the current language and set-backs, and said the draft language was taken from South Burlington's ordinance. He said there might also be a need for regulations with regards to marketing eggs for sale through hobbyist chicken farmers, and he reviewed past complaints related to chickens.

There was general discussion on why there is a need to change from the current set-back language, grandfather language for those who currently have chickens and are in compliance with the current language, license revocation for those who aren't in compliance, lighting in chicken yards, use of scrap lumber, size of chicken coops, adjusting the number of chickens allowed, responsible ownership, and laying rates for chickens.

Councilor Herring made the motion to approve the first reading of the ordinance including the recommendations made by Capt. Cetin, Ms. Lisnik and those in attendance, and move on to a second reading. Mayor Lauzon recommended Council schedule a new first reading with a clean copy including the changes as mentioned by Councilor Herring. Councilor Herring revised his motion to move to a new first reading on January 12<sup>th</sup> to incorporate all changes as referenced in the original motion. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith.

Councilor Poirier moved to divide the question and vote on the cat sections separately. Councilor Dindo seconded. **Motion carried.**

Councilor Herring clarified Councilor Poirier's intent to remove only the language related to the licensing of cats. Councilor Poirier agreed that was the intent of his motion. After further discussion to clarify the motions, Councilor Poirier withdrew his motion and Councilor Herring withdrew his motion. The changes discussed this evening will be incorporated into a revised draft and will come forward for a new first reading at the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Round Table:** NONE

**Executive Session** – NONE

The Council meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

There is no audio recording of this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk