

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held July 26, 2016**

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 Paul Poirier and Jeffrey Tuper-Giles; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring. Also present were City Manager Steven Mackenzie 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 Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular meeting on July 12, 2016
 - Special meeting of July 18, 2016
- City Warrants as presented:
 - Affirmation of Week 2016-29 (warrants approved last week by Mayor Lauzon):
 - Accounts Payable: \$509,151.80
 - Payroll (gross): \$121,679.40
 - Approval of Week 2016-30:
 - Accounts Payable: \$333,482.87
 - Payroll (gross): \$131,197.42
 - Special Community Development Warrant: Enterprise Aly grant funds to reimburse the general fund: \$342,204.00
- Licenses & Permits: none considered as part of consent agenda

Mayor Lauzon said the City has received an Animal License application from a woman with 55 snakes, however, there is anecdotal evidence that she is selling the snakes without the necessary zoning permits. Council deferred action on the license and asked the Clerk and City Health Officer to provide additional information at next week's meeting.

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

- Early absentee voting for the August 9th primary is now available.
- First quarter property tax payments due by August 15th.
- The Board of Civil Authority is meeting July 28th to begin the annual property tax assessment appeal process. The Clerk said she has received 18 appeal requests.
- The BCA is meeting August 4th for its pre-election meeting in advance of the August 9th primary.

Approval of Building Permits – Council approved the following building permits on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Tuper-Giles. **Motion carried.**

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Greg D'Agostino	13 Hill Street
C. Scott & Charlene Helman	88 Woodland Drive
Gary Donahue	41 Brooklyn Street

Liquor Control – NONE

City Manager's Report – Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- The new recycle bins have arrived and are placed throughout the downtown.
- Final design plans will be reviewed at the flood mitigation public meeting tomorrow evening.
- The Gunners Brook buyout process has begun.

The audio recording of the meeting began at this point.

Councilor Poirier asked that the City host a meeting with those who will be affected when the state paves Washington Street next year. Manager Mackenzie will coordinate with VTRANS.

Visitors & Communications –

Residents Jeffrey & Hollie Friot read a statement related to the license agreement they have with the City over the use of abutting City-owned property. Mr. Friot said they recently received notification from the City that the license agreement will be terminated after the required one year notification period. The statement spoke of issues with the neighbors living behind the Friots' property, and misinformation that may have been provided by the neighbors to the City. The Friots said they had email and video evidence to support their claims, and would like to have the Council reconsider the license termination. They said the neighbors in question have moved. Manager Mackenzie said he tried to promote a mediation session between the neighbors, but it didn't happen. The Manager said he spoke with the Council about the issue, and submitted the termination letter on advice of the Council. Mayor Lauzon said he has heard different stories from both parties, and is interested in having neighbors get along. The Mayor asked the Friots to submit their email and video evidence to the Manager, who will make it available to the Council. A meeting will then be scheduled, with all parties being invited to participate.

Resident John LaPage asked where Council is going with the Animal Control Committee. There was discussion about Council's recent appointment of seven members to the committee, conflicting language in ordinance, and the role of the committee. It was noted two members of the committee have resigned, therefore the membership stands at five. Mayor Lauzon said the committee is designed to address best practices and assist the health officer with enforcement issues at the behest of the health officer. The Mayor said Council will work to clarify ordinance language and the committee's charge.

Old Business – NONE

New Business -

A) Lions Club Request to Change Location of August 20th Coin Drop.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed a request from the Lions Club to change the location of its August 20th coin drop from lower Washington Street to North Main Street in front of Domino's. Council approved the change of location on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Clerk Dawes asked Council to review the current coin drop policy to resolve some inconsistencies between the policy and current practice. It will be placed on an upcoming agenda for review.

Round Table –

Councilor Herring said the Heritage Festival is this weekend, and he reviewed the schedule of events and map of the event locations. Councilor Tuper-Giles said he is coordinating the parade, and there are at least 50 entries to date.

Councilor Smith reviewed this week's Wednesday activities, including the Authors at the Aldrich and Concerts in Currier Park.

To be approved at 08-02-16 Barre City Council Meeting

Councilor Boutin said it's nice to see so many people on the streets in the evening playing Pokemon Go.

Executive Session –

Councilor Boutin made the motion to find that premature general public knowledge of the property acquisitions 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 Herring. **Motion carried.**

Council went into executive session at 8:02 PM to discuss property acquisitions under the provisions of 1 VSA sec. 313 on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Manager Mackenzie was invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 8:18 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

No action taken.

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

An audio recording of this meeting is available from the City Clerk. The starting point for the audio recording is noted in these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk