

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held August 16, 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:** Mayor Lauzon said the City Manager's report will be moved to later in the agenda.

**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 August 2, 2016
  - Special meeting on August 10, 2016
- City Warrants as presented:
  - Affirmation of Week 2016-32 (warrants approved last week by Councilor Smith):
    - Accounts Payable: \$250,909.77
    - Payroll (gross): \$131,368.63
  - Approval of Week 2016-33:
    - Accounts Payable: \$294,290.60
    - Payroll (gross): \$124,328.01
- Licenses & Permits: none considered as part of consent agenda

Mayor Lauzon reviewed a memo and materials from Chief Tim Bombardier related to a taxi driver license application. The Mayor said the Chief recommends not approving the license due to inaccuracies between the first application submitted and the second. Councilor Boutin made the motion to accept the Chief's recommendation, seconded by Councilor Smith. The Mayor said he would prefer to have the applicant and Chief available to discuss the application before making a decision. The mover and seconder withdrew their motion. The Clerk will ask the Chief and applicant to attend next week's meeting.

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

- Results from last week's Primary Election are posted on the City website. There is a recount scheduled next week for the Washington County senate race among the Democratic candidates. Ballots will be delivered to the county courthouse tomorrow.
- First quarter property tax payments were due August 15<sup>th</sup>. The delinquency rate currently stands at 7.87%. Additional timely payments should come through the mail over the next few days.
- Attending hearings tomorrow at Washington County Probate Court on our requests to terminate the Keith Fund and Brusa Trust as uneconomical.
- There are nine properties scheduled for tax sale on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. One of the property owners has requested a Board of Abatement hearing before the sale, so a BoA meeting will be scheduled before the Council meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Assistant Clerk Joanna Houston retired at the end of last week.

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Joan Sabin	51 Fairview Street
Slacks of VT LLC	143 Boynton Street

**Liquor Control** – NONE

**Visitors & Communications** – NONE

**Old Business** –

**A) Consideration of Morgan Weiss Animal License.**

Ms. Weiss said she has applied for a Vermont state propagation/breeders license, and expects to receive it shortly. Council approved Ms. Weiss' animal license for 55 snakes, contingent upon her providing the City with a copy of her propagation/breeders license within 60 days, on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Poirier. **Motion carried with Councilor Chadderton voting against.**

**B) Review/Revise Coin Drop Policy.**

Council reviewed the draft policy and made minor changes to the language. The policy was approved as amended on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

**New Business** -

**A) Barre Partnership Update.**

Barre Partnership executive director Josh Jerome reported on this year's Heritage Festival. Mr. Jerome thanked the City's public safety and public works departments for their help, along with the volunteers, business supporters and media partners. He reviewed the highlights and challenges, and said they would like to include more ethnic food next year, along with more signage and awareness about the new recycling containers.

Mr. Jerome reported on other Partnership initiatives:

- Barre Saves Energy partnership with Efficiency Vermont is ongoing. The program offers free energy reviews of homes and businesses.
- The Design committee reviewed the Pearl Street pedestrian way designs and made suggestions.
- Planning has begun for this year's holiday events.
- The road pitch event held a few weeks ago was very successful. The plan is to hold another one next year.
- Membership numbers have decreased slightly. There will be another membership push this fall.
- The employee appreciation dinner is December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Councilor Herring, who serves as Partnership chair, said the downtown WiFi is seeing usage by 1,000 people/week. The Partnership will hold the 5K race again this November, and the annual meeting is in September.

**B) Cemetery Rules and Regulations and the Hope Cemetery Entrance Repair.**

Cemetery Committee chair Giuliano Cecchinelli said the committee has revised the rules to clarify the language associated with materials, techniques and types of granite allowed in Hope Cemetery. This was in response to the recent installation of a memorial with black granite inserts, which are not allowed, but the previous rules language was ambiguous. Council did not have a copy of the rules to review for approval. Mayor Lauzon asked Mr. Cecchinelli to provide the Council with a copy of the draft revisions, and they will be placed on next week's agenda for approval.

Mr. Cecchinelli said the entryway across from the cemetery office building is in need of repair. Manager Mackenzie said he is meeting with Mr. Cecchinelli and Buildings and Community Services director Jeff Bergeron to review what repairs are needed. There was discussion about pressure washing the entryway before the fall foliage season.

**D) Decision Regarding COCO Supreme Court RE: 350 North Main Street Appeal.**

Granite Hills Credit Union CEO Susan Poczobut said as an abutter to the property, she supports the project, and encourages the Council not to appeal the environmental court's decision.

Councilor Poirier made the motion to accept the findings of the environmental court, seconded by Councilor Smith.

Mayor Lauzon said he supports the motion with the understanding that Champlain Oil will take into consideration items discussed at the August 10<sup>th</sup> special meeting, including:

- Accommodating pedestrian traffic along the sidewalks.
- Establishing a visitors' center area.
- Providing a 12' easement for the bike path, green space and bike racks.

Council voted on the motion as presented. **Motion carried.**

**C) Pearl Street Pedestrian Way Final Design Approval.**

Manager Mackenzie gave a Powerpoint presentation of the most recent design options for the entryway, lighting and vines. Council made suggestions for revisions, which the Manager will share with the designers. A new revision will be forthcoming to Council. The plan is to complete the work this year.

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

- Voluntary water conservation notice has been issued due to the drought. There was some recovery with the rain over the weekend, but the reservoir remains low.
- Painting of the BOR ceiling has been completed.
- Will begin advertising next week for the flood mitigation projects.

**Round Table** –

Councilor Tuper-Giles said he is enjoying having the recycling bins in the downtown, and said those emptying the barrels should be careful to replace the covers correctly.

Councilor Smith reviewed this week's Wednesday events at the library and Currier Park.

Councilor Herring asked about trash receptacles in the cemeteries. Manager Mackenzie said they were removed a few years ago because they were being abused. Councilor Herring said the Granite Museum is researching moving the Welcome to Barre sign located near the entrance to Jones Brothers Way. There was discussion about who would be responsible for making such a move. Councilor Herring said the Act 46 study committee is finalizing the articles of agreement, which will be on the November ballot. He asked for information on how many smoking citations were handed out at the Heritage Festival. Manager Mackenzie said he will ask Chief Bombardier for that information. Councilor Herring announced that the Council team won this year's Heritage Festival bathtub race for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row. They are the only team to have won the event since its inception four years ago.

Councilor Poirier said there were nine public safety calls for heroin overdoses this weekend. He asked the Mayor to contact the schools and encourage them to dedicate an assembly to drug education. He also

To be approved at 08-23-16 Barre City Council Meeting

suggested there be a public meeting to discuss drugs with parents and families.

**Executive Session –**

Councilor Boutin made the motion to find that premature general public knowledge of personnel and active law enforcement issues 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 8:37 PM to discuss the personnel and active law enforcement issues under the provisions of 1 VSA sec. 313 on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Manager Mackenzie was invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 9:08 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

No action taken.

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Tuper-Giles. **Motion carried.**

An audio recording of this meeting is available from the City Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk