

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held August 21, 2012**

The Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Thomas Lauzon at the Blanchard Block located at 14 North Main Street. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilor Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring. Also in attendance were City Manager Steven Mackenzie, Clerk Carolyn Dawes and several members of the public and press.

Council toured the Blanchard Block with representatives from Granite City Developers.

Mayor Lauzon recessed the meeting at to allow Council to travel back to City Hall for the remainder of the meeting.

The Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called back to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Thomas Lauzon. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilor Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring. Also in attendance were City Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk Carolyn Dawes.

We Dig Barre Treasure Dig Drawing. Barre Partnership board member Bob Sager and mascot Digger invited Clerk Dawes to draw last week's winner, and announced this week's clue.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Council approved the following consent agenda items as presented on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular Meetings of August 14, 2012
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Animal License for 2 alpacas owned by Dessirae Rice, 319 Prospect Street.
 - Commercial Swimming Pool License for the Hollow Inn & Motel, 278 South Main Street.
 - Pool Table & Video Machine License for Planet Rock N' Metal for 1 pool table and 7 video machines, 127 North Main Street. Approval included conditions as recommended by Chief Bombardier.

The City Clerk and Treasurer Report – Clerk Dawes made the following announcements:

- The first quarter tax payment was due by August 15th. The delinquency rate is 4:81%, which is in line with where rates have been trending in recent years.
- Early/absentee ballots are available for next week's primary election. Polls will be open at the Auditorium from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM on August 28th.
- The Board of Civil Authority will hold its pre-election meeting on Thursday, August 23rd at 5:00 PM.
- The Clerk reminded Council that, due to the primary election, next week's Council meeting has been moved to Monday, August 27th.

Approval of Building Permits –

Council approved the following building permits on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

| <u>Applicant</u> | <u>Address</u> |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Carol Garland | 17 Hilltop Ave. |
| Lois Jean Vaughan | 267 Prospect St. |
| Gregory D'Agostino | 86 Nelson St. |

Liquor Control Board – NONE

Visitors and Communications – South Main Street resident Curtis Bevington said the Big Dig Summer Street detour should be maintained for big trucks after the completion of construction, so that merchants have an opportunity to recoup. Mayor Lauzon said a discussion about truck routes will be on the agenda at a later date as the project nears completion.

Mayor Lauzon said he and Clerk Dawes received an email on August 14, 2012 from Councilor Etlí, tendering his resignation from the Council. The Mayor said it would be appropriate for Council to accept the resignation and acknowledge Councilor Etlí's service. The Mayor said he will prepare a resolution for next week's meeting. Council accepted Councilor Etlí's resignation and acknowledged his service on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Clerk Dawes said at next week's meeting Council will approve a warning for a ward caucus to fill the vacancy. The Clerk said the caucus is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 27, 2012.

City Manager Report – NONE

Old Business –

A) Public Safety Committee Updates:

- **Fire Department –NONE**
- **Police Department – NONE**

New Business –

A) First Reading of Ordinance #2013-01: City Hall Park & Usage – Warned for 7:15 PM.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the proposed revisions. Mr. Bevington said he encourages the Council to approve the ban on smoking in City parks and recreation areas, and he would be happy to be part of a volunteer group to clean up cigarette butts.

Councilor Herring made the motion to warn the second reading and public hearing for next week's Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith.

Councilor Boutin said he will vote against the proposed revisions because of the tobacco ban. He said he would like to see it limited to no smoking at City-sponsored events only. Councilor Poirier said he supports a tobacco ban in all public places. He said he is concerned about enforcement and smoking on the sidewalks surrounding the parks. Mayor Lauzon said abutting sidewalks are part of the parks and smoking would be banned there, too. Councilor Poirier said the Police Department has more important things to do than enforce a smoking ban, including dealing with speeders and drug problems.

There was discussion about the language that would limit food and drink around the Youth Triumphant memorial and using the bike patrol Bees and Polar Bears for enforcement of the ordinance.

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

B) Proposal to Increase Planning Commission to Seven (7) Member Board.

City Planner Michael Miller said long time Commissioner Frank Demell recently resigned from the Planning Commission. Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Demell for his years of service, and said the Commission has received three letters of interest for the open seat. Mr. Miller requested that Council increase the size of the Planning Commission from 5 seats to 7 seats to allow the Commission to appoint all three of those interested in serving.

Council approved increasing the size of the Planning Commission to 7 seats on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

To be approved at 08-27-12 Barre City Council Meeting

Manager Mackenzie said the names of the proposed commissioners will come before Council for appointment at next week's meeting, along with the other annual appointments.

C) Resolution #2012-09 Adoption of Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Miller and Deputy Fire Chief Joe Aldsworth said the City has been working with the regional planning commission to update and adopt the local hazard mitigation plan. The last time it was adopted was 5 years ago. Council approved the resolution adopting the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

D) Reconsideration of Granite City Developers/Blanchard Block Tax Stabilization Agreement.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed Council's action last week, when a 15 year tax stabilization agreement with Granite City Developers was approved, and noted that City charter limits such agreements to no more than 10 years. The Mayor said it would be appropriate for Council to vote to reconsider last week's action. Council approved reconsideration of last week's action related to the Granite City Developers tax stabilization agreement on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon reviewed his proposed 10 year tax stabilization agreement for Granite City Developers and the Blanchard Block project. The Mayor said the plan would stabilize the assessment on the property at its current amount for 10 years, and beginning with year 11, the assessment would be at fair market value. The Mayor said he has called a special Council meeting for this Thursday, August 23, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Opera House lobby. Council will consider approval of the proposed tax stabilization agreement at the special meeting.

Mayor Lauzon said the agenda will include proposed revisions to the Tax Stabilization Policy. Councilor Poirier said he supports changing the policy to allow for a 10 year stabilization agreement, but any other changes should be warned for a future meeting to allow more time for the public to respond. Mayor Lauzon said he will make the adjustments to the proposed policy revisions and send it to Council for consideration at Thursday's special meeting.

There was discussion about assessment value vs. investment amount, the square footage amount in the proposed project, and the impact of tax stabilization agreements on education taxes.

E) Front Porch Forum Update.

Mayor Lauzon said this agenda item will be deferred to next week.

F) BCEMS Generator Grant Application.

Councilor Herring, in his capacity as Barre City Elementary and Middle School (BCEMS) board chair, along with Deputy Fire Chief Aldsworth, outlined the grant application. Deputy Chief Aldsworth said BCEMS has been designated by Red Cross as a secondary overflow emergency shelter, and the grant would pay for the installation of a generator to support the shelter. The grant application needs to be submitted by the City of Barre on behalf of the school, with the understanding that the school accepts all financial responsibility for the project. Mayor Lauzon asked for a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the City and BCEMS that would address issues such as ownership, insurance, maintenance and use of the space.

Council approved submitting the application on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Round Table –

Councilor Chadderton asked about the granite bollards that are being installed as part of the North Main Street Reconstruction project, and said she is concerned about damage to them. Mayor Lauzon said they are pretty durable. Councilor Chadderton reminded people that school starts next week, and asked drivers to be careful.

To be approved at 08-27-12 Barre City Council Meeting

Councilor Smith reminded everyone of tomorrow evening's final Concert in the Park and Author at the Aldrich events that have been part of the summer's Wednesdays in Barre activities.

Mayor Lauzon reminded everyone of the special Council meeting on Thursday, August 23rd.

Council adjourned at 8:50 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk

DRAFT