

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held October 9, 2012**

The Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Thomas Lauzon. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilors Charles Dindo and 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 (arrived 7:28 PM) and Clerk Carolyn Dawes.

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 meeting:
 - Special Meeting of October 1, 2012
 - Regular Meeting of October 2, 2012
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Entertainment license for Granite City Grocery Co-op Harvest Celebration, October 19th, 5:30 – 7:30 PM at the Old Labor Hall. Approval includes waiver of the application fee.
 - Entertainment license for Barre Lions Club haunted house, October 26th from 6:00 – 11:00 PM, October 27th from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM & 6:00 – 11:00 PM at the Granite Museum. Approval includes conditions as placed on the license by Chief Bombardier.

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

- Early absentee ballot requests are being accepted for the November 6th general election.
- The Board of Civil Authority is scheduled to meet on Thursday, October 18th at 5:30 PM to hear the report of the inspection team from the September 20th assessment appeal hearings. The BCA will also discuss procedures for conducting appeal hearings in the future.

Approval of Building Permits –

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Location</u>
Darlene Alexander	11 Westwood Parkway

Liquor Control Board –

Clerk Dawes said the City has received a new 2012 First Class liquor license application from The Cornerstone Pub & Kitchen, and the applicants are present to answer any questions Council might have. Mayor Lauzon said he is the owner of the building where the restaurant will be located, and he recused himself from the discussion due to conflict of interest. Acting Mayor Smith assumed the chair and called the Liquor Control Board into session. Cornerstone owners Keith Paxman and Rich McSheffrey talked about their past restaurant experiences and their ties to the Barre area. They said the Cornerstone is scheduled to open on October 30th. Council approved a new 2012 First Class liquor license for The Cornerstone Pub & Kitchen, 47 North Main Street, on condition that it receives approvals from the Police & Fire Departments, on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

Mayor Lauzon resumed chairing the meeting.

Visitors and Communications – NONE

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

D) Update on Status of Granite City Grocery.

Granite City Grocery representatives Holly Friot, Karen Lauzon and Emily Kaminsky addressed the Council, reviewing the history of their organization and an overview of upcoming activities. They are rolling out a membership drive to sign up 600 founding members by spring 2013. There is a Harvest Celebration supper at the Labor Hall on October 19th, and they will be hosting a series of public listening forums over the next few months. They have been awarded some grant funds to assist with conducting a market study, which will look at various prospective locations in the City, including City Place.

C) Mayoral Proclamation in Honor 2012 Year of International Co-operatives.

Mayor Lauzon presented Granite City Grocery with a framed Mayoral proclamation honoring 2012 as the Year of International Co-operatives, a designation established by the United Nations.

Manager Mackenzie arrived at 7:28 PM.

A) Interview of Interested Candidates for Appointment to City Committees.

Manager Mackenzie introduced Janet Shatney, new staff member of the planning & zoning department. Council appointed Ms. Shatney as Zoning Administrator on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the list of committee vacancies and proposed appointees.

Council interviewed prospective Planning Commissioner Michael Hellian, and appointed him to the Commission on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council interviewed prospective Cemetery Committee members Giuliano Cecchinelli, Jerome Bolkum, Norena Zanleoni and Real Maurice. Council approved expanding the Cemetery Committee to six and appointed all the prospective committee members on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon asked Manager Mackenzie to send copies of the Hope Cemetery improvement plans to the members of the Cemetery Committee.

Councilor Herring said he has been appointed by the BCEMS board to be the liaison to the City Recreation Committee. He said he is interested in serving as both the BCEMS liaison and the City Council liaison to the Recreation Committee, and he would like to step down as the Council representative to the Development Review Board. Council appointed Councilor Herring as the Council representative to the Recreation Committee on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Poirier. **Motion carried with Councilor Herring abstaining.**

There was discussion about Council liaisons to boards, and it was noted that the only one required by charter is the liaison to the Recreation Board. Mayor Lauzon said organizations are free to ask Councilors to sit on their boards, and Councilors are free to accept or decline as they see fit.

Councilor Herring said Councilor Smith is interested in serving on the Council IT Committee. Council appointed Councilor Smith to the IT Committee on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried with Councilor Smith abstaining.**

Mayor Lauzon said those Councilors who would like to step down from being liaisons to committees and

boards should let the respective board chairs know.

B) 2nd Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance #2013-03 Ordinance Revisions Chapter 18 Trash.

Mayor Lauzon opened the public hearing at 7:58 PM and invited comment. Ric Sanborn from R & L Archery discussed the situation at his business, where he has 2 dumpsters; one for trash and one for recycling. Mr. Sanborn asked questions about the necessity of weekly pick-up in his situation. There was discussion about the need for weekly pick-up if household trash is included, extra expenses associated with increased pick-ups, adding back in language that creates an exception for "...property clearly not located in a residential area..." and what that would mean for enforcement.

Councilor Boutin made a motion to finalize approval of the ordinance revisions with the addition of the previously deleted Sec. 18-17(c) dealing with property clearly not located in a residential area.

Discussion continued. Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce Executive Vice President George Malek said the ordinance legislates process rather than outcomes.

Councilor Smith seconded Councilor Boutin's motion. Mayor Lauzon said the second is out of order, as it was several minutes after the original motion, which he should have declared as dying without a second.

Councilor Boutin repeated his motion to finalize approval of the ordinance revisions with the addition of the previously deleted Sec. 18-17(c) dealing with property clearly not located in a residential area. Motion was seconded by Councilor Smith. Mayor Lauzon said he is ruling the motion out of order as it calls for changes to the proposed ordinance without giving the public an opportunity to make comment.

Councilor Boutin made the motion to hold a new 2nd reading and public hearing on the proposed ordinance revisions to include the addition of the previously deleted Sec. 18-17-(c) dealing with property clearly not located in a residential area. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried with Mayor Lauzon and Councilors Chadderton, Dindo, Boutin and Smith voting for, and Councilors Herring and Poirier voting against.**

E) Council Review of Semprebon Fund Appropriation for SHS Football Field Lighting.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the recent meeting with the Spaulding Union High School board about the football field lighting project, and Council's original Semprebon Fund appropriation to the project, which called for \$90,000 to be donated, contingent upon an equal match from Barre Town.

Councilor Poirier made the motion of place \$90,000 of Semprebon Fund monies into a contingency fund until July 1, 2013 to use as a challenge grant for SUHS alumni and others to raise the funds for the matching funds for the lighting project, holding Barre City harmless for any match. The motion was seconded by Councilor Herring.

Discussion continued. Councilor Dindo said 32 projects have been funded to date through the Semprebon Fund and enough is enough. He said he advocates for the balance of the Semprebon Funds to be put towards the bike path, and that the money can be used to leverage \$6 million in federal funds. Mayor Lauzon said he stands on the Council's record as good stewards of the Semprebon Fund. The Mayor said he will ask Vermont's Congressional delegation to come to central Vermont after the November elections to talk with local officials about the regional path. He said he considers the football field lighting project to be the final Semprebon Fund request and any other projects that have been proposed but not acted on by Council are considered dumped.

Councilor Dindo said the Semprebon family would be happy with a contribution of \$5,000 to the lighting

project, but are not happy with \$90,000. Councilor Poirier said he is willing to commit \$1 million of the Semprebon Fund to the bike path, and there is enough money available to do both. Councilor Smith said the football field lighting project was not supported at this level by the Semprebon Fund committee, so he can't support the motion.

Council voted on the original motion made by Councilor Poirier. **Motion carried with Mayor Lauzon and Councilors Boutin, Herring and Poirier voting for, and Councilors Chadderton, Dindo and Smith voting against.**

Manager Mackenzie said an update on the Semprebon Fund will be on the agenda for the October 23rd meeting. Clerk Dawes will provide an updated accounting of the fund.

Mayor Lauzon said the Semprebon Committee has been charged with working on ways to recognize Mr. Semprebon's gift to the community through plaques at the various locations where funds have been used. The Mayor spoke of a possible permanent exhibit in the Barre Room at the Vermont History Center, and asked Tom Semprebon, brother of Charles, if the family would discuss what they would like to see, and approach the Vermont History Center.

Mayor Lauzon said Council will consider Semprebon Fund money for the bike path when it gets the update at the October 23rd meeting.

Round Table –

Councilor Herring reminded people of the Granite Museum forum on Thursday, October 11th. Councilor Smith echoed the announcement.

Councilor Dindo asked if Council will have a discussion about emailing and texting during meetings. Mayor Lauzon said if he notices any Councilor emailing or texting during a meeting they will be ruled out of order and sanctioned. There was discussion about public meetings, possible development of rules or policies, use of computers to view electronic Council packet materials, and public records.

Councilor Dindo asked if the City will be offering a leaf/lawn debris drop off as it has in past years. Manager Mackenzie said the City does not have a dump site, and Public Works Department overtime was stripped out of the budget. There was discussion about the possibility of creating a stump dump, taking lawn debris to the transfer station, and long term options. Councilor Smith said Central Vermont Solid Waste Management has indicated it is willing to provide a dumpster as part of its special collections twice a week, if the City can provide a dumping location. Manager Mackenzie said he will work with the City Engineer to see if such a site can be identified.

Councilor Dindo said the Quarry Restaurant on Depot Square, which has been closed due to the Big Dig, is re-opening on October 10th.

Councilor Herring said Manager Mackenzie, Councilor Smith and he attended the VLCT Town Fair last week, and received information about public records handling. He will send copies of the documents to the Councilor for their review.

City Manager's Report – NONE

Manager Mackenzie made the following announcements:

- The Big Dig is still on schedule for substantial completion by November 15th.
- The balance of streets left to be completed as part of the City's street reconstruction schedule are set to be paved beginning October 22nd.
- Work will begin before the end of October on replacement of the water lines in Hope Cemetery.

Paving is scheduled for next year.

- The hazard mitigation buy-out applications for the Hilltop Avenue properties damaged during the May 2011 flooding have received state approval. They have been submitted several times for federal approval, and keep getting sent back for new information or formatting. The Manager expects to have a final response in the near future.
- Community events on Wednesday, October 10th, include the annual Joint Service Clubs community service recognition dinner at the Canadian Club and Digger's 2nd birthday party at the Elks Club.
- Council will continue its facilities tours by visiting the Civic Center next week at 5:45 PM before the Council meeting.
- Advertisements are going in the local newspaper for the citizen budget advisory committee. The Manager said he expects to limit the committee to 5 people and he is working on criteria for committee members.

Council went into executive session to discuss contracts at 9:40 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Poirier. **Motion carried.** Manager Mackenzie was invited into the executive session.

Due to the concert upstairs in the Opera House, Council chose to immediately come out of executive session at 9:41 PM without conducting any business on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 9:41 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, 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