

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held October 16, 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 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:
  - Regular Meeting of October 9, 2012
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
  - Individual entertainment licenses for 3 separate contra dance events at the Old Labor Hall, October 20, October 27 & November 3, put on by Contra Dance Umbrella.
  - Annual entertainment license for Cornerstone Pub & Kitchen, 47 N. Main St.
  - Taxicab service operator's license for Payless Taxi for a new fleet vehicle.

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

- Early absentee ballot requests are being accepted for the November 6<sup>th</sup> general election. Better than 500 ballots have been mailed or picked up to date.
- The Board of Civil Authority is scheduled to meet on Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM to hear the report of the inspection team from the September 20<sup>th</sup> assessment appeal hearings. The BCA will also discuss procedures for conducting appeal hearings in the future.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter property taxes are due by November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Council is invited to the Central Vermont Community Action Council groundbreaking ceremony at Gable Place on Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM.

**Approval of Building Permits** – NONE

**Liquor Control Board** –

Council approved a special events permit for Caledonia Spirits, Inc. of Hardwick for a reception at Studio Place Arts on November 17<sup>th</sup> on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

**Visitors and Communications** – NONE

**City Manager's Report** –

Manager Mackenzie made the following announcements:

- Attended meetings with/on the following: Big Dig, firefighter union negotiations, Granite Museum forum, tax stabilization agreements, bike path, Digger birthday party, pre-bid meeting on second phase of Nelson Street vault project, spillway construction, cemetery infrastructure improvements.

Manager Mackenzie said bids have been received for materials associated with the infrastructure improvements at Hope Cemetery, and he requested that Council bless moving forward with the purchase of materials. Mayor Lauzon said Council has already approved the overall budget for the project. Council approved allowing the Manager to move forward with the purchase of materials on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon asked Manager Mackenzie to track the cemetery improvement expenses on a spreadsheet.

Manager Mackenzie said ads are running for the citizen budget committee. The Manager said paving will begin Monday on the three streets left to pave in this year's street paving program.

He said the Big Dig contractor has informed him they intend on opening North Main Street to through traffic next week, perhaps as early as Monday, and the Elm Street intersection will revert to its previous traffic pattern. Mayor Lauzon said the Council needs to discuss the traffic pattern and trucks on North Main Street. He asked that North Main Street not be opened to through traffic until Council has had an opportunity to make a decision. Manager Mackenzie said there may be financial consequences to such a contract change.

The Mayor said he would like to try keeping through truck traffic on Summer Street for 30 days. Councilor Poirier agreed and asked for an informal poll of the Council. Councilors Herring, Smith, Dindo and Chadderton agreed with keeping through truck traffic off North Main Street, at least on a trial basis. Councilor Boutin said he agreed to keeping through truck traffic off North Main Street through the holiday season, but does not want to see permanent truck traffic in a residential area. Mayor Lauzon said he will schedule a special Council meeting for this Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM, following the BCA meeting. The Mayor asked Manager Mackenzie to have representatives from the contractor, VTRANS and the Barre City TAC attend the special meeting.

Councilor Smith asked about the inspections report in the printed Manager's report, and asked for clarification on violations cited, citations, and violations remaining.

**Old Business –**

**A) New 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance #2013-03 Ordinance Revision Chapter 18 Trash – Warned for 7:15 PM.**

Mayor Lauzon opened the public hearing at 7:30 PM, and invited Councilor Boutin to review the proposed revisions. Councilor Boutin asked that the issue be tabled until next week, as the most recent proposed revisions had not been published, as is required by City Charter. He reviewed the proposed revisions. Mayor Lauzon requested that the ordinance revisions go back to a first reading. There was discussion about the proposed revisions related to weekly pick-up, garbage, multi-family properties, commercial establishments, and including City Planner Michael Miller and City Inspector Captain Matt Cetin in the discussions about implementation and enforcement. There was discussion with members of the audience, including a representative from Casella Waste Management, Cedric Sanborn from R & L Archery, Sue Poczobut from Granite Hills Credit Union and George Malek from Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce.

Councilor Boutin made the motion to warn a new 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the proposed ordinance revisions for next week's Council meeting.

Discussion continued about garbage, weekly pick-ups and multi-family residential units.

Councilor Herring seconded Councilor Boutin's motion.

Discussion continued on weekly pick-ups, improving quality of life issues in the City, and enforcing building codes.

Mayor Lauzon said he will be bringing forward a proposed new ordinance to license landlords.

To be approved at 10-23-12 Barre City Council Meeting

Councilor Herring made the motion to call the question.

Mayor Lauzon asked for a suspension of the rules, and asked for feedback from those in the audience. There was discussion about non-compliant landlords, keeping the City clean, and how the ordinance will be enforced.

Council voted on calling the question. **Motion carried.**

Council voted on the original motion to warn a new 1<sup>st</sup> reading. **Motion carried with Councilor Smith voting against.**

Mayor Lauzon said he will work on revisions to sec. 18-15, which will be incorporated in the proposed revisions for the new 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

#### **Visitors & Communications –**

Mary Kay Shernock said she had not been present earlier in the meeting for V & C, and requested an opportunity to address the Council. Ms. Shernock said she is coordinating the contra dances being held at the Old Labor Hall over the next three weekends, for which the Council approved her entertainment license application earlier in the meeting. She said the group usually dances at the Montpelier Grange, but the Grange floor is being replaced. She invited the Council and public to attend the dances.

#### **New Business –**

##### **A) Award of Bid for Timber Sale at Dix Reservoir.**

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the memo from Assistant Director of Public Works Steve Micheli, outlining the lumber bids for the Dix Reservoir property. Clerk Dawes said the property is part of a current use agreement with the state, and the City is required to maintain a forestry plan for the property. The current use agreement has allowed the City to decrease its taxes on the property, by approximately \$25,000 per year. There was discussion about the process for logging in a watershed area.

Council approved Mr. Micheli's recommendation of awarding the bid to high bidder Thompson Timber Harvesting & Trucking on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

#### **Round Table –**

Councilor Dindo asked about plowing North Main Street with the new sidewalk bulbouts. Manager Mackenzie said he will invite City Engineer Reg Abare to come to a Council meeting to discuss the plowing plans with Council. Councilor Dindo asked about the paving on North Main Street. Manager Mackenzie said the final coat has been put on the northern section of the new construction. The final coat will be applied to the southern section in the spring. There was discussion about some patchwork done in the northern section, and concerns about the patching leading to pavement failures in the future. Manager Mackenzie said he will follow up.

Councilor Boutin said he will create a committee of community members to proactively take care of the drug problem in the City, and requested that people email, call or FaceBook him with information about drug houses or drug deals, and let him know if they are interested in serving on the committee, which will meet on Thursdays.

Councilor Smith thanked those who attended last week's Granite Museum forum.

Councilor Herring said there will be a haunted house at the Granite Museum on October 26-27. He reported that the BOR rink opened for public skating today. Councilor Herring said the IT Committee will be meeting to discuss IT issues, including the need to update the City website.

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Councilor Herring made the motion to change the regularly scheduled November 6<sup>th</sup> Council meeting to Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup> because of the election, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Councilor Poirier said the reason there are drugs in the City is because the police department is shorthanded. He said there is a need for 23 officers and a return to community policing.

Mayor Lauzon said he would like to ask Councilor Boutin's drug committee to accurately identify the problem, and to look at arrest information for the City as compared to other municipalities.

Councilor Chadderton asked for reports from the Council's Police & Fire Committees. Mayor Lauzon said Manager Mackenzie will make contact for the reports.

Mayor Lauzon said former City Manager intern David Rangaviz has been sworn in to the bar after graduating from Yale Law School, and is seeking a position with Senator Leahy's Judiciary Committee. The Mayor said he will write a letter of recommendation.

The Mayor said this Friday's Harvest Celebration, being put on by the Granite City Grocery, is sold out.

Council adjourned at 8:40 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