

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held July 23, 2013**

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, Councilor Charlie Dindo; from Ward II, Alderman Michael Boutin and Councilor Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton (arrived 7:04 PM) and Lucas Herring. Also in attendance were City Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer 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 July 8, 2013
 - Special Meeting of July 9, 2013
 - Regular Meeting of July 9, 2013.
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2013 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Animal License - Kerri Fredette, 8 Downes Avenue, 6 ducks.
 - Fireworks Display Permit - Heritage Festival, Saturday, July 27, 2013.

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

- Property tax bills were mailed July 15th. First quarter payments are due by August 15th.
- The delinquent dog license warrant is on hold until the details for the Animal Control Officer contract are finalized.
- Ten properties are scheduled for tax sale on September 18th.

Approval of Building Permits –

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Christopher & Betty Owen	141 Fairview Street
Fecteau Residential Inc.	Newton Street (vacant lot)
Philip Ketcham	160 Seminary Street
City of Barre	9 Quarry Street
City of Barre	11 Quarry Street

Liquor Control Board –

Council approved the following outside consumption permit applications for the Heritage Festival weekend, Friday & Saturday, July 26th & 27th, on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried with Mayor Lauzon and Alderman Boutin abstaining.**

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Location of outside consumption area</u>
Cornerstone Pub & Kitchen	North Main Street in front of their building
Quarry Grill & Tavern	Depot Square between their building and Aubuchon Hardware

City Manager's Report –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- A grant application has been submitted to the Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development for \$1.7 million funding for remediation on Enterprise Aly. Three grant applications have been submitted to Vermont Emergency Management for infrastructure projects related to storm water issues.

To be approved at 08-06-13 Barre City Council Meeting

- The RFP for the local project manager for the bike path has been issued and responses are due before the end of the week.
- The Vermont Downtown Action Team is holding two meetings next week seeking public input.
- Long time employees Larry Morgan (42 years) and Elizabeth Somaini (28 years) retired in early July. The Council thanked them for their years of service and wished them well.

Visitors & Communications –

Mayor Lauzon introduced new City residents David & Grace Bussman and their son Caleb, who were attending their first Council meeting.

Councilor Dindo said Central Market has concerns about the parking in front of their store on Summer Street and is interested in speaking with the Council. Mayor Lauzon said City Engineer Reg Abare will follow up with the owner within 5 days, and if there is no satisfaction, the owner can come before the Council to discuss the issue.

Barre Partnership chair Bob Nelson handed out Heritage Festival brochures and reviewed the schedule of events beginning tomorrow and running through the weekend. Mr. Nelson said there are volunteer opportunities available throughout the weekend.

Renee Proteau of the Barre City Elementary and Middle School PTO said they are hosting two fundraisers during the Heritage Festival; a dunking booth to benefit Destination Imagination and a bathtub race to benefit Reading is Fundamental. Ms. Proteau said Mayor Lauzon is scheduled to be in the dunking booth on Saturday afternoon. Mayor Lauzon paid the fee for a Council entry in the bathtub race.

Mayor Lauzon said the Vermont Downtown Action Team has scheduled a round table with the Council for Monday, August 5th from 10:00 – 11:00 AM at the Vermont History Center.

The Mayor said he and other City officials are working with Central Vermont Community Land Trust and other potential partners on the proposed Summer Street Center and a memorandum of understanding on the roles of the participants will be coming to the Council for consideration in the near future.

Old Business –

A) Parking Meter Coinage Handling.

Clerk Dawes said she is exploring different options and will have a final report and recommendation for the next Council meeting. The Clerk said the token design contest is scheduled to close tomorrow. She will scan and email the submitted designs to the Councilors for their consideration. Mayor Lauzon said the Council will gather sometime during the Heritage Festival to select a winning design.

New Business –

A) Public Hearing Regarding Barre City Bike Path and LTF Application – Warned for 7:15 PM.

Mayor Lauzon opened the public hearing at 7:35 PM. Manager Mackenzie said the City will be applying for a local transportation facilities (LTF) grant in the amount of \$1.5-\$2 million for the 3rd segment of the bike path, stretching from Berlin Street to the Vermont Granite Museum. The Manager said if the grant application is successful, funding will be in place to complete all three segments of the bike path, with construction likely to happen next year. Mayor Lauzon reviewed the letter of support he wrote on behalf of the Council. Resident Wayne Davis said citizens have been working for a bike path since the 1980's and he fully supports the project.

Mayor Lauzon closed the public hearing at 7:47 PM.

B) Authorization to Submit the Bike Path LTF Grant Application.

Council approved authorizing the Manager to submit the application on behalf of the City of Barre on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Council approved the letter of support as drafted by the Mayor on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

C) Vermont Granite Museum Update.

VGM board member Patty Meriam reviewed recent programs and projects at the museum. Ms. Meriam said the museum is open Fridays and Saturdays through the summer, and will be open Wednesday through Saturday during the Heritage Festival. She said the museum is working with the City and others to refinance the bond. Bathrooms are being installed and sections of concrete flooring have been poured. They received a grant from Efficiency Vermont to install energy efficient lighting, and she thanked Bob Sager for helping preserve video tapes of interviews, which are being transferred to digital format. They continue the bike path work, which is being funded in part with Buldoc Funds from the City.

Ms. Meriam said the museum houses an antique fire engine owned by the City. She requested Council authorization to explore display options for the engine. Council approved the authorization on motion of Alderman Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried with Councilor Herring abstaining.**

D) Authorization to Close Bugbee Ave. to Seminary St. Path.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed his memo on the proposed options for fencing off the path. Andy Avery, who owns the property across which the path runs, said he supports proposed fencing option A as presented by the Manager. Mayor Lauzon said the City will post the property in addition to installing fencing. Area property owner Wayne Davis said he has another fencing option to propose. Mayor Lauzon said he wants to make sure all affected parties are involved in the solution and asked Manager Mackenzie to meet with all abutting property owners to agree upon a particular fencing option. The Mayor said the Manager will come back to the Council with a fencing option that is endorsed by a majority of the affected property owners.

E) Approval of Health Order.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the health order proposed by Deputy Health Officer Robbie Strachan. Council approved issuing the health order against Adam Merchant at 158 Seminary Street on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

F) National Flood Insurance Program Update.

City Planner Michael Miller reviewed the recent national changes in the flood insurance program, and noted that the impact will be substantial increases in flood insurance premiums for most affected property owners. There was discussion about ways to get the information out to the public. Mayor Lauzon said the information can be posted on the City website, and copies of the flyer can be available in the Clerk's and Planning & Zoning offices.

G) Budget and Finance Committee Report on FY14 Streets & Capital Budget Allocations.

Committee chair Justin Johnson reviewed the Manager's proposal for the FY14 Streets & Capital Budget Allocations. Mr. Johnson said the committee voted to recommend the Manager's proposal to the Council for implementation. The proposal included short term financing for the unanticipated capital expenses associated with the purchase of the firefighter turn-out gear and the replacement of the culvert under City Place. Mayor Lauzon said he would like to explore options for paying for the culvert with tax increment finance district (TIF) funds. The Mayor said he would like to see a comprehensive plan that includes both the paving program and the capital budget plan before making a decision about financing options.

H) Discussion of FY15 Budget Preparation Schedule and Council Goals.

Mr. Johnson outlined the proposed schedule for the committee's work on the FY15 budget, and said a preliminary presentation will be coming to the Council by Thanksgiving. Councilors were asked to email ideas for changes and new initiatives to the committee by October.

I) Approval of Revised Tax Stabilization Policy.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the revised policy, and said those involved in the draft included Barre Area Development Corporation executive director Joel Schwartz, City Assessor Joe LeVesque, Councilor Herring and local attorney Sarah Field. Councilor Herring reviewed the changes in the proposed policy. Councilors made suggestions for other changes to be incorporated. Manager Mackenzie will incorporate the proposed changes and bring the draft policy back for Council consideration at the next meeting.

J) Ordinance #2013-04 Licensing Massage Parlors – First Reading.

Mayor Lauzon distributed a rough first draft and said it will come back for a first reading at the next Council meeting.

K) City Hall Façade Restorations Budget Adjustment.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the proposed change orders. Council approved the change orders and increased the Semprebon Fund allocation from \$165,500 to \$175,285 on motion of Alderman Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

L) City Representative Resignation from the Central Vermont Solid Waste District.

Mayor Lauzon said he received a letter of resignation from long-time CVSWMD representative Nancy Wolfe. Council accepted Ms. Wolfe's letter of resignation with gratitude for her years of service on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon said the City will advertise the vacancy.

Round Table –

Several Councilors reminded people of this week's Heritage Festival and events. Mayor Lauzon said he invited the Barre Town Selectboard to march in the Heritage Festival parade.

Council adjourned at 10:25 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk