

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held November 12, 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 Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Alderman Michael Boutin and Councilor Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring. Also in attendance were City Manager Steven Mackenzie and City Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

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

- Minutes of the following meetings:
  - Regular Meeting of November 4, 2013.
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented, including community development warrant payable out of the Scattered Site Grant to CVCLT.
- 2013 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
  - Food Vending License for David Green, preparing and vending food at the mixed martial arts event at the auditorium on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, contingent upon Health Officer approval.

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

- Second quarter property taxes are due by November 15<sup>th</sup>. The drop box on City Hall and the credit card link on the City website are payment options.
- The Board of Civil Authority is scheduled to meet on November 20 & 21 to prepare the biennial voter challenge mailing.
- The results from the November 5, 2013 Special Election are posted on the City website.

**Approval of Building Permits** – NONE

**Liquor Control Board** – NONE

**City Manager's Report** – Manager Mackenzie announced the following:

- Traffic signals at the intersection of Elm and Summer Streets are currently flashing and will be repaired in the near future. Drivers are encouraged to report any traffic signal glitches to the Manager's office.
- The Secretary of State's transparency tour will be holding a public discussion at Alumni Hall this Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. The discussion will focus on open meeting and public records laws, and members of boards and committees are encouraged to attend.
- The winter parking ban goes into effect on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Visitors & Communications** – NONE

**Old Business** – NONE

**New Business** –

**E) Holiday Parking Meter Amnesty Program.**

Mayor Lauzon reviewed Montpelier's holiday amnesty program. Chief Bombardier reviewed Barre City's amnesty history and recommended free parking everywhere but the 2 hour meters. Barre Partnership representative Bob Sager said the Partnership needs something to market, and would like to avoid shoppers getting ticketed and negative letters to the editor. Councilor Poirier said he would like to

see the City be as user friendly as possible. Mayor Lauzon said he would like there to be no tickets issued on the day after Thanksgiving, November 29<sup>th</sup>, and the two days before Christmas, December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor said he is willing to defer to the Chief and Barre Partnership to come up with an amnesty plan that is agreeable to both the City and the Partnership. Council concurred without official action.

**B) Acknowledgement of Grant for Mold Remediation.**

Facilities Director Jeff Bergeron said the remediation work is on schedule. The BOR will be turned over to the City on November 15<sup>th</sup>, and City crews will start making ice at that time. The schedule calls for skating to begin on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Recreation Director Stephanie Quaranta said the City has received a \$25,000 Regional Economic Development Grant to help fund the remediation work, and has submitted several other grant applications.

**A) Regional Public Safety Committee Ballot Item Request.**

Ken Russell, George Malek, Lou LaCroix, Tom Golonka and Bob Sager, members of the Regional Public Safety Committee, addressed the Council on the proposed charter ballot item. Mr. LaCroix gave a history of the committee's work to date and reasoning behind the proposed creation of the Regional Public Safety Authority. Mr. Sager reviewed the draft charter language, governance structure and management. Mr. Malek said the governance board would consist of seven people; one from each of the 4 member communities and 3 elected or appointed at large.

There was discussion about implementation, billing/taxing authority, timelines for adopting charters, revising the proposed language to allow for phasing implementation of dispatch, fire, police and ambulance service; crafting language that would call for an affirmative vote of a municipality to decide on enacting one or more of the phases; and the possible creation of a board or pre-board.

There was further discussion about the impact on the annual general fund budget, taking grants and ambulance revenue into consideration when crafting the payment formula, and concerns about the make-up of the proposed board.

Mayor Lauzon said he would like to convene a joint meeting of the Barre Town Selectboard, Berlin Selectboard, Montpelier City Council and Barre City Council to discuss the proposed regional public safety authority. He asked Mr. Golonka, a member of the Montpelier City Council, to gauge their interest in such a joint meeting.

**C) Review/Approved Partial Payment Policy.**

**D) Review/Approve Refund & Small Credit Balance Policy.**

Mayor Lauzon said Council would consider both policies at the same time. Clerk/Treasurer Dawes reviewed the two draft policies. Mayor Lauzon suggested an amendment to the Partial Payment Policy

Council approved the Refund and Small Credit Balance Policy on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council approved the Partial Payment Policy as amended on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

**F) FY13 Grant Summary.**

Manager Mackenzie said this item will be deferred to a future Council meeting.

**Round Table –**

Alderman Boutin thanked the Barre Partnership for putting up holiday decorations over the weekend.

To be approved at 11-19-13 Barre City Council Meeting

Councilor Smith thanked the voters for coming out to the polls for last week's Special Meeting election.

Councilor Herring said the IT committee is meeting on Monday. He said the school board is interested in holding a joint budget presentation again this year.

Councilor Poirier said he will be out of town next week. He said he would like to see no Council meeting during Thanksgiving week.

Mayor Lauzon thanked the voters for last week's decisive win on the TIF bond vote.

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk

DRAFT