

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held November 19, 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 Charles Dindo; 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 Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular Meeting of November 12, 2013.
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2013 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office: NONE

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

- Second quarter property taxes were due last Friday. Delinquency rate information will be available at the next meeting. The Clerk read some nice notes sent in with tax payments.
- Public skating starts this Saturday.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control Board –

The Clerk said Green Mountain Tavern on Keith Avenue has an administrative hearing on December 11th in front of the Vermont Department of Liquor Control.

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

- The Nelson Street hydro project has been experiencing delays due of utility relocations. The vault is scheduled to be installed over the next few weeks, with the turbine being connected to the grid by the end of January.
- Repairs at the Orange Reservoir spillway are substantially complete.
- Drivers are encouraged to report traffic signal glitches to the Manager's office.
- The winter parking ban goes into effect on November 15th.
- Holiday parking amnesty is in effect from Thanksgiving Day through New Year's Day. Parking is free at all metered spaces throughout the City. Free parking at the black-topped meters is limited to 2 hours.

Visitors & Communications –

Mayor Lauzon named November 22, 2013 as Robert Rossi Day by mayoral proclamation, in honor of Mr. Rossi's one hundredth birthday and his service to the community and country.

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

A) Update From the ADA Committee.

Erica Reil, chair of the committee, said the committee is writing a transition plan for the City so as to be compliant with ADA regulations. Ms. Reil said she has challenged the committee to have the plan done by 2015. The committee was also involved in planning work on Big Dig issues such as curb cuts and traffic signals, has held trainings for City government staff and construction crews, and helped work

towards fully accessible playgrounds throughout the City. The Council thanked Ms. Reil and the committee for their work.

B) Semprebon Annuity Process Designation.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the language in the Vermont Community Foundation Semprebon Fund documents, and the recent practice of placing the annual distribution in the general fund, as there is no limiting language in the VCF documents. Manager Mackenzie recommended protecting the money by dedicating it to a limited-use fund instead of using the money to augment the general fund. There was further discussion about Council's previous action to designate \$10,000 a year out of the VCF fund for bike path maintenance. The Manager said the City recently did some maintenance of the existing bike path, and he requested that \$9,347.11 be used out of the bike path maintenance fund to cover those expenses.

Councilor Dindo made the motion to approve the Manager's bike path expenses request, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Councilor Smith made the motion to assign from the general fund to a designated fund the total VCF funds received to date, plus accrued interest. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dindo. Council discussed the name of the fund and settled on "Semprebon VCF Trust Account." **Motion carried.**

C) FY14 SRO Grant Allocation Decision.

Mayor Lauzon said he noted for the record that Councilors Chadderton and Herring serve on the BCEMS school board and he doesn't believe there is a conflict of interest in their participating in the discussion or decision-making on this issue. The Mayor said the current split on the School Resource Officer costs is 39% Barre City/61% BCEMS, but current cost totals for the SRO do not include all associated costs, including holiday pay, training costs and others. He said Chief Bombardier provided him with an estimated total position cost and recommended the City and BCEMS agree to the same percentage split based on the total position cost, after deducting the annual grant award. He said a memorandum of understanding should be signed by both parties indicating their agreement with this arrangement and committing to it for three years, which is the life of the grant.

Alderman Boutin made the motion of split all payroll and direct costs related to the School Resource Officer position, less the grant amount, on a ratio of 31% to be paid by the City and 69% to be paid by BCEMS for a period of three years. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried with Councilor Herring abstaining.**

Other)

Mayor Lauzon said he recently became aware of an electric vehicle charging stations grant opportunity of up to \$30,000. The Mayor said he will work on the grant application with City Place, Green Mountain Power and other interested parties. He requested Council authorization to apply for the grant.

Councilor authorized the Mayor to complete and submit the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Grant application on behalf of the City of Barre on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Other)

Manager Mackenzie said there was a meeting earlier today to begin the right-of-way acquisition process for the museum phase of the bike path. Council will need to give official approval on entering into construction easements and takings as the process moves forward. Council offered informal concurrence.

Other)

Mayor Lauzon said he would like to consider re-naming the City Cow Pasture, and suggested Meadow Brook, after the name of the golf course that used to be on the land. The Mayor said the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps is accepting applications for summer 2014 projects, and suggested the information be passed along to Facilities Director Jeff Bergeron so he could apply on behalf of the City for both the Cow Pasture and the bike path.

Round Table –

Councilor Herring asked for an update on the Civic Center promotions position. Manager Mackenzie said the RFP is awaiting his approval and should be out in the near future. Councilor Herring said yesterday's IT committee meeting was canceled, and will be rescheduled.

Councilor Smith said he attended a Granite City Grocery meeting at CVCAC, and the steeple dedication at the Presbyterian Church.

Councilor Dindo said he was impressed with the Veteran's Day parade and ceremonies. He said a constituent spoke with him about the need for a stop sign at the corner of Hale and Quarry Streets. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Alderman Boutin wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Lauzon said next week's Council meeting is canceled due to the Thanksgiving holiday. He reminded everyone of the annual Stuff-a-Truck, which accepts food donations before the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk