

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held July 29, 2014**

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, 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 City Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

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

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Special Meeting of July 21, 2014.
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2014 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office: NONE

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

- Early/absentee ballots are available for the August 26th primary election. Last day to register to vote is August 20th.
- Property tax bills will be mailed by August 15th, and the first due date will be adjusted to September 15th. Council will approve the adjusted due date at next week's meeting.
- The Clerk is working with all City committees and boards to bring them into compliance with the recent changes to the Open Meeting Laws. Information on the changes will be on next week's Council agenda.

Approval of Building Permits – Council approved the following building permits on the motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Pamela A. Tassie	32 River Street
Mehmed & Muradija Malagic	26 Colby Street
Edward R & Susan B. Ferrari – Life Estate	21 Lunde Lane

Liquor Control – Council approved a request from Ronald Bergeron for BYOB alcohol at Rotary Park for a family gathering on Saturday, August 2nd from noon – 4:00 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

City Manager's Report –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- Received an anonymous letter outlining issues along Elm Street. Will look into the issues. Requested that such letters or communication be signed so the City can acknowledge receipt and follow up with the sender.

Mayor Lauzon thanked Facilities Director Jeff Bergeron for serving as Acting Manager last week while Manager Mackenzie was on vacation.

Visitors & Communications –

Renee Proteau appeared as a representative of the BCEMS PTO, which ran the Heritage Festival bathtub races as a fundraiser for the Reading is Fundamental program. Ms. Proteau congratulated the Council for placing first for the second year in a row, and presented them with the winning trophy.

Mayor Lauzon thanked Ms. Proteau for her service as co-chair of the Heritage Festival and said it was a great weekend for the community. Ms. Proteau said it couldn't have been done without the support and

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collaboration of the volunteers, committee members, City staff & crews, and downtown merchants. She said co-chair Mollie Brault-Binaghi is retiring after having lead the Festival for 4 years, and the Council gave Ms. Brault-Binaghi a standing ovation in abstentia for her service.

Mayor Lauzon said there was an incident at a local bar on Saturday evening which involved police and a patron with a firearm. Police took down the patron by force to ensure the safety of the public, and the officer will come before Council in the near future so his service can be acknowledged.

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

A) Approval of New Member to the Cow Pasture Committee.

Committee member Nathan Reigner read a letter from Marisa Riggi expressing her interest in serving on the committee. Committee chair Christine Russo-Fraysier said Ms. Riggi wasn't able to attend this evening's meeting, but is recommended to the Council for appointment. Council appointed Ms. Riggi to the Cow Pasture Committee on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

B) Authorization of Cow Pasture Committee to Apply for BGS Grant.

Ms. Russo-Fraysier said the Committee is interested in applying for a Vermont Buildings & General Services Recreation Facilities Grant for an information kiosk at the Maplewood Avenue entrance to the Cow Pasture. Clerk Dawes said the City frequently applies for BGS grants, and Ms. Russo-Fraysier should contact Recreation Director Stephanie Quaranta to coordinate grant application efforts. Mayor Lauzon said he supports the idea of the kiosk, and would approve applying for a grant with the caveat that there is a coordinated approach with other departments to maximize the City's opportunities for funding.

C) Appointment of Representatives to the Central VT Regional Public Safety Committee.

Mayor Lauzon said the first meeting of the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority is scheduled for August 28th, and the City needs to appoint two members to the Authority. The Mayor said he would like one member to be a Councilor and the other a citizen. He asked that the City advertise for people to express their interest in being appointed as a City representative to the Authority, and the Council will make appointments at the August 12th meeting.

D) Approval of Interest Free Loan Application for Water Supply Safe Yield Analysis.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the packet of materials from Dufresne Group and the application for a loan in the amount of \$45,900 from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. The Manager said the yield analysis is part of the order issued by the state in response to the City's amendment request to alter the Lower Orange Spillway as part of the spillway reconstruction following the May 2011 flooding damage.

Manager Mackenzie requested that Council authorize applying for the loan, and upon receipt of the loan, authorize the Manager to enter into an agreement with Dufresne Group to perform the work. There was discussion about this unbudgeted expense, sole source versus putting a job out to bid, and the effect of this expense on the current water & sewer rate discussions. Mayor Lauzon said authorization to enter into an agreement with Dufresne Group cannot be considered this evening as it wasn't warned. The Mayor said such authorization can be discussed once the City receives the loan.

Council authorized the Manager to submit the loan application on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

E) Review of City Clerk/Treasurer Compensation.

Clerk Dawes reviewed her memo, saying these annual reviews are an opportunity for her to reflect on the work being done in her departments and what the plans are for the future. The Clerk requested a 2% increase

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in her hourly compensation rate, retroactive to the beginning of the current fiscal year. Council approved the request on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Round Table –

Councilors expressed their pleasure at this past weekend's Heritage Festival and thanked all those who made it such a success.

Councilor Herring said the WiFi kickoff was held last Wednesday. There were over 4,000 users of the system on Saturday during the Festival.

Councilor Herring said he went on a ride along with the firefighters and on an ambulance run. He expressed his amazement at the speed and efficiency with which the ambulance crews operate.

There was a question about whether the RFP has been issued for the proposed marketing/promoter position for the Civic Center. Manager Mackenzie said the RFP is on hold while the City explores possible collaboration opportunities with the Barre Opera House.

There was discussion about ways to protect Youth Triumphant, as there were people climbing on the statue during the Festival. Mayor Lauzon said the City will cordon off the statue next year.

Mayor Lauzon said the City was awarded \$1.6 million in grants last week to assist with the redevelopment of Enterprise Aly and Depot Square. Manager Mackenzie said there will be an article coming out shortly in the Times Argus that will give details about the project. The Manager said the City is working with abutters in the area on the plans for the reconstruction, which is scheduled to be done during summer 2015.

Mayor Lauzon said the White House has asked governors to send lists of possible sites for hosting groups of children arriving in the US from other countries. Governor Shumlin's list will include the Barre Civic Center. The Mayor said these lists are very preliminary and if the plans move forward there will be opportunities for public hearings.

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk