

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held October 13, 2015**

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, 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 (arrived 7:09 PM). Also in attendance were City Manager Steve Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Absent: NONE

Adjustments to the Agenda: NONE

Approval of Consent Agenda:

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

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular meeting on October 6, 2015.
 - Special meeting on October 8, 2015.
- City Warrants as presented.
- Licenses & Permits: NONE

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

- The auditors are on site, and will be here through most of the rest of October.
- The Board of Civil Authority is meeting on October 15th to hear the reports of the inspection teams and deliberate on this year's property tax assessment appeal requests.
- The Board of Abatement is meeting on October 29th to hear abatement requests related to the July 19th flooding.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control – NONE

Councilor Herring arrived during the following.

City Manager's Report –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- The first draft of the Gunner Brook phase 1 mitigation study should be released next week. A public informational meeting will be held before the end of the month.
- The work in Enterprise Aly has picked up, and asphalt may be going down before the end of the week.
- Attended a Davis Bacon training in preparation for monitoring.
- Last week's Efficiency Vermont community engagement visit went well, with 50 people attending the evening presentation on cold weather heat pumps.
- Yard waste drop off schedule begins next week. The schedule is posted on the City website.
- Downtown trick-or-treating is scheduled for Friday, October 30th from 4:00 – 5:00 PM.

Visitors & Communications –

Chief Bombardier introduced new community communications specialist Brooke Pouliot, who has been hired to fill the vacancy left when Emma Moreau went to work for the state. Ms. Pouliot talked about her experience in social work and said she is looking forward to getting to know the Barre community. Mayor Lauzon asked her to set up a neighborhood meeting to address disaster preparedness for those living in the area affected by the July 19th flooding to ensure nobody has been left behind.

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There was discussion about the way the communications specialist's duties and job description have changed over time, the partnerships with Department of Corrections and local social service agencies, and funding received from the state. Mayor Lauzon said he is impressed with Rutland City's Project Vision, which involves 80 partners working on opiate and drug addiction issues in Rutland, and he hopes the model will be available to other communities in the near future.

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

A) Project Graduation Request for Coin Drop May 7, 2016.

Council approved the coin drop request on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

B) Abating Penalties on Previously Collected Tickets.

Clerk Dawes said she has not had a chance to prepare the abatement request. The Clerk said she will be requesting that Council abate all unpaid late fees on parking tickets where the original value of the ticket has been paid in full. The Clerk said the abatement request will be approximately \$25,000. She said the accumulated total spans more than a decade of time, and it would cost more to go after the unpaid late fees than will be generated.

Council approved authorizing the Clerk to abate the unpaid late fees where the tickets has been paid in full on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

C) Council Approval of Spillway Refinancing Note Documents.

Clerk Dawes reviewed financing for the spillway repairs that followed the May 2011 flooding. Council recently approved a renewal of the Current Expense Note for \$1.1 million, which is the balance expected to be reimbursed from FEMA and the state. The Community National Bank note being approved this evening is for the local share that isn't covered by state or federal funding, and will be paid out of water enterprise funds over the next 10 years.

Council approved the note documents, including resolution #2015-11, on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

D) Mayoral Proclamation: Declaring November 1 Extra Mile Day.

Clerk Dawes read the proclamation. Mayor Lauzon said the City will be submitting the names of this year's Community Service Recognition Dinner honorees to the Extra Mile Day organization. Clerk Dawes said this year's honorees are Steven Friehofner, Bob Nelson, Roy Somaini, Mark Tatro and the Barre Town Thunder Chickens, and noted that the recognition dinner is tomorrow evening.

E) Extension of City Manager's Employment Agreement.

Mayor Lauzon said he would like Council to approve an extension of the Manager's existing contract through December 31, 2017 with no change in benefits. Councilor Boutin made the motion to approve the extension, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. Councilor Smith requested that Council discuss this issue in executive session at the end of the meeting. The mover and seconder withdrew the motion.

Round Table:

Councilor Herring said the Granite City 5K is scheduled for November 7th, beginning at 9:00 AM.

Councilor Dindo called attention to a letter to the editor that appeared in the October 6th issue of the Times Argus. He said the letter writer claimed Montpelier Mayor Hollar said transients in Montpelier are sent to the Good Samaritan homeless shelter located in Barre City, and said he was concerned that Montpelier isn't doing its share in addressing issues with transients and homelessness. Councilor Smith said there are funding concerns

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associated with establishing a second homeless shelter in Montpelier, and he has heard that the most helpful thing Montpelier can do would be to offer more assistance for interim housing. Mayor Lauzon said there are only five homeless shelters in Vermont, including the one in Barre, and it is appropriate for Montpelier to direct people in need to the closest shelter. The Mayor said he would like to see homeless shelters in every major community.

Mayor Lauzon said he recently attended an event with other mayors, and while listening to them talk about their relationship with their councils, we was thankful for his relationship with the Barre City Council, and he thanks the Councilors for their service.

Executive Session -

Councilor Herring made the motion to find that premature general public knowledge of the personnel discussion on the City Manager's contract would clearly place the City of Barre at a substantial disadvantage should the discussion be public. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council went into executive session at 8:08 PM under the provisions of 1 VSA sec. 313 to discuss personnel on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council came out of executive session at 8:21 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

No action was taken.

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk