

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held November 3, 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. Also in attendance were City Manager Steve Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

**Absent:** NONE

**Adjustments to the Agenda:** Mayor Lauzon said the Manager's report will be moved down the agenda to accommodate those in attendance.

**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 on October 27, 2015.
- City Warrants as presented: week 2015-45
  - Accounts Payable: \$155,534.78
  - Payroll (gross): \$107,547.10
- Licenses & Permits: NONE

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

- The auditors finished up their site work yesterday. They will likely be back at some point in the future for a day or two. The first draft of the FY15 audit is expected in 6 weeks or so.
- On advice of the auditors, the weekly warrants are now being assigned a serialized number and are being recorded in the minutes by number and dollar amount.
- Second quarter property taxes are due by November 16<sup>th</sup>, as the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday.
- The winter parking ban goes into effect on November 15<sup>th</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup>. Overnight parking permits are available from the Clerk's office for those who live in the downtown.
- Annual license renewals went in the mail last week and will start coming to Council for approval over the next two months.

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
John & Agnew Ormsby	75 N Main Street
David Spooner	66 Maple Avenue

**Liquor Control** – NONE

**Visitors & Communications** – NONE

**Old Business** – NONE

**New Business** –

**A) Landowner Permission Request from Barre Town Thunder Chickens.**

Thunder Chickens president David Rouleau made the annual request to for the snowmobile club to use

Barre City property. Council approved the request on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

**B) Approval of Contract with ECS, Inc. for Enterprise Aly Five (5) Year O&M Contract.**

This item has been deferred.

**C) Discussion of BCA Recommendation of Error's & Omissions Adjustment for 15 Blackwell Street.**

Clerk Dawes said upon review and discussion with City Assessor Joe LeVesque, she recommends Council take no action on the BCA's recommendation, as the E&O process is not appropriate in this instance. Mayor Lauzon asked if anyone wanted to make a motion to approve the recommendation. Hearing no response, the Mayor moved on to the next agenda item.

**D) Approval of Errors and Omissions Grand List Adjustment Recommendation – Downtown Summer Street Project.**

Mr. LeVesque requested that Council approve an E&O change in assessment for the Downstreet property on Summer Street, reducing the value from \$1,272,000 to \$850,000. He said Downstreet brought a number of problems with the property to his attention after the grievance window had closed, including contaminated soil and buildings. Downstreet executive director Eileen Peltier said they have no record of having received the change of assessment notice that was mailed out earlier this year, however, there have been changes in staffing and the notice appears to have been misspelled in the transitions. Ms. Peltier said if they had received the notice, they would have grieved the change. Mayor Lauzon asked if the City has proof the notice was mailed, and Mr. LeVesque said yes. The Mayor said there appears to be no error or omission, and so it would be inappropriate to adjust the assessment through the E&O process. He thanked Ms. Peltier and Downstreet for being a good community partner, but said all properties must be treated equally, and therefore he could not support the requested adjustment.

Councilor Poirier made the motion to approve the Errors & Omissions adjustment for Downstreet as presented by the Assessor. The motion died for lack of a second.

**E) Presentation of 2015 Municipal Budget & Services Survey.**

Budget & Finance Committee members John Hannigan and Alex Pastore presented and reviewed the results of the survey conducted in March 2015. There was general discussion on raising public awareness of the work done in the assessor, planning, zoning and housing inspection departments; the difficulties of keeping taxes level and maintaining and/or adding services; the possibility of holding public budget discussions similar to what Montpelier did earlier this year; and demographic information.

Mr. Hannigan and Ms. Pastore said Barre City resident Fabio Balenzano, who was present, is interested in being appointed to the committee. Mr. Balenzano expressed his interest in serving. Council appointed Mr. Balenzano to the Budget & Finance Committee on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Councilors were asked to get their FY17 budget ideas to Mr. Hannigan in the next week.

**F) Approval of TIF Plan Revision from 5 Year to 10 Year Plan.**

Mayor Lauzon and Clerk Dawes reviewed the TIF rule that requires the City to adjust its 5 year plan to a 10 year plan to allow the City to spread out the proposed infrastructure projects over a longer time span, thereby protecting the City's access to the TIF approved debt limit.

Council approved the TIF plan revision on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

**G) Ratification of Digester Cover Settlement Agreement.**

Mayor Lauzon said the Council had approved the settlement agreement coming out of executive session at last week's meeting, and now needed to ratify that approval as a warned agenda item. Manager Mackenzie reviewed the settlement, saying a digester cover failed, which triggered a fine from the Agency of Natural Resources. The City and ANR negotiated the settlement agreement and a reduced fine, which saved the City money by not requiring litigation.

Council ratified last week's approval of the settlement agreement on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

**City Manager's Report –**

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- The Gunner Brook public information meeting was held last week. DuBois & King will now issue a final report, which is being used in support of the City's HMPG grant applications for buyout funding for three properties in the flood zone. The grant applications are due to be submitted by the end of this week and it will take 6-8 months to get results.
- The Agency of Commerce & Community Development held a monitoring visit last week to check on compliance with the EPA grants associated with the Enterprise Aly project. The ACCD staff seemed pleased with the City's compliance efforts to date.
- The designer for the Pearl Street pedestrian way will give a presentation to stakeholders at 5:30 PM on 11/17, with a presentation to Council to follow at that evening's meeting.
- Paving at 1 Campbell Place is happening this week.
- Staff attended a VTRANS kick off meeting associated with paving of routes 302 and 14 throughout the City, beginning in 2017.
- Curbside yard waste pick up is happening this week.

**Round Table:**

Councilor Herring said there were a lot of people participating in last Friday's Scary Barre downtown trick or treating. He congratulated the Kansas City Royals on their World Series championship, and reminded people of this coming Saturday's Granite City 5K Run/Walk.

Councilor Smith said there is no Central Vermont Public Safety Authority meeting this week. The next meeting will be November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Councilor Dindo asked about brackets for the flags presented by the Barre Veterans Association at last week's meeting. Manager Mackenzie said the brackets and poles have been ordered, and the City hopes to have some of them up in time for the Veteran's Day parade on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Councilor Poirier announced that he will be out of town during the November 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> meetings.

Mayor Lauzon offered condolences on behalf of the City to Barbara Snelling's family. The former Lt. Governor passed away over the weekend, and was a champion of the Granite Museum.

**Executive Session -**

Councilor Smith made the motion to find that premature general public knowledge of the litigation and personnel items to be discussed would clearly place the City of Barre at a substantial disadvantage should the discussion be public. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Council went into executive session at 8:03 PM under the provisions of 1 VSA sec. 313 to discuss

To be approved at 11-10-15 Barre City Council Meeting

litigation and personnel on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Manager Mackenzie was invited into the litigation portion of the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 9:20 PM on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk

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