

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held August 16, 2011**

The Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Thomas Lauzon. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilors Etli and Poirier; from Ward II, Councilors Boutin and Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Chadderton and Herring.

Attendance for the meeting included: City Manager Mackenzie, City Clerk/Treasurer Dawes, Facilities Director Jeff Bergeron, Mary Jane Magnon, “Digger”, Steve England, Sonya Spaulding, Jon Valsangiacomo, Pastor Tom Friedrichs, Pastor Rosaire Bisson, Anthony Williams, Patty Meriam, Darren Winham, and reporter David Delcore.

Approval of the Minutes - The minutes of the Regular Council meeting of August 9, 2011 were approved as presented on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Approval of City Warrants – Council approved City Warrants as presented, including a Community Development Warrant payable out of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds, on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon asked that the minutes, warrants and building permits be placed as consent items on the agenda for future Council meetings.

The City Clerk and Treasurer Report – Clerk Dawes made the following announcements:

- The 1st quarter property taxes were due yesterday, August 15th. The delinquency rate is currently 4.97%, with a few more payments expected to be received in the mail over the next few days.

The Clerk distributed a memo outlining responses from local financial institutions to an RFP for investment services. She said the City is looking to invest the North Main Street Reconstruction Project bond funds until they are needed. She noted that the highest interest rate is offered by Merchants Bank, and said the necessary paperwork for opening the account at Merchants Bank will come before Council for approval at next week’s meeting.

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

| <u>Applicant</u> | <u>Address</u> |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Sheila Simon | 7 Dagmont Ave. |
| Fecteau Residential | 21 Jorgensen Ln. |
| VT Housing Finance Agency | 28 Westwood Parkway |
| Yvette Roy | 21 River St. |
| Dennis & Patricia Aja | 54 Mill St. |

Liquor Control Board –

Council approved the following catering permits with conditions as outlined by the Police & Facilities Departments, on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

| <u>Caterer</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Serving</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Times</u> |
|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Gusto’s | Roller Derby Tournament | BOR | beer & wine | 8/20/11 | 6:00 – 10:00 PM |
| Gusto’s | Roller Derby Tournament | BOR | beer & wine | 9/24/11 | 6:00 – 11:00 PM |

Visitors and Communications –

Barre Partnership board member Mary Jane Magnan and We Dig Barre mascot Digger drew the latest winning name for the Barre Treasurer Dig. Ms. Magnan reminded everyone of the community picnic scheduled for August 18th starting at 4:00 PM in City Hall Park.

City Manager's Report –

The Manager reported on the following:

- The Big Dig specs call for colored stamped pavers as part of the new sidewalks. The Manager asked the Barre Partnership to review the color chips and make a recommendation. He will update the contractor on the color choice at tomorrow's status meeting.
- Attended the 2nd spillway replacement design team meeting. The Manager said the work will qualify for FEMA funding, and the job will be put out to bid.
- Attended the final inspection meeting for Contract I of the Big Dig. There are opportunities to continue to make refinements on the traffic signalization.
- Reminded people to register with FEMA and SBA if they suffered an damage during the May 26/27 flooding and heavy rains.

Manager Mackenzie said the North Main Street Reconstruction Project contractor feels the project is running about a week behind schedule due to the utility sub-contractor. Mayor Lauzon asked the Manager to offer weekly progress reports to Council.

Mayor Lauzon said he has noticed properties that were damaged in the flood that haven't done any repairs or remediation, and he's concerned the properties will become a health hazard. The Mayor said he will get a list of the affected properties to the Manager for follow up.

Old Business –

A) Semprebon Fund Proposals.

(a) Re-Entry Program Subsidy - \$40,000. Councilor Poirier presented his proposal to the Council for up to \$40,000 of Semprebon funds to be used to rent space on North Main Street for the creation of a Barre Community Center. The Center is part of a proposal that is being developed by the Re-entry Task Force. Councilor Poirier said the State has granted the City \$200,000 towards developing a program that would include the Community Justice Center and offer a way to get groups to step forward to work with those living in Barre who are under the supervision of the Department of Corrections. He said the program would be modeled after a similar program in Winooski. Councilor Poirier said the Semprebon funds would be used to rent space and cover utility costs for space for the center.

There was discussion about the use of prime retail space for such a center, keeping the Justice Center in Alumni Hall, ways to measure success results of the proposed program, if the program would provide services to those not under DOC supervision, ways that the City already supports the Justice Center through in-kind donations of space and utilities, and a review of the Semprebon Committee's criteria for disbursement of funds.

Councilor Eтли said the Task Force has not made a presentation to Council yet, and this request for funding is premature.

Councilor Poirier questioned the right of a non-Barre City resident to address the Council. Mayor Lauzon said it is not Councilor Poirier's place to determine who can and cannot speak. Councilor Poirier left the meeting at 8:48 PM. Mayor Lauzon asked Councilor Smith to assume the chair, and the Mayor left the meeting at 8:48 PM.

Acting Mayor Smith assumed the chair at 8:48 PM. Discussion continued.

Mayor Lauzon resumed the chair at 8:52 PM.

Councilor Herring asked if there is a way for the Council to compile questions about the proposal and submit them to the Task Force so the questions can be addressed when the Task Force makes its presentation to Council.

Councilor Eтли made a motion to deny the request. The motion was seconded by Councilor Boutin.

Mayor Lauzon said it would be a mistake to confuse the request for funding with the proposal of a community center. The Mayor said there are ways to do a better job of connecting people coming out of DOC with the community. He said he will talk with the state administration about additional funding to support a downtown location, though it doesn't have to be on Main Street.

Council approved the motion to deny the request.

(b) BADC Historic District Expansion Assessment Subsidy - \$10,000. BADC executive director Darren Winham said BADC is looking to enhance and expand the downtown historic district to increase opportunities for tax credits so as to encourage development. Mr. Winham said his proposal is that both Barre City and BADC put up \$10,000 to hire a consultant to draft and submit the application necessary to expand the current district.

Council approved the \$10,000 disbursement out of the Semprebob Annuity on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

B) Semprebob Committee – Proposed Implementation Discussion.

Manager Mackenzie distributed a matrix of the proposals that were recommended by the Committee, and the actions Council has made to date. Councilor Eтли said he suggests the Committee work on the deferred items on the list. Manager Mackenzie said he will continue to use the Committee as a resource through implementation of the approved projects. Mayor Lauzon said he suggests the Committee not entertain any more requests for funding until after the first of the year, and that proposals could be solicited on a quarterly, semi-annual or annual basis, similar to grant programs. The Mayor asked the Manager to add a column to his matrix for the timeframe for completion of the projects.

New Business

A) Christian Alliance Church – Fee Waiver Request for October 22nd Event.

Pastor Tom Friedrichs and Pastor Rosaire Bisson requested waiver of the fees associated with renting the auditorium for a community event on October 22nd. Paster Friedrichs said the event includes seven local churches and 8-9 agencies, and will offer services to people who need a hand, and to people who are looking for ways to make a difference in the community. Barre City facilities director said the estimate for the rental fees is \$1,530. Mayor Lauzon asked if the request came before the Civic Center Committee. Committee chair Jon Valsangiacomo said the request came in after the last Committee meeting, but Committee members were polled and the consensus is to not waive the fees, which is consistent with the current policy.

There was discussion about the services that will be provided at the event, advertising for the event, fundraising efforts, and the number of non-profit organizations that traditionally rent the civic center facilities.

Councilor Eтли moved to approve the request to waive the fees, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion did not carry, with Councilors Boutin, Chadderton and Smith voting yes, and Councilors**

Etli and Herring and Mayor Lauzon voting no.

B) Barre Area Development Corporation Update.

BADC executive director Darren Winham gave his monthly update, including:

- Working on an RFP for the former Brooks Drugs/Coins & Hobbies site. The RFP will come to Council for consideration.
- Working on several tax stabilization contracts, which will come to Council for consideration.
- P&S Furniture is moving to North Main Street.
- SBE is expanding, and is planning an open house for this fall.
- Quarry Grill & Tavern is open.
- BADC is hosting a Barre business conference on 9/14/11 at the Labor Hall.

Mr. Winham said he won't be here for next week's discussion about the RFP submissions for the former TNT building, but he recommends the Council accept the proposal.

Councilor Etli left the meeting at 10:20 PM.

C) Vermont Granite Museum Support Request.

VGM executive director Patty Meriam asked to be placed on the agenda for the August 30th meeting. Ms. Meriam said she and members of the board would like an opportunity to address the Council and community about the Granite Museum and Stone Arts School, and the upcoming granite festival activities. She said they are looking to brainstorm ways to get the project going again.

Roundtable – NONE

Council went into executive session at 10:26 PM to discuss negotiation and legal issues on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Council came out of executive session at 10:47 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 10:47 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

An audio transcript of this meeting is available through the Clerk's Office. Audio transcripts are kept on file for two years, as per state statute.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk