

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held December 6, 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, Councilor Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilor Lucas Herring. Also in attendance was City Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

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

- Minutes of the Regular Council meeting of November 29, 2011.
- City Warrants including a Community Development warrant payable to CVCAC.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:

| <u>Applicant</u> | <u>License</u> | <u>Address</u> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Richard & Kate Barany | Animal – 5 chickens | 57 Country Way |
| Katherine Bramhall | Animal – 11 chickens | 25 Colby Street |
| Joseph Bressette | Animal – 10 hens | 58 Maplewood Avenue |
| Scott Plante | Animal – 11 chickens | 14 Reid Street |
| Bamboo Gardens | Food Establishment | 115 S. Main Street |
| Ladder 1 Grill | Food Establishment | 8 S. Main Street |
| Mario's DBA Quarry Grill & Tavern | Food Establishment | 210 N. Main St. |
| Railway Pizza DBA Domino's Pizza | Food Takeout | 322 N. Main St. |
| Ladder 1 Grill | Entertainment | 8 S. Main Street |

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

- There are 4 properties scheduled for tax sale on January 5, 2012.
- The Clerk will be coming to Council in the next week or so to discuss her annual compensation as the Manager is working on the FY13 budget.
- The next meeting of the Charter & Ordinance Review Committee is this Friday. The Committee will be reporting to the Council at next week's meeting.

Approval of Building Permits –

Council approved the following building permit on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

| <u>Applicant</u> | <u>Address</u> |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Frank Seibert | 168 Hill Street |

Liquor Control Board – NONE

Visitors and Communications – NONE

City Manager's Report – NONE

Old Business – NONE

New Business

A) Toy Joy 2011 Program.

Rose Wheeler and her daughter, Autumn, described the Toy Joy program and said it has been around for over 20 years. Ms. Wheeler said between 900-1,200 children are served each year. Distribution of toys will be on Saturday, December 17th from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Bethany Church in Montpelier. Mayor

Lauzon said he will meet with Ms. Wheeler later in the week to ensure that all the children at Highgate receive Christmas toys through the Christmas for Kids program, which is a joint program of Barre City and the Salvation Army. Ms. Wheeler was thanked for her service to the children of our community.

B) Barre Town Thunder Chickens Snowmobile Trail Request.

David Rouleau from the Thunder Chickens reviewed this year's trail request to use a portion of the bike path. Council approved the request and authorized Mayor Lauzon to sign on behalf of the City on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

D) Banking & Cash Management Services – Presentation and Recommendation of Proposals.

Clerk/Treasurer Dawes presented her report and support materials, and recommended the City establish its general fund, administrative and payroll accounts with Merchant's Bank. Mayor Lauzon requested another week to review the materials, and said the item will be placed on next week's agenda for final consideration.

C) Regional Safety Committee Funding Request.

Pete Fournier, Barre City representative to the committee, and George Malek, Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce representative to the committee, addressed the Council. The committee includes representatives from Barre City, Barre Town, Berlin & Montpelier. Mr. Fournier reviewed the work of the committee and said the committee is requesting two things:

1. \$15,000 appropriation to move forward with governance plans for regional public safety, and
2. Non-binding referendum item on the March Annual (Town) Meeting ballot to gauge community support for regional public safety.

Mr. Fournier said Berlin and Montpelier have approved the appropriation request. Councilor Poirier said he supported the appropriation, but not the referendum question. Mayor Lauzon said a ballot question would be more appropriate when there is something more finalized to vote upon.

Mayor Lauzon said he is deeply committed to the work the committee is doing, and suggested there be a joint meeting in January at which quorums of all the councils and selectboards be requested to attend. The Mayor suggested a meeting be set for January 12, 2012, and said he will contact the other communities to invite their councils/boards.

Councilor Poirier made the motion to approve the funding request. There was no second, and Mayor Lauzon requested that Councilor Poirier withdraw the motion. Councilor Poirier withdrew his motion. Mayor Lauzon said he will put the funding request on next week's agenda for final consideration, and it is his intention to support it.

Councilor Herring said, as a newer member of the Council, he is not as familiar with the project as others, and he requested additional materials. Mr. Malek said he will email Councilor Herring the file of documents compiled to date.

E) Disbursement from Keith Fund.

Councilor Poirier said he is concerned about recent cuts in federal funding for fuel assistance, and made the motion to donate \$3,000 from the Keith Fund to the Central Vermont Community Action Council Emergency Fuel Assistance Program to benefit Barre City residents. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith. Councilor Boutin requested a friendly amendment to prioritize the funds for the elderly. Councilor Poirier did not accept the friendly amendment. **Motion carried.**

Roundtable –

Councilor Smith thanked those who made donations at last Saturday's Christmas for Kids coin drop.

To be approved at 12-13-11 Barre City Council Meeting

Councilor Poirier pointed out the memo regarding the December 22nd City employee holiday luncheon, and said it's a great opportunity to spend time with the staff.

Mayor Lauzon said more than \$3,000 was collected through the coin drop, and thanked those who made donations and supported the event in other ways.

Council went into executive session to discuss contracts at 8:23 PM on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Council came out of executive session at 8:45 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 8:45 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, 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