

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held September 4, 2012**

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 (arrived 7:05 PM); 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 Clerk Carolyn Dawes.

**We Dig Barre Treasure Dig Drawing.** Barre Partnership executive director Dan Jones and mascot Digger invited Councilor Herring to draw last week's winner, and announced this week's clue.

Mayor Lauzon asked the Council to observe a moment of silence in honor of longtime residents, community servants and volunteers Oreste and Helen Valsangiacomo, Sr., both of whom recently passed away.

**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 following meeting:
  - Regular Meeting of August 27, 2012
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office: NONE

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

- 573 voters, representing 8.82% of Barre City checklist, participated at the August 28<sup>th</sup> primary election.
- There are six properties scheduled for tax sale on September 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The Board of Civil Authority is scheduled to hold tax appeal hearings on September 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The registered voters from Ward I are invited to attend a ward caucus on Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at Alumni Hall to fill a council seat vacancy until the March Annual (Town) Meeting.
- The Clerk's office is accepting requests for early/absentee ballots for the November general election. The ballots are expected to be available by September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Clerk Dawes distributed copies of the City park hours ordinance revisions approved by Council at last week's meeting, and requested that Council review the language to make sure it captured their intent when they made the approval as amended. Council ratified the language as presented on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried, with Councilor Boutin voting against.**

**Approval of Building Permits** – NONE

**Liquor Control Board** – NONE

**Visitors and Communications** – Whitney Maxfield updated the Council on the Civil War memorial that will be placed in City Hall Park. Mr. Maxfield showed an artist's rendering and said the memorial is expected to be installed by November 1, 2012. It will be officially dedicated on Memorial Day, 2013.

Councilor Poirier said there is a sculpture scheduled to be installed in Depot Square, and he has heard the sculptor requested to use the Granite Museum as a carving studio. Councilor Poirier said he heard the Granite Museum board did not approve use of the Museum for this project, and he would like to hear from the board as to why they made that decision. Councilor Herring said, as liaison to the Granite Museum board, he will ask the question at tomorrow's board meeting, and will report back to the Council.

Vine Street resident Gary Hull Sr. asked when Council will visit the Vine Street playground to see the improvements. Manager Mackenzie said it will be 3-4 weeks. Mr. Hull said there is a list of ten or so items that

need to be done at the playground, and he is working with Facilities Director Jeff Bergeron to get them done. Manager Mackenzie said the City has made the commitment to get the list of things done, though the list may not be finished until next spring. Mr. Hull also asked about the street lighting inventory project. Councilor Herring said there is an informational flyer included in this month's water bills, with contact information for those who are interested in volunteering for the project.

**City Manager Report** – Manager Mackenzie reported on the following activities over the past two weeks:

- Attended meetings with/about:
  - Bike path, working on right-of-way acquisitions
  - Barre Partnership initiatives following the completion of the Big Dig
  - Vermont Granite Museum forum planning
  - City Place/CVCLT tenant relocation process
  - Big Dig progress
  - Transportation Advisory Committee to schedule meeting to discuss proposed traffic revisions following the Big Dig. Mayor Lauzon requested the meeting be well advertised in advance.
  - Vermont Historical Society Teddy Roosevelt reenactment

Councilor Chadderton said the written Manager's report included reference from Cpt. Cetin of multiple issues still to be resolved following inspection of the Barre City Elementary and Middle School. She requested a copy of the report be sent to her and Councilor Herring, as members of the BCEMS board.

**Old Business** –

**A) Report on Spaulding High School Football Lighting Project.**

Spaulding Union High School District (SUHSD) board member Giuliano Cecchinelli updated the Council on his recent presentation on the football lighting project to the Barre Town Selectboard. Mr. Cecchinelli said the Selectboard was impressed with the project, but does not have the funds necessary to cover their share that was part of the contingent approval by the Barre City Council for distribution of Semprebond funds. There was discussion about Barre Town placing the item on the November ballot for voter approval of the funding, and the SUHSD board's intention to seek funding approval from voters for a new roof. Councilor Poirier requested that the discussion be placed on the Council agenda for 2 weeks from tonight, and he said he wants the Council to vote up or down on supporting the project. Mayor Lauzon said he will call a special Council meeting on Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, and will invite the Barre Town Selectboard and SUHSD board to attend.

**New Business** –

**A) Mayoral Proclamation – Senior Center Month.**

Clerk Dawes read the mayoral proclamation, and Mayor Lauzon presented it to Barre Senior Center executive director Kathy Hartshorn. Ms. Hartshorn said there are over 300 members of the Senior Center, and shared some of their programs, activities and events. She invited everyone to attend an open house on September 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

**B) Dominic Etl Resolution.**

Clerk Dawes read the resolution. Councilor Herring made the motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion did not carry, with Councilor Chadderton voting in favor, and Mayor Lauzon and Councilors Boutin, Smith, Herring and Poirier voting against.**

Councilor Boutin made the motion to reconsider, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried with all voting in favor.**

Councilor Poirier left the meeting at 8:00 PM.

**Old Business –**

**B) North Main Street Reconstruction Project (Big Dig) Update.**

Manager Mackenzie said the contractor, Luck Bros., is projecting substantial completion by November 15<sup>th</sup>. The street lights on the northern end of the project are expected to be on by September 14<sup>th</sup>. Paving will begin next week on the southern end of the project. Mayor Lauzon said the Manager is compiling an inventory of buildings where services have been replaced and where services have not been fully replaced. The Mayor said he wants to reconcile the information on the inventory with what was originally presented to and approved by the Council. The Mayor said the inventory will be available to Council by next Tuesday.

**C) Public Safety Committee Updates:**

- **Fire Department** –NONE
- **Police Department** – NONE

**New Business –**

**C) TIF District Ceiling Ballot Language.**

Mayor Lauzon said Governor Shumlin has spoken in favor of Barre City's TIF District application, and will be asking VEPC to review both the Barre City and South Burlington applications. The Mayor said the Governor would strongly support legislation to increase the number of TIF's allowed from six to seven.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed draft ballot language. He said the Council could place a special ballot item on the November ballot to seek voter approval for the TIF District ceiling, and public informational meetings would be held leading up to the election.

Mayor Lauzon set a special Council meeting for Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM for Council to consider the proposed ballot language and to warn a local special meeting election in conjunction with the November general election. The Mayor said he will invite Planning Director Michael Miller to attend the meeting to review the projects that have been identified as possible TIF District projects.

**Round Table –**

Councilor Herring said over 20 people attended a recent PTO meeting, and this indicates a growing interest in community support and involvement. Councilor Herring said Front Porch Forum has grown to 172 people.

Council went into executive session at 8:23 PM to discuss legal issues on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.** Manager Mackenzie was invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 8:43 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 8:43 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk