

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held November 27, 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, Councilors Charles Dindo and Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith (arrived 8:54 PM); and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring. Also in attendance was City Manager Steven Mackenzie.

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

- Minutes of the following meeting:
 - Regular Meeting of November 20, 2012
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office: NONE

The City Clerk and Treasurer Report – NONE

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control Board – Councilor Dindo and Councilor Poirier will report next week on policies and procedures.

Visitors and Communications – NONE

City Manager's Report –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- Continuing work on the hazard mitigation buy-out grant for the Hilltop Avenue properties damaged in the May 2011 flooding.
- Met with code enforcement staff. Will be in to brief Council next week.
- Beginning right-of-way work on the museum segment of the bike path.

Mayor Lauzon asked for an update related to a situation with odor in a North Main Street building stemming from the in-place re-lining of a stormwater line underneath the building. Manager Mackenzie said the Public Works Department vented the building and the stormwater line, and the odor is no longer present in the upper floors of the building. There is still a lingering odor in the basement, which will be monitored.

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

B) TIF District Public Informational Meeting #2.

City Planner Michael Miller updated the Council on recent developments. Mr. Miller said VEPC will make a decision on December 13th on the City's TIF application. The next milestone will be Town Meeting Day, when the City will request debt ceiling approval from the voters. There will be several educational presentations between now and Town Meeting Day.

Councilor Boutin said he is interested in holding a public educational forum on Town Meeting Day at the Civic Center, or to be available that day to answer questions during the voting. Councilor Herring suggested developing an FAQ. Mr. Miller said they are working on such a document, but they haven't received many questions from the public yet. He encouraged people to ask questions, and said he and

consultant Stephanie Hainley are available to address groups. There will be at least 2 more public informational meetings on the Council agenda between now and March elections. Councilor Dindo suggested video recording a presentation and running it on VideoVision.

Mr. Miller updated the Council on the Enterprise Aly project. The City has received funding to help with developing plans for the project and has applied for additional funds. Once the funds are in place, the project will go out to bid for the planning work. There are also brownfields contamination issues that need to be addressed. The City purchase of the site will allow for additional funding to help cover the costs for cleanup. Purchase of the related properties is tentatively scheduled for fall 2013, with construction scheduled for 2014. Construction would include sidewalks, bike path, setbacks and green spaces.

Mayor Lauzon asked Mr. Miller to give another Enterprise Aly update to Council in February.

A) Introduction to the District Office of Vt. Dept. of Health.

Linda Seel and Bonnie Alexander from the Barre District office of the Vermont Department of Health addressed the Council. Ms. Alexander said they are reaching out to communities to let the public know about services offered by VDH. Ms. Alexander and Ms. Seel reviewed programs provided including WIC, infectious disease reporting, and promoting immunization including for whooping cough.

C) TAC Report on Truck Route Hearings.

TAC chair Fred Ford reviewed the committee's report and recommendation on the Summer Street truck route. Mr. Ford reviewed data collected on traffic numbers and speed over a three week period of time. He said the committee recommends the City return truck traffic to North Main Street. Other recommendations included the installation of school zone lights and signs systems on Summer Street and maintenance of the Elm/Summer/Wellington Streets traffic signal.

There was discussion about allowing parking on both sides of Summer Street, the intersection at the base of Auditorium Hill, the percentage of traffic that was speeding during the survey period, and whether there are other similar routes around the state to use for comparison purposes. Manager Mackenzie said there are no direct comparable routes in the state. The Manager has asked for a breakdown of information on accidents during the Big Dig, but he hasn't received that information yet. Councilor Dindo asked if there is any way to restore street parking at the moment. City Engineer Reg Abare said at this time of year it's not likely because the center line would need to be shifted which would require scrubbing the center line off, then re-striping the center line and parking spaces. Manager Mackenzie said that could be re-done in the spring.

Councilor Poirier made the motion that the City return truck traffic to where it historically has been, and keep the traffic signal at the Elm/Summer Street intersection permanently; to accept the TAC recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dindo.

Mayor Lauzon said other TAC recommendations would be forwarded to Mr. Abare for his review and reporting back to Council in the spring.

Councilor Boutin made the motion to divide the question. No second is required.

Mayor Lauzon said Council will address the Elm/Summer traffic signal first. There was discussion about the need to maintain Wellington Street one way to accommodate the traffic light.

Councilor Boutin made a motion to amend the original motion to keep Wellington Street two way traffic. The motion was seconded by Councilor Herring. There was discussion about changes to the

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Wellington/Franklin Street area to accommodate the permanent traffic pattern changes.

Council did not approve the motion to amend with all voting against.

Council approved the divided motion to maintain the traffic signal at the Elm/Summer Streets intersection, with all voting for.

Council discussed the motion to return truck traffic to North Main Street. There was discussion about the Maple Avenue/Summer Street intersection, parking along the end of Maple Avenue, and other possible alternative truck routes.

Councilor Poirier called the question.

Council approved the motion to return truck traffic to North Main Street with Councilors Dindo, Boutin, Herring and Poirier voting yes and Mayor Lauzon and Councilor Chadderton voting no.

Manager Mackenzie said the Summer Street truck route will no longer be in effect as of tomorrow morning.

There was discussion about putting up signage to encourage trucks not use their Jake brakes on North Main Street.

Mayor Lauzon asked if Councilors were interested in placing the question of the Summer Street truck route on the ballot for March. There were mixed responses. Councilor Herring suggested the discussion of placing the question on the ballot be an agenda item on a future meeting agenda.

Councilor Chadderton asked for the City to look into alternate truck routes.

D) Regional Public Safety Authority Discussion.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed his memo from the previous week on the recently released regional public safety authority report. The Mayor said his proposed joint meeting on December 3rd won't work for Berlin. He said the best available date is Monday, December 10th. Councilors Herring and Chadderton said they would not be available due to school board commitments that same evening.

Mayor Lauzon said he would like to see the four communities meet, that the governance model be adjusted to include the city/town managers, and that the joint group of councilors/selectboard members appoint the initial board. The Mayor said he would like to ask the committee to engage counsel to draft the governance documents and documents to form the regional public safety commission. He said he supports phasing implementation of the commission.

Councilor Herring asked if there has been a vote of confidence from the four communities. Mayor Lauzon said that's exactly what he is looking for at the joint meeting. There was discussion about ways to phase implementation and economies of scale.

Councilor Boutin made the motion to request a quad-board meeting to discuss the regional public safety authority, and to specifically discuss how to proceed forward. The motion was seconded by Councilor Herring.

Councilor Herring offered a friendly amendment to the motion, asking that the quad-board take a vote of confidence at its meeting. The friendly amendment was accepted by the mover. **Motion carried.**

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Councilor Smith arrived at this point in the meeting.

Round Table –

Councilor Herring said the IT committee is working to schedule a next meeting.

Councilor Chadderton said she attended the holiday parade festivities and it they were wonderful.

Councilor Dindo said a carbon monoxide alarm went off in his neighborhood, and the Fire Department did a great job responding. He reminded people that CO detectors should be placed low in a room, not up towards the ceiling.

Mayor Lauzon said the Thanksgiving Community Dinner at the Masonic Temple was fabulous.

Mayor Lauzon said the Council's annual dollar drop for Christmas for Kids will be December 8th.

Council adjourned at 9:00 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