

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held December 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, Councilor Charles Dindo; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilor Lucas Herring. Also in attendance were City Manager Steven Mackenzie and 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 following meeting:
  - Regular Meeting of December 18, 2012
- Ratified Mayor Lauzon's December 24, 2012 approval of the City Warrants as presented, including a Community Development warrant payable out of a municipal planning grant.
- 2013 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
  - Food Take Out Licenses
    - Quality Market, 155 Washington Street
    - Fastop, 377 North Main Street
    - Champlain Farms, 169 Washington Street & 15 South Main Street
  - Food Establishment Licenses
    - G & J Gosselin d/b/a Gusto's, 28 Prospect Street
    - Barre Elks Club #1535, 10 Jefferson Street
  - Video Machine/Pool Table licenses
    - Barre Elks Club #1535, 2 pool tables, 1 video machine
    - Gusto's, 2 pool tables, 3 video machines
  - Entertainment Licenses
    - Green Mountain Tavern, 10 Keith Avenue
    - Gusto's 28 Prospect Street
    - Planet Rock N' Metal, 127 North Main Street
    - Barre Elks Club #1535, 110 Jefferson Street
    - Barre Opera House, 6 North Main Street
    - Ladder 1 Grill, 8 South Main Street
  - Taxicab Service Operator's Licenses
    - Payless Taxi, 1 vehicle
  - Taxicab Driver's Licenses
    - Dale Kew, Payless Taxi
    - Aileen Lindbeck, A to B Taxi

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

- Due to the holidays, there is no City Council meeting next week and City Hall will be closed on Tuesday, January 1, 2013.
- Information on the 2013 Annual (Town) Meeting election is posted on the Clerk section of the City website.

**Approval of Building Permits** – NONE

**Liquor Control Board** – NONE

**City Manager's Report** –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- DEW is closing tomorrow on the new market tax credits associated with the City Place project.

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- Met with representatives from the Barre City Elementary and Middle School to revive the generator grant application and the secondary access route discussions. A grant application is being readied to submit to Vermont Emergency Management for the generator.
- Received word that the grant application submitted to Vermont Historic Preservation for restoration work on the City Hall/Opera House building was not successful.
- Firefighter union contract negotiations resume tomorrow.

Councilor Boutin asked about the Budget Committee. Manager Mackenzie said he is running about 5-6 weeks behind due to working on the City Place project. The Manager expects to begin working on the budget this weekend. Mayor Lauzon said he sent a template of the FY14 budget to the Manager via email today, and his office will be making a CPA available to assist the Manager with data entry. The Mayor said the committee will likely serve in a review capacity, meeting 2-3 times per week for 2-3 weeks.

Councilor Herring asked who will serve as the City's liaison to the City Place project as it moves forward. Manager Mackenzie said City Planner Michael Miller and City Engineer Reg Abare will be the staff people most involved in the project from this point on, and will address issues and concerns. Mayor Lauzon said he will ask the developer to present regular updates at Council meetings.

Councilor Boutin said he has received some complaints about the traffic signals. Manager Mackenzie said he is going to request that the contractor review the lighting cycles and make any necessary adjustments to optimize signalization. The Manager said the work will most likely be done in the spring.

#### **Visitors and Communications –**

John Clark of 25 Madison Avenue asked Manager Mackenzie for a status update on his appeal. The Manager said he has not had an opportunity to digest the materials Mr. Clark gave him, and he may need to consult with the City Attorney. The Manager said he will email Mr. Clark with another meeting date. Mr. Clark said City ordinances set out a timeline schedule for appeals. Mayor Lauzon said Mr. Clark can consider this a denial by the Manager and asked when Mr. Clark would like to have his appeal hearing before the Council. Mr. Clark said the hearing could be scheduled for the next Council meeting. Manager Mackenzie said he will have a response to Mr. Clark by a week from Wednesday. Mr. Clark said he has two questions: 1) Is the property in question a rental property?, and 2) What is the timeline related to the City ordinances? Mayor Lauzon asked what the current status of the property is and Mr. Clark said it is owner occupied.

#### **Old Business – NONE**

#### **New Business –**

##### **A) Public Hearing for Transportation Alternatives Application – Barre City Bike Path Warned for 7:15 PM.**

Mayor Lauzon opened the public hearing at 7:25 PM. Manager Mackenzie noted that two members of the Bike Path Committee are in attendance; Councilor Dindo and Susan McDowall, who serve the committee as co-chairs. Councilor Dindo said there is an opportunity to apply for a grant up to \$300,000 through the Vermont Agency of Transportation, and the funds would allow the completion of the Smith Street section of the bike path. Councilor Dindo said the Committee is requesting that the Council authorize the Committee to hire a grant writer to assist in completing the application by the January 18<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Councilor Dindo made the motion to authorize the Bike Path Committee to engage a part-time grant writer to complete the grant application. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith.

Manager Mackenzie said the Committee is expected to offer the position of grant writer to John Stevens, a Norwich University engineer, who will be paid on an hourly basis, and the Manager said he expected the total cost to be approximately \$1,500. Councilor Dindo said the committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow afternoon to make a final decision on the grant writer.

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Mayor Lauzon said due to the storm, this public hearing should be placed on the January 8, 2013 Council meeting agenda to allow for additional public comment. The Mayor said he is working on the City's letter of support for the grant application, and will place the letter on the January 8<sup>th</sup> agenda for Council approval.

There was a recommendation that the motion be amended to say that the funds will be paid out of the Semprebon Bike Path funds, and will be capped at \$2,000. The mover and seconder accepted the recommended amendments.

Council voted on the motion. **Motion carried.**

Council approved the Bike Path Committee preparing and submitting the grant application, and authorized Manager Mackenzie to sign on behalf of the City on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

The public hearing closed at 7:35 PM.

**B) Approval/Authorization to Transfer Property Title(s) (9 Merchant, 213-225 No. Main St.) in support of the City Place Project.**

Council approved the following on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith:

“The City Council approves and authorizes the execution of documents necessary to transfer properties located at 9 Merchant and 213,219 and 225 North Main Streets to DEW Barre City Place, LLC., in support of the City Place project.”

**Motion carried with all voting in favor.**

**Round Table –**

Councilor Herring thanked Manager Mackenzie for keeping the BCEMS generator and access projects alive. He also said the IT Committee is scheduled to meet on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

Councilor Boutin thanked the Public Works Department for their plowing work on Christmas Day.

Councilor Dindo thanked his neighbors for believing in their Neighborhood Watch program, and Mayor Lauzon, Manager Mackenzie and Chief Bombardier for their assistance related to the recent arrest of a young man who had been terrorizing the neighborhood. He said he is willing to talk with anyone interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch program in their neighborhoods.

Mayor Lauzon said it's been a great year for Barre City, and he thanked the Councilors for their service. The Mayor wished everyone a Happy and Safe New Year.

Council adjourned at 7:43 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