

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held August 6, 2013**

The Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomas Lauzon at 7:00 PM at Barre City Hall. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilor Paul Poirier (arrived 7:04 PM); from Ward II, Alderman Michael Boutin and Councilor Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring. Also in attendance were City Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Mayor Lauzon began the meeting with a moment of silence for Police Officer Michael Zemanek, who passed away last week.

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

- Minutes of the following meeting:
 - Regular Meeting of July 23, 2013.
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2013 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office: NONE

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

- First quarter property tax payments are due by August 15th.
- The BCA will hold its assessment appeal hearings on Thursday, August 15th.
- Nine properties are scheduled for tax sale on September 18th.

Approval of Building Permits –

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Dane Deberville	4 Walker Ave.
Carol Ellison	51 Allen St.

Liquor Control Board – NONE

Visitors & Communications –

Renee Proteau presented the official Rubber Duck Bath Tub Race trophy to the Council for winning the race during the Heritage Festival. Ms. Proteau thanked the Council for its participation in the race and the dunking booth.

Maplewood Avenue residents Jeffrey and Hollie Friot, and their attorney, Daniel Burke, said they are having problems with the use of the land abutting their property which they have leased from the City. There were issues with the sewer line that runs under the leased property and serves their neighbors, and there are disagreements over accessing the sewer line without an agreement between all parties. A clean-out pipe has been installed and Mr. Friot requested that it be relocated to outside the leased land. There was discussion about relocation of the pipe and liability issues. Mayor Lauzon said the City will consult with its attorney and do its best to resolve the situation by Friday.

New Business –

D) IT Committee Appointments.

Councilor Herring introduced prospective committee appointee Michelle Barber. Ms. Barber told the Council about her interest in serving on the committee and her IT experience. Council approved the

appointment on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Councilor Herring introduced prospective committee appointee Jeffrey Tuper-Giles. Mr. Tuper-Giles told the Council about his interest in serving on the committee and his IT experience. Council approved the appointment on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

B) Update on the Athletic Field Lighting Project for Spaulding High School.

Spaulding Union High School board member Giuliano Cecchinelli reviewed the list of donations and pledges received to date for the lighting project. Board chair Norma Malone said the estimated total cost of the project is \$190,000 - \$200,000. Ms. Malone said work on the project started today. Mayor Lauzon said the high school has met the fundraising condition as set by the Council with regards to the \$90,000 Semprebond Fund allocation, and recommended Council approve releasing the funds. Council approved the distribution on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

A) Authorize Manager to Approve Efficiency Vermont Incentive Agreement.

City Planner Michael Miller and Barre Energy Awareness Resource (BEAR) members Eileen Wang and Phil Cecchini reviewed BEAR's work to assess the City's streetlights. Ms. Wang said the goal is to replace existing fixtures with LEDs. Tim Perrin of Efficiency Vermont said the overall cost of the replacement project is \$92,379, of which \$83,800 will be covered through the Efficiency Vermont incentive program. The net cost to the City will be approximately \$6,579. The estimated first year savings in electric costs is \$55,200.

Mayor Lauzon said it's important to keep doing more of these types of projects, and he suggested the FY15 budget include setting aside some funds for reinvestment in similar initiatives. Councilor Herring said he would like to have BEAR explore options for installation of solar power on City buildings. Ms. Wang said BEAR will be working to lay out and prioritize a road map of projects. They will also be asking the planning commission to create a stand-alone energy plan.

Councilor Chadderton made the motion to approve the Efficiency Vermont Incentive agreement and authorize Manager Mackenzie to sign on behalf of the City, seconded by Councilor Smith. Mayor Lauzon requested amending the motion to include meeting with those who might be impacted by the possible removal of some streetlights. Mr. Miller said all effected properties will receive a letter about the removal of lights, and if there are requests to keep lights, they will be kept.

Council approved the motion as amended

C) Authorization to Execute the Animal Control Office Contract with Barre Town.

Council approved the ACO contract on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Old Business –

A) Approval of Revised Tax Stabilization Policy.

Councilor Herring reviewed the revisions to the policy as requested at the last Council meeting. Council approved the policy as revised on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

B) Parking Meter Coinage Handling.

Clerk Dawes reviewed her memo and recommended the City contract with Loomis Armored Transport for transportation, sorting, counting and depositing of meter coinage. Council approved the recommendation on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

New Business – continued

E) “Last Chance” Mitigation Grants – Local Share Certification.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the projects proposed for the mitigation grants. The Manager said the City must make a commitment for the required 25% match. He said a rough estimate of the total costs is \$600,000 - \$800,000, therefore an estimate of the local share is \$150,000 - \$200,000. He said there is a possibility that additional FEMA funds will be available to cover some or all of the local match.

Council approved executing the 25% Match Certification on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

City Manager’s Report –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- A grant application has been submitted for additional funding support for the bike path.

At this point in the meeting, the audio recording stopped due to the machine being full.

- New parking meters were delivered, and installation will start shortly on North Main Street.
- Gave an update on the Hilltop Avenue buy-outs.
- Met with the interested parties regarding fencing the Bugbee Avenue path, and will be reviewed the final alignment tomorrow.
- Met with CVCLT to initiate the formal process for the Summer Street project.
- Continue to deal with traffic signal issues.
- City Hall restoration project is expected to be complete by the end of the month, after which the sidewalk in front of the building will be completed.
- Demolition of the Quarry Street houses will begin later this week. Setting up a meeting with VTRANS and the abutters, who have concerns about noise and screening.
- Reviewed proposed changes in parking and crosswalks for behind City Hall and the Blanchard Block. Mayor Lauzon said he is concerned about losing parking spaces and suggested reconfiguring the changes.

Councilor Herring reviewed the work of the Vermont Downtown Action Team, which will share its preliminary findings tomorrow at 10:00 AM at the Elks Club. The team is funded with FEMA money to provide assistance with community branding and other economic development and enhancement initiatives.

Round Table –

Councilors said the Heritage Festival was wonderful and thanked the organizers, volunteers and attendees.

Councilor Herring asked about the Council’s plans to create a priority list for the Manager. Mayor Lauzon said the goal will be to develop the list by Labor Day. Councilor Herring said the City qualifies for participation in the Neighborhood Development Program and he will send information to the Manager’s office to be included in next week’s Council packet. Councilor Herring asked about the parking meter token design contest. Mayor Lauzon said it will be on next week’s agenda.

Mayor Lauzon said he met with the Vermont Downtown Action Team and they were highly complementary of Barre City.

Council went into executive session at 9:02 PM to discuss contracts, negotiations and litigation issues on motion of Alderman Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

To be approved at 08-13-13 Barre City Council Meeting

Manager Mackenzie was invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 9:50 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 9:50 PM on motion of Alderman Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

A partial audio recording of the meeting is available through the Clerk's Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk

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