

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held March 25, 2014**

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, Councilors Charles Dindo and Paul Poirier; 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 City Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

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

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Special Meeting of March 18, 2014
 - Regular Meeting of March 18, 2014
 - Special Meeting of March 19, 2014
 - Special Meeting of March 22, 2014
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2014 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Food Establishment License:
 - Barre Technical Center bakery, 136 North Main Street

The City Clerk/Treasurer Report – Clerk/Treasurer Dawes reported on the following:

- All dogs must be licensed by April 1, 2014. The response to the reminder postcards has been very strong. We will probably plan on doing the card again in the future. Council requested a list of unlicensed dogs, which the Clerk will email to them.
- Water & sewer bills are due by March 31st.
- The Clerk received notification that the City is a named beneficiary of the Doris C. Macdonald estate. Ms. Macdonald left the City \$5,000 "...for the care and upkeep of the Robert Burns Memorial." The Clerk has filed Notice of Appearance paperwork so she will continue to receive notifications from Probate Court with regards to the Macdonald estate.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control Board – Council approved a request to cater permit from Jerry's Sports Tavern LLC for an autism fundraiser event at the Civic Center Auditorium on Saturday, April 5th from 5:00 – 9:00 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

Mayor Lauzon said the Council recently received notification from DLC of two liquor license suspensions planned for the near future.

City Manager's Report –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- Attended a traffic signal summit meeting. Work continues to correct functionality of the traffic signals that were installed as part of the North Main Street Reconstruction Project.
- City department heads are meeting this week to prepare in case of rapid snow melt and possible flooding hazards as the weather warms up. Mayor Lauzon said he has been in touch with Vermont Emergency Management, requesting information about preparing for potential flooding.
- The City has been contacted by a representative from the Social Security Agency, who is holding an informational meeting for employees of the City and surrounding municipalities. The City has agreed to host the meeting.

- The Planning Commission is holding a hearing on the revised municipal plan this Thursday, March 27th beginning at 6:30 PM. Mayor Lauzon said the draft plan is up on the City website and worth a look.
- The Civic Center announced there is a new show coming up in the near future – the Vermont Campers Association spring show. The VCA has moved its show from the previous location in Essex Jct.

There was discussion about the current format of the department head reports included in the Council packet. It was agreed that the Council finds the reports useful, and that more details on project updates would be appreciated.

Visitors & Communications – NONE

Old Business –

A) Consideration of Parking Ordinance Revisions: Ordinance #2014-01 Revisions to Chapter 17. Council offered a few additional revisions to the draft, and scheduled the first reading for next week's meeting on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

New Business –

A) Discussion of Expanding Brusa Trust Language.

Clerk Dawes reviewed her memo on the Brusa Trust and recommended she write a letter to the Probate Court requesting expansion of the trust language to allow investments to be made at institutions other than banks, and to expand the beneficiaries to include all poor children in Barre City. Council accepted the Clerk's recommendation and asked her to draft a letter to the probate court on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

A draft of the letter will be shared with the Council before being sent to the court,.

B) Parking Discussion – Discount for Current Permit Holders.

Mayor Lauzon said last week's public meeting on parking led to several good suggestions. The Mayor called for review and reconfiguration of parking along North Main Street. Manager Mackenzie said City Engineer Reg Abare will measure spaces and discuss possible reconfigurations with VTRANS. The Mayor said he would like the City to seek variances to any restrictions on the size of parking spaces imposed by VTRANS.

Mayor Lauzon asked for an update on having Dubois & King prepare plans for transforming the Enterprise Aly property into usable parking spaces. Manager Mackenzie said he was considering alternative ways to utilize the property. Mayor Lauzon said he would like to stick with the initial plan for Enterprise Aly, and requested that the City proceed with having Dubois & King prepare the plan to be submitted to the Agency of Natural Resources.

Mayor Lauzon is scheduling a meeting with DEW to discuss having some City Place vehicles park up on Auditorium Hill.

There was a discussion about the cost of daytime parking permits and the possibility of offering a discount on the purchase of next year's permits to those who paid full price, or a prorated amount based on full price, this year. Additional discussion was had on whether to approve the discount now or wait until after the budget re-vote.

Councilor Boutin made the motion of offer a 1/3 discount of the amount paid for a 2014 permit towards the purchase of a 2015 permit to all those who purchased a 2014 permit at full price, or a pro-rated

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amount based on full price. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

There will be a discussion on possible parking meter fee changes at next week's Council meeting.

C) Authorize Manager to Execute Trestle Project Construction Phase Engineering Agreement.

Mayor Lauzon said this item has been deferred to next week. Clerk Dawes said the bond documents for the trestle project will be considered for approval at the April 15th Council Meeting.

Round Table –

Councilor Dindo reviewed the schedule of upcoming bike path meetings.

Councilor Boutin said tomorrow is National Ferret Day.

Councilor Herring said the IT Committee and the Barre Partnership are holding a joint meeting to discuss opportunities to bring WiFi to downtown Barre. He said Spaulding High School students had attended a Council meeting last year, and were interested in being involved in the downtown. He asked if Council is still interested in engaging the students. Mayor Lauzon said yes, and asked Councilor Herring to be in touch with Norma Malone, chair of the Spaulding Union High School Board.

Councilor Poirier said he wanted to recognize Representative Tess Taylor's service to Barre City. Rep. Taylor recently left the legislature to take a private sector job. Councilor Poirier said the Barre City Democrats are meeting on Wednesday, March 26th at the library at 5:00 PM to accept nominations to fill the seat until this fall's elections.

Mayor Lauzon said he echoed Councilor Poirier's comments about Rep. Taylor's service to the City.

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk