

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held February 10, 2015**

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, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring. Also in attendance were City Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

**Absent:** NONE

**Adjustments to the Agenda:** NONE

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

Council approved the following consent agenda items on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
  - Regular meeting of February 3, 2015
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2015 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
  - 2015 FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE.
    - Positive Pie, 219 North Main Street
  - 2015 COMMERCIAL SWIMMING POOL LICENSE:
    - Rehab GYM, Inc., 219 North Main Street

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

- 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter property taxes are due by February 17<sup>th</sup>.
- March 3, 2015 Annual (Town) Meeting ballots are now available. The office is accepting requests for absentee ballots. The deadline to register to vote is Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Approval of Building Permits** – NONE

**Liquor Control** – Council approved a Request to Cater application from Valley Bowl, Inc., for a Vermont Trappers Association event at the Civic Center Auditorium on March 28<sup>th</sup>, on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried with Councilor Chadderton voting no and Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

Council approved a new 2014 First Class Liquor License for Positive Pie, 219 North Main Street, on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

Council requested that a representative from Positive Pie attend next week's meeting to discuss the new liquor license.

**City Manager's Report** – Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- In response to Council's request, the Manager and BCS Director Jeff Bergeron have been reviewing banner & dasher board revenues, and will report at next week's meeting.
- The Manager complimented the Street Department for its work during the recent snow storms, and the Water Department for handling a water line break on Summer Street over the weekend.

**Visitors & Communications – NONE**

Mayor Lauzon said he is adjusting the agenda; old business will be taken up at the end of the meeting so as to accommodate those attending for new business.

**New Business –**

**A) Modification of Grant Application Granite City Grocery.**

Barre Area Development Corporation executive director Joel Schwartz and Granite City Grocery president Chris Riddell addressed the Council. Mr. Schwartz said this new public hearing is necessary because they have increased the amount of the planning grant request from the ACCD's Vermont Community Development Program. The original grant request was for \$15,000, and it has been increased to \$19,830 to more accurately reflect the actual costs associated with the planning project. The project calls for retaining the services of a coordinator to assist in growing membership.

Mr. Riddell said there are currently 542 members, and the goal is 1,000-1,200 by the time the doors open. The GCG has retained a realtor and is beginning the process of identifying a site. They are also in the active phase for planning financing. Mr. Riddell said the GCG has hired Ray Fries on a temporary basis for coordination efforts.

Mr. Schwartz said the grant application will be taken up by the VCDP board later this week, and there should be a response within the next two weeks.

Mayor Lauzon invited comments and questions from the Council and public. Hearing none, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:24 PM.

**B) Cow Pasture Committee Update.**

Committee members Chris Russo-Fraysier and Nathan Reigner updated the Council on the history of the committee and recent projects. Ms. Russo-Fraysier said there was a \$25,000 appropriation from the Semprebond Fund for work in the Cow Pasture, which has been used to leverage several different grants. She spoke of the repair and mitigation work done to date. The committee was formed in 2013. Mr. Reigner reviewed his memo on recent activities and said the committee is working to develop a management plan for the property.

There was discussion about ATV traffic in the pasture, coordinating coverage with the Police Department, and upcoming installation of kiosks at the points of access, funded through a BGS grant.

Mayor Lauzon said the Council will take a tour of the pasture with the committee.

**C) Update from the Barre Partnership.**

New Barre Partnership executive director Josh Jerome introduced himself, and listed new board members and new initiatives planned for this year, including a 5K running event around Veterans Day. BP committees are looking for community volunteers to get involved. Mayor Lauzon asked Mr. Jerome to report to the Council on a monthly basis.

**D) Authorization to Purchase New Bobcat.**

Mayor Lauzon reviewed Manager Mackenzie's memo. The Mayor said he wants to make sure the old Bobcat is either traded in or sold. Council approved the purchase as recommended by the Manager on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

**E) Authorization to Accept FY16 Heating Oil Bid.**

Manager Mackenzie reviewed his memo and the spreadsheet showing the bids received from Dead River

To be approved at 02-17-15 Barre City Council Meeting

and Irving Oil. Manager Mackenzie noted the Dead River quote is 12 cents lower than the Irving quote, however, he is recommending Council award the bid to Irving. There was discussion about the location of depots, methods of delivery, reliability of drops, length of contract, and the City's relationship with its fuel broker, Competitive Energy Services.

Councilor Poirier made the motion to award the contract to Dead River, seconded by Councilor Boutin.

There was further discussion about blended pricing, surcharges and adder charges.

Councilor Poirier made a revised motion to authorize the Manager to confirm the 12 cent difference between the two bids, and if everything works out to his satisfaction, execute a contract with Dead River, seconded by Councilor Smith.

A friendly amendment to the second motion was requested by Manager Mackenzie; that if he is not comfortable with the responses from Dead River, he may execute a contract with Irving instead. Councilors Poirier and Smith, as the mover and seconder, accepted the friendly amendment request.

Mayor Lauzon said it would be helpful in the future for the Council to have an executable document for consideration and action. The Mayor said he was disappointed with the performance of the broker.

Council voted on the second motion as amended. **Motion carried.**

**Old Business –**

**A) Mid Year (2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr.) FY15 Budget Status Review.**

Mayor Lauzon said this item was put on the agenda again from last week to allow time for Councilors to review and bring back any questions. There was a discussion about the format of the report. Mayor Lauzon said a summary sheet will be developed for future reviews.

**Round Table –**

Councilor Herring said he participated in last weekend's Penguin Plunge to raise funds for BCEMS.

Councilor Smith said the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority will give a budget presentation at next week's Council meeting.

Councilor Dindo reminded people to clear off their roofs following the recent snow storms.

Mayor Lauzon reminded people to walk carefully on the sidewalks following the recent snow storms and thawing/freezing temperature cycles.

**Executive Session: NONE**

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk