

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held May 10, 2016**

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; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring. Also present were City Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

**Absent:** From Ward I, Councilor Charles Dindo.

**Adjustments to the Agenda:** NONE

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

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

- Minutes of the following meetings:
  - Regular meeting on May 3, 2016
- City Warrants as presented: week 2016-19.
  - Accounts Payable: \$157,726.06
  - Payroll (gross): \$108,092.61
- Licenses & Permits:
- 2016 Food Vending Licenses:
  - Spaulding High School – soda, chips, baked goods, sports drinks, grilled hotdogs and hamburgers as a variety of sporting events throughout the year.
  - Heney Realtors – bottled water, lemonade and popsicles at the Currier Park concerts.

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

- Fourth quarter taxes are due by May 16<sup>th</sup>, as the 15<sup>th</sup> is a Sunday.
- There will be a Ward I caucus on Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM at Alumni Hall to select a Councilor to fill Councilor Dindo's seat until the March 2017 Annual (Town) Meeting. All Ward I registered voters are eligible to participate.
- The Vermont Legislature passed H. 884, the Barre City charter change related to the number of BCEMS board seats. It will go into effect as of July 1, 2016.

**Approval of Building Permits** – Council approved the following building permits on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Todd Rueda	84 Merchants Street

**Liquor Control** – Council approved a Request to Cater application from Sugarsnap LLC for a wedding reception at the Labor Hall on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 3:30 – 10:30 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

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

- The spring lawn waste disposal schedule is posted on the website.
- DPW has completed interim reconstruction of the Gunner Brook bank.
- Preparations for Memorial Day ceremonies are underway throughout the cemeteries and parks.
- Two upcoming public hearings:
  - Pearl Street design kick-off before next Tuesday's Council meeting.
  - Progress meeting on Gunner Brook Design later this month.
- Seeking people interested in serving on the Animal Control Committee.

- Attending annual VT City Managers Association conference later this week.

Councilor Poirier said the legislature passed a bill that includes increases in reimbursement rates for use of ambulances. He said the National Guard Adjutant General will be speaking at this year's Barre City Memorial Day ceremonies.

**Visitors & Communications – NONE**

**Old Business – NONE**

**New Business -**

**A) Outreach Specialist Update.**

Outreach specialist Brooke Pouliot and Chief Tim Bombardier reviewed Ms. Pouliot's first six months on the job. She has had a total of 29 cases, and 13 are currently active. There have been approximately 250-325 calls for service in the past six months. Ms. Pouliot said the biggest challenges facing her clients are homelessness, mental health issues and substance abuse. Chief Bombardier said Ms. Pouliot is serving on a number of local provider committees, and Ms. Pouliot said the biggest challenge in the system is lack of cross communications, keeping updated and sharing changes in staffing and contacts.

Chief Bombardier announced there is still one vacancy on the summer bike patrol.

**B) Patty Meriam Vermont Granite Museum Update.**

VGM board chair Patty Meriam and executive director Scott McLaughlin reviewed recent activities and upcoming events including:

- Installation of heat in the archive room, and work on the archives through the winter.
- Poured the rest of the concrete floor throughout the building.
- Installed a climbing wall.
- Plans for installing a catering kitchen and a static blacksmith shop exhibit.
- Boy Scout and Girl Scout camping events
- Sandblasting and painting the train engine
- Hosting their first wedding
- Demonstrations in the stone arts school area throughout the season
- Rockfire firewalk

They are maintaining the walking paths and the public is welcome from dawn to dusk. They have moved granite blocks to dissuade people from dumping on the property, and will be working to improve the walking path and access to the river this year.

**C) Consideration and/or Authorization of Barre Opera House Lease Agreement.**

BOH executive director Dan Casey and board member Patty Meriam reviewed the history of the lease and said a revised long term lease will allow the Opera House to apply for a variety of funding options and tax credit programs to address certain safety issues, including the installation of smoke vents over the stage. There was discussion about including sprinkler and elevator maintenance in the lease to allow the Opera House to tap into funding options that are not available to a municipality.

Council approved the lease contingent upon the Manager negotiating sprinkler maintenance language, and at his discretion elevator maintenance language, on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

**D) Authorization to Approve Miscellaneous Paving Bid.**

Manager Mackenzie said assistant director of public works director Steve Micheli's memo recommended

awarding the hand and box paving work to low bidder Green Mountain Paving, and the curb work to low bidder Johnson Paving. Council approved Mr. Micheli's recommendations on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

**E) Authorization to Approve Engineering Services Proposal (Dubois & King) for WWTF Methane/Fuel Oil Boiler Replacement Design.**

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the memo from Mr. Micheli, recommending Council approve the services proposal from Dubois & King. Mayor Lauzon said D&K is the engineer of record for the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Council approved the proposal on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

**F) Authorization to Execute First Amendment and Estoppel to (Booth-Morrison) Solar Group Net Metering Agreement.**

Mayor Lauzon said he has concerns about the amendment to section D, which states the company would make savings payments to the City should the system be off-line for at least 180 days. The Mayor said he would like to see language added that clarified when the project would be considered in default. He recommended adding language that said "...at least 180 but no more than 366 days".

Council approved the first amendment and estoppel as amended, and authorized the Manager to sign on behalf of the City, on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

**G) Library Coin Drop Request October 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Council approved the coin drop on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

**H) Effective Date/Enforcement of Chapter 3. Animal & Fowl Ordinance.**

Clerk Dawes said City staff is recommending Council grandfather those who already have approved animal licenses for 2016, and not require them to come into compliance with the ordinance changes that go into effect May 20<sup>th</sup> until their licenses expire at the end of the calendar year. Councilor Poirier made the motion to approve staff's recommendation, seconded by Councilor Boutin.

Mayor Lauzon said he is concerned that based on the City charter, the Council does not have the authority to grandfather the license holders without having included such language in the ordinance revisions. Councilors Poirier and Boutin withdrew their motion and second, respectively. Councilor Poirier requested that Council postpone action until next week to allow the Clerk to research the issue.

**Round Table –**

Councilor Herring said Green Up Day was wonderful. He said the City is holding a free tennis day at the City courts at Rotary Park. He requested an update from the Bike Path Committee. Mayor Lauzon said the committee is working on several issues and should be prepared to report in about a month.

Councilor Smith thanked those who participated in Green Up Day. He congratulated the library on their successful Spring Fling fundraiser, and said Barre Town had passed the library support ballot item at today's elections.

Mayor Lauzon said the Mayor's Coalition is participating in this Friday's National Peacekeepers Day ceremony at the statehouse. The Mayor said he would like an executive session for Council to begin planning for the Manager's evaluation.

**Executive Session -**

Councilor Boutin made the motion to find that premature general public knowledge of the personnel issue to be discussed would clearly place the City of Barre at a substantial disadvantage should the discussion

To be approved at 05-17-16 Barre City Council Meeting

be public. The motion was seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Council went into executive session at 8:40 PM to discuss the personnel issue under the provisions of 1 VSA sec. 313 on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Council came out of executive session at 9:02 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

An audio recording of this meeting is available from the City Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk

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