

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held July 28, 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, Councilor Charles Dindo; 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 Steve Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Absent: From Ward 1, Councilor Paul Poirier.

Adjustments to the Agenda: No adjustments were announced at the beginning of the meeting, however, the Mayor moved agenda items around to accommodate those in attendance.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

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

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular meeting on July 21, 2015 as corrected.
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2015 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office. NONE

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

- First quarter property tax payments are due by August 17th due to the 15th falling on a Saturday.
- Early absentee voting is available for the August 18th special election to vote on the aerial truck. The Clerk asked if Council wanted to meet on Monday that week, or cancel the meeting for the week. Council agreed to cancel the meeting.
- There are three properties scheduled for tax sale next Tuesday, down from the original thirteen.
- The Clerk & Manager met with Randall Northrop from Corrette & Associates today to begin the FY15 audit process.

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Seminary Street Commons LLC	31 Maple Avenue
John Blake	105 Summer Street
Francis & Mary McFaun	18 West Street
Robert & Sandra Marsh	15 Midway Street
Peter & Diana Flood	1 Newton Street
Kyle Farnham	7 Wendell Place
Suong Lam & Theary Veau	171 North Main Street

Liquor Control –

Council approved an alcohol at Rotary Park request from Penny Martin for a family party on Sunday, August 2nd at 11:00 AM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

Visitors & Communications –

Casey Harrington from Beverage Baron and Dave O'Brien from Noyle W. Johnson Insurance presented checks totaling \$6,075 representing donations for flood relief. The funds were raised yesterday during the weekly sale of Heady Topper beer at the Beverage Baron. For each case sold, The Alchemist (brewer of Heady Topper), Beverage Baron and NWJ Insurance donated \$10 each. Additional funds came from sale of merchandise and a raffle. Mayor Lauzon accepted the funds on behalf of the City and thanked the

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three donors. The Mayor said a relief fund has been established, and donations such as this one will be used exclusively to aid individuals and businesses affected by the July 19th flood.

New Business –

C) Funding for the Thomas Venner Interment.

Frederick Venner said he contacted the Veteran's Administration about death benefits for his father, and he may need 12-24 months to get the necessary documentation together. Mayor Lauzon suggested the best approach moving forward is to have the Manager, Clerk & BCS Director Jeff Bergeron work with Mr. Venner on determine whether the City will provide any financial support. Council approved placing its full faith and support behind the Manager, Clerk and Mr. Bergeron to work with Mr. Venner without question from the Council on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried with Councilor Herring voting against.**

City Manager's Report –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- At the request of People's United Bank, traffic patterns in the Enterprise Aly project area have been adjusted to keep people from driving the wrong way through the PUB drive-through.
- The July 19th storm affected the Enterprise Aly project. The storm raised the water table in the area where contaminated soils are being removed. The area now requires de-watering and the water must be treated before it can be returned to the ground. Mayor Lauzon said the contractor, ACCUWORX, spent time last week helping the City with post-flood clean up by pumping out oil-contaminated basements and participating in the street cleanings.

Old Business –

A) 7:15 PM: Second Reading and Hearing for Ordinance Revision #2015-01: Depositing Snow & Ice on Streets, Sidewalks and Water Ways.

Mayor Lauzon opened the public hearing at 7:27 PM. There was brief discussion by the Council to confirm the intent of the current and proposed language. The Mayor invited any public comments. Hearing none, the Mayor closed the hearing at 7:29 PM. Council approved the ordinance revision on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

New Business – continued

A) Approval of Separate Solar Agreement with NOVUS Energy.

Louis and Alex Bravakis from NOVUS Energy appeared before the Council. Mayor Lauzon said NOVUS is requesting Council bifurcate the current agreement into two agreements for the individual projects, so as to allow each to move through the permitting process at its own pace. Mr. L. Bravakis said the Booth property project is on track for completion this year, and the Valsangiacomo property project is on track for next year. The Valsangiacomo project now includes seeking an easement from Highgate Housing to allow access to the project site through off of Skyline Drive. Mr. A. Bravakis gave additional updates on the projects, and said similar projects are in the works for all Barre schools and in Barre Town.

Council authorized the Manager to execute two agreements bifurcating the original contract into separate agreements contingent upon each other on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

B) Update on Filling the Vacant Director of Public Works Position.

Manager Mackenzie gave an update of the City Planner position first, saying the second candidate has tentatively accepted the offer and will likely start in early November. There are still some final details to work out before the Manager will share the name. The details are expected to be finalized by next week.

The Manager has several good resumes for the DPW position and he will be able to give a firm update in three weeks. Mayor Lauzon asked that there be a final resolution by October 1st.

Other) Flood Recovery

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the Vermont Economic Resiliency Initiative (VERI) draft report, which focused on Gunner's Brook and possible efforts that the City could undertake to mitigate flooding in that area. The Mayor discussed options including installation of water diversions such as spillways, buyout of properties in the flood-prone area to create space for water to spread, and mitigation work upstream in the Farwell Street area. The Mayor asked the Manager to come back next week with a proposal for engaging engineers to develop a report related to flood mitigation options. Manager Mackenzie said there is another round of mitigation grant opportunities, and such engineering work would allow the City to submit an application for grant funding.

Maple Avenue resident Arnold Martin asked if there is a state hydrologist, and Mayor Lauzon said such scientists had worked on the VERI project. The Mayor said the City needs to adopt a 10 year plan to address the issues, and he will seek a charter change in March to create a Stormwater Department, which would be funded through a special assessment on all properties in the City. Mr. Martin said he is ready and willing to help in whatever way he can.

Round Table:

All Councilors said last weekend's Heritage Festival was a great success, and thanked the organizers, volunteers and City crews for all their hard work on this great event.

Councilor Herring said he helped with the street cleanings following last week's flood in preparation for the Heritage Festival. He said the Council team won the bathtub race for the third straight year. He gave a report on use of the downtown Wifi, saying the stats from Saturday showed over 4,000 discrete devices within range. He said typical daily numbers are 1,200. There are 989 members of Front Porch Forum.

Councilor Chadderton requested that City crews look at the wire guardrails in her neighborhood to ensure they are safe. Manager Mackenzie said he will have them looked at.

Mayor Lauzon thanked the City crews, neighboring communities and the state for assistance through the flooding and clean-up.

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:01 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