

**Special Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held December 10, 2016**

The Special Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomas Lauzon at 9:42 AM at the Barre City Council Chambers, Barre, Vermont. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilors Paul Poirier and Jeffrey Tuper-Giles; from Ward II, Councilor Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilor Lucas Herring. Also present were City Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Absent: From Ward II, Councilor Michael Boutin; and from Ward III, Councilor Anita Chadderton.

Members of the Budget Committee present: Mary Ellen Boisvert and Alex Pastor (arrived at 10:22 AM). Also present: Peter Anthony.

Mayor Lauzon opened the budget workshop. Manager Mackenzie reviewed highlights of his budget draft #3. There was discussion on:

- Additional staff in the finance department
- Request for a substantive discussion on moving to a volunteer fire department
- Overtime in the public safety departments
- Cost of salt
- Why the City needs health insurance advisory services
- Expected requests for additional voter-approved appropriations
- Review salary increases comparing FY16 actuals to FY18 projections
- Social Security increased 0.3%, and inflation rate is 1.6%
- Hold tax rate increase to no more than 1.5%
- Explore other options for revenue
 - Inventory tax
 - Downtown improvement tax
 - Drug tax, if marijuana legalized
 - Local option taxes
 - PILOT for tax exempt properties
- Shifting street and capital funds to tax relief

Council is invited to the next Budget Committee meeting on Wednesday, December 14th at 7:00 PM.

Mayor Lauzon adjourned the meeting at 11:07 AM.

There is no audio recording of this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk