

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held January 2, 2020**

The Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order by Mayor Lucas Herring at 7:00 PM at Barre City Civic Center Alumni Hall. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilors John Steinman and Jeffrey Tuper-Giles (arrived 810 PM); from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Teddy Waszazak; and from Ward III, Councilors Rich Morey and Samn Stockwell. Also present were City Manager Steve Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carol Dawes.

**Absent:** NONE

**Adjustments to the Agenda:** NONE

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

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

- Minutes of the following meetings:
  - Regular meeting of December 17, 2019
  - Special meeting of December 21, 2019
- City Warrants as presented:
  - Ratification of Week 2019-52:
    - Accounts Payable: \$184,409.32
    - Payroll (gross): \$142,036.05
  - Ratification of Week 2019-53:
    - Accounts Payable: \$202,892.17
    - Payroll (gross): \$129,637.07
  - 2020 Licenses:
    - Food Establishments:
      - Barre Elks Lodge 1535, 10 Jefferson Street
      - Espresso Bueno, 248 N. Main Street
      - Simply Subs, 70 N. Main Street
      - Cornerstone, 47 N. Main Street
      - Two Loco Guys, 136 N. Main Street
      - Jerry's Sports Tavern, 30 Summer Street
      - Morse Block Deli & Taps, 260 N. Main Street
    - Food Takeout:
      - Cumberland Farms, 132 S. Main Street & 524 N. Main Street
    - Entertainment:
      - Reynold's House, 102 S. Main Street
      - Barre Elks Lodge 1535, 10 Jefferson Street
      - Old Labor Hall, 46 Granite Street
      - Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main Street (single event – April 17, 2020)
    - Taxi Service Operators & Vehicles:
      - Don's Taxi, 1 vehicle
      - Payless Taxi, 1 vehicle
      - J&D Taxi Service, 2 vehicles
    - Taxicab Drivers:
      - Douglas Bergeron, J&D Taxi Service
      - Cassandra Bergeron, J&D Taxi Service
      - Dale Kew, Payless Taxi

To be approved at 01-07-20 Barre City Council Meeting

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

- Samn Stockwell was elected as Ward III Councilor at the December 19<sup>th</sup> caucus. She will serve until the Annual (Town) Meeting elections on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Information for potential Annual (Town) Meeting candidates is on the City website, including a list of positions up for election, petitions, consent of candidate forms, and a general information sheet. Deadline for nominating petitions is 5PM on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Deadline for nominating petitions for school board seats is February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Liquor Control** – NONE

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

- North Main Street/Route 62 traffic signal system is still malfunctioning. The signal is being worked on to identify and fix the glitch.
- Union contract negotiations with the Public Works, Steelworkers and Police unions are ongoing.
- The next FY21 budget draft will be distributed in advance of this Saturday's budget workshop.
- Sewer lining repair work is being done next week on a portion of River Street. There will be partial street closures and rerouting of traffic to accommodate the repairs.
- Next week Council will consider dedications and/or memorials for the annual report.

Council requested an update on repairs to the wastewater treatment facility to address the odor issues.

**Visitors and Communications** – Former Councilor John LePage said he liked the layout for tonight's meeting that has the Council and public seating on the same level. He congratulated Councilor Stockwell on being elected to fill the seat he recently held, and said he isn't done doing things for the City of Barre.

**Old Business** – NONE

**New Business** –

**A) Barre Area Development Funding Request for Barre Rock Solid Marketing.**

BADC executive director Joel Schwartz, board president Sarah Field and board members Robert Hutchins and Ed Rousse requested placement of a \$40,000 funding allocation on the March 2020 Annual Town Meeting ballot, in lieu of requiring a petition. Ms. Field said BADC has spent approximately \$125,000 to date developing the Barre Rock Solid marketing program, and is seeking funding support from Barre City and Barre Town, along with private support, to carry out the program. She said the requested amount would equate to a tax increase of approximately \$7 annually for a property assessed at \$100,000, and that the intention of the program is to grow the grand list and bring people to Barre to live, work and visit.

There was discussion on funding support from Barre Town; and the impact on the program should BADC not receive all the funding support they're seeking; sharing detailed information on the marketing program; positive reactions to the product; research necessary to develop the marketing plan; need to reverse demographic trends, increase minimum wage and availability of affordable housing rather than putting money into marketing; including the schools in any marketing plan; how the program will grow the grand list; assets that are underdeveloped; spending money to incentivize people to move to the City rather than on marketing; educating the public and garnering community support through petitioning; past examples of times when the Council placed items on the ballot without petitions.

Mayor Herring asked if any Councilor would like to make a motion to place the funding request on the ballot. Hearing no such motion, the discussion was closed.

Councilor Tuper-Giles arrived at this point in the meeting.

**B) Worker's Comp/Casualty Insurance Program Review.**

Human Resources director Rikk Taft reviewed the last few years' history of worker's compensation insurance rates and experience mods, and noted the City has seen a significant improvement in both. He reviewed steps that have been taken to make these improvements including creating of a safety committee, review of claims, grant funds used to offset purchases of safety equipment, revised job descriptions, and a revamped worker's comp reporting system.

Manager Mackenzie left the meeting at this point.

**C) Warning of Public Hearings for Possible Charter Changes on March 2020 Town Meeting Ballot.**

Clerk Dawes reviewed the process and timeline for putting proposed charter changes on the ballot, and recommended Council warn the first and second public hearings for January 28<sup>th</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup>, respectively. Council approved the warnings on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Tuper-Giles. **Motion carried.**

**Round Table –**

Councilors welcomed Councilor Stockwell to the Council, and hoped everyone had a pleasant holiday season. Councilor Stockwell said she's glad to be here.

Councilor Steinman reminded people to slow down when driving, especially in bad weather.

**Executive Session –**

Councilor Boutin made the motion to find that premature general public knowledge of personnel issues to be discussed would clearly place the City of Barre at a substantial disadvantage should the discussion be public. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tuper-Giles. **Motion carried.**

Council went into executive session at 8:32 PM to discuss personnel under the provisions of 1 VSA § 313 on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Morey. **Motion carried.**

Council came out of executive session at 8:50 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Steinman. **Motion carried.**

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Steinman. **Motion carried.**

An audio recording of the meeting is available in the Clerk's office.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk