

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held July 6, 2011**

The Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Thomas Lauzon. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilors Etlí and Poirier; from Ward II, Councilors Boutin and Smith (arrived 7:36 PM); and from Ward III, Councilors Chadderton (arrived 6:02 PM) and Herring. City Manager Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Dawes were also present.

Approval of the Minutes - The minutes of the Regular Council meeting of June 28, 2011 were approved as presented on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Etlí. **Motion carried.**

Approval of City Warrants – Council approved City Warrants as presented on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Etlí. **Motion carried.**

The City Clerk and Treasurer Report – Clerk Dawes made the following announcements:

- The BCA is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, July 12th at 5:00 PM to begin the process of reviewing and responding to the reapportionment proposals. Meetings will continue through the month, as the response is due to the Reapportionment Board by August 31, 2011.
- A draft tax rate calculation sheet was distributed to the Council. The Clerk asked Councilors to review the numbers and the math, and said a final draft version will be available after the grand list is lodged this weekend. The Clerk requested a special Council meeting to set the tax rate. Mayor Lauzon called a special Council meeting for Monday, July 11, 2011 at 7:30 AM.
- The Clerk reviewed a memo outlining the results of the Current Expense Note RFP, and noted that her intention is to enter into an agreement with the low bidder, Merchant's Bank. The Clerk said the documents will come to Council for approval at next week's meeting.

Council approved a 2011 Single Event Entertainment License application from Hedding Methodist Church for a worship service and community lunch in Currier Park on Sunday, July 24, 2011 from 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried with Councilor Poirier voting against and Councilor Etlí abstaining.**

Mayor Lauzon said he would like to move towards having such licenses that are issued through the Clerk's office, along with building permits, approved administratively instead of coming to Council. Clerk Dawes said she will pull together the necessary ordinance changes for Council consideration.

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
BLS Investments LLC	0 Elmwood Avenue

Liquor Control Board – NONE

Visitors and Communications – NONE

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

A) We Dig Barre "Treasure Dig" Drawing – Week #1.

Barre Partnership executive director Dan Jones, accompanied by Digger, the We Dig Barre mascot, drew the first winner's name for the Treasure Dig. Mr. Jones said 137 people participated in the first week, and more than that have already participated in the second week. The first week's winner is Michael Smole.

B) Change of Street Name to Elmwood Avenue Extension.

Planning Director Michael Miller outlined the reasons why it is necessary to change the name of the privately owned portion of Elmwood Avenue. Council approved the name change to Elmwood Avenue Extension on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

C) Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Refurbishment – Final Proposal Selection/Authorization.

Sue Higby, executive director of Studio Place Arts, said she has been researching the artist who designed the Youth Triumphant memorial. Ms. Higby said she hopes the Council will use the materials to determine the vision of the artist as the City moves forward with the restoration of the memorial. She said she will have information to share with the Council in a week or so. Manager Mackenzie said waiting will not hold up the work, which is not scheduled to begin until after the Heritage Festival. Mayor Lauzon said he is making progress with AOT and the North Main Street Reconstruction Project contractor to get the abutting sidewalk work done at the same time.

Manager Mackenzie introduced representatives from the NMSRP contractors, Luck Bros:

- Jeff Luck, treasurer and project manager
- Chris Kepne, project supervisor
- Dwayne Tucker, public relations

The Manager said the pre-construction meeting was held last Friday, and the Luck Bros. is prepared to be aggressive with the schedule. They have started digging at the Route 62 intersection, where work has started on the stormwater retention pond. Mr. Luck reviewed the company's history, and said the hope is to complete the work from Route 62 to Seminary Street this season. They are planning on night-time construction. Mayor Lauzon said there will be a ground breaking ceremony held in conjunction with the Heritage Festival.

D) Semprebon Committee Recommendations for Action.

a) Opera House Teen Scene Workshop.

Manager Mackenzie said the Barre Opera House has withdrawn its request for funds.

b) Barre Ethnic Heritage Association.

Sue Mahoney spoke on behalf of the Barre Ethnic Heritage Association's \$4,700 funding request. Ms. Mahoney said the funds will be used to help promote the ethnic food tent at the Heritage Festival, and allow for reprinting the popular ethnic cookbook. Funds raised by the BEHA are used for Spaulding High School scholarships. Council approved the request on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Resident Sylvia Smedy said she feels there is a desire to spend the Semprebon money too quickly. Ms. Smedy said the City should be careful to spend the money wisely.

Semprebon Committee chair Kristen Sohlstrom reviewed the list of recommendations, and said a large number of the proposals received were for playgrounds and granite related projects.

Mark Hudson, executive director of the Vermont Historical Society, said VHS submitted a proposal for a contribution to the Saving Vermont Treasures Campaign, which includes the creation of a Barre Heritage Gallery at the History Center. Mr. Hudson said he was disappointed the Committee did not chose to recommend funding for the VHS proposal, but is pleased the recommendations support projects related to historic buildings and City heritage. He said he hopes VHS will be considered for funding in the future. Mayor Lauzon asked what the amount of the funding request was, and Mr. Hudson said \$50,000.

Ellen Sivret spoke in support of the proposal for repairs at the Mathewson School playground. Ms. Sivret said there is work needed on the fence, trees and granite retaining wall. Council approved the Mathewson School Playground proposal on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Poirier. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon said the next public discussion on the Semprebou Committee proposals will be at next week's Council meeting, Tuesday, July 12, 2011. There was general discussion about other playground proposals, including Playground 2000. Mayor Lauzon asked that Facilities Director Jeff Bergeron attend next week's meeting to participate in the discussion. Councilor Herring requested information about costs and availability of playground equipment be provided for next week's meeting.

E) Approval of \$750,000 Tax Anticipation Note.

Council approved the Merchant's Bank TAN documents and resolution #2011-10 on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

F) Constable's Compensation.

Clerk Dawes said she is working with the First Constable to bring delinquent dog licenses into compliance, and that, by statute, Council sets compensation levels for the Constable's work. The Clerk distributed a chart compiled by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, showing Constable compensation levels from various municipalities. Mayor Lauzon requested that the Clerk, Constable, Manager and Chief meet to discuss the process and recommended compensation, and then bring it back to Council for consideration.

G) Orange Dam Spillway Repair – Unsafe Dam Petition.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed various options for proceeding with necessary rebuilding at the dam, and said he would like to defer action for a couple weeks to allow time to explore funding options.

City Manager's Report –

- Manager Mackenzie attended the following meetings:
 - Pre-construction meeting for Big Dig.
 - Flood debriefing with department heads.
 - Pre-design meeting for Orange Dam spillway.
 - Meeting with Hickock & Boardman, health care broker.
 - ADA training for staff.
 - Police negotiations.
 - Met with USDA Rural Development re. possible grant funds for spillway work.
 - Closed the sale of the Martin Brook property in Williamstown.
- The Manager said he will present a snapshot of the year end FY11 financials at next week's Council meeting.
- The Manager reported on last week's request to explore whether nighttime work on the South Main Street paving project is feasible. The Manager said the addition cost is \$15,000. The Mayor said it wasn't worth the additional cost.

Councilor Eтли said the dog bag dispensers are still empty. Manager Mackenzie said he will get it taken care of.

Roundtable –

Councilor Poirier said he is working on the public inebriate legislation that goes into effect next year, which calls for the creation of a regional facility located in Barre City to house those who traditionally are housed at the Barre City lock-up. He said he is concerned this is one more example of the State overburdening the City.

To be approved at 07-12-11 Barre City Council Meeting

Councilor Poirier said the Re-entry Task Force continues to meet on Mondays, and will soon be bringing recommendations to Council for consideration.

Councilor Smith said the Good Samaritan Haven is holding a walk-a-thon fund raiser this Saturday up at the Barre Town recreation fields.

Councilor Etli said the first IT Committee meeting is tomorrow afternoon at 5:30 PM.

Councilor Chadderton thanked the National Guard for the 40th Army Band concert last night, and for their service to the community.

Mayor Lauzon thanked Councilor Boutin for making the arrangements to have the 40th Army Band concert to honor first responders from the May 26th flooding.

The Mayor said a local business has more than \$200,000 in tax credits that are set to expire at the end of this year, and he is working to keep them in Barre; possibly for a façade improvement fund or to assist new businesses in the area that will be affected by the North Main Street Reconstruction Project.

Council adjourned at 8:58 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

There is no audio transcript of this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk