

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held October 11, 2011**

The Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Thomas Lauzon. In attendance were: 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 Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:** Council approved the following consent agenda items as presented on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the Regular Council meeting of October 4, 2011.
- City Warrants.
- Building Permits:
  - Leonora Conti, 214 Camp St.
- Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office: NONE

Barre Partnership executive director Dan Jones and We Dig Barre mascot, Digger, appeared before the Council for the drawing of the latest winner for the Barre Treasurer Dig.

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

- The Board of Civil Authority will begin to hear reports from inspection teams on October 12<sup>th</sup>, as it continues the property tax assessment appeal hearings through October.
- There are four properties scheduled for tax sale on October 20, 2011.

The Clerk presented a 2011 Vendor License application for Sani Sport Service, which is interested in purchasing four 24-hour parking spaces in the Rinker Lot next to the Presbyterian Church, where they can park their service trailer. Mayor Lauzon asked that the license application be placed on the agenda for next week's meeting so that the applicant can meet with the Council. The Mayor asked that the four parking spaces in question be held until a decision is made.

**Liquor Control Board** – NONE

**Visitors and Communications** –

Facilities Director Jeff Bergeron updated the Council on the civic center lighting project that is being funded through the Semprebon Fund. Mr. Bergeron said the initial estimates did not include the correct lighting fixtures or labor, and the cost estimate for the project has increased from \$18,000 for both buildings to \$46,500 for the BOR only. He requested that Council approve additional Semprebon Funds to finance the installation of the lights in the BOR. The new energy efficient fixtures are expected to save approximately 50% on the current cost of electricity to run the lights. Mayor Lauzon said he would like to have that savings put back into the Semprebon Fund to cover the additional disbursement.

Council approved the additional appropriation, with the additional funds being paid back to the Semprebon Fund through the energy savings, on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Barre Housing Authority executive director Chip Castle thanked the Council for its support of the BHA's recently approved community development block grant, which will allow for the installation of roll-in showers at some of the BHA apartments, along with a lift at Green Acres.

Mayor Lauzon said he met this evening with representatives from Aberdeen, Scotland, who are visiting the area. The Mayor displayed a plaque presented to the City from the City of Aberdeen.

To be approved at 10-18-11 Barre City Council Meeting

### **City Manager's Report –**

The Manager's report included the following:

- Attended the VLCT Town Fair last week.
- Attended the scientific review panel hearing of the FEMA proposed flood maps.
- Met with representatives of funeral homes and churches that will be impacted by the North Main Street Reconstruction Project next summer, when parking is limited on Summer Street.
- The City will hold its second leaf and lawn debris drop-off at the Civic Center on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM.
- The street paving program is finished for this construction season. Additional streets will be paved in the spring.
- Work on the Youth Triumphant memorial will be buttoned up for the season, and will be completed in the spring. Mayor Lauzon asked for a construction schedule for the completion of the project.
- The RFP deadline for temporary repairs to the reservoir spillway has been extended another week. Proposals are due Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Lauzon asked for an update on the substandard pavement issue from a few years ago. Manager Mackenzie said the City is in the process of reviewing the latest counter-proposal.

### **Old Business – NONE**

### **New Business**

#### **A) Presentation of the Semprebon Fund Disbursement to Aldrich Library Youth Fund.**

Mayor Lauzon presented a check for \$19,100 to Nancy Pope, chair of the Library board of trustees. Ms. Pope said the funds will be used for a pilot program to staff the young adult room and offer some after school programs.

#### **B) Bike Path Updates.**

##### **1. Update re: Museum Segment Bike Path Design.**

##### **2. Authorization for Joint RFP and Design for City/Town Connector.**

Bike Path Committee chair Pat McDonald updated the Council on the different segments of the path. The Granite Museum segment will have preliminary design and cost work done before the end of October, after which there will be a public hearing. The next phase will be right-of-way acquisition, followed by permitting. This segment is expected to be ready for construction by summer, 2012, depending on funding. Ms. McDonald said the Committee is meeting with a fundraising consultant to discuss options. She is working closely with the Granite Museum on interpretive signage for the path, and has been in contact with the Barre Technical Center about construction of kiosks. The latest edition of the newsletter is out and will be posted on the City website.

The Barre City and Barre Town bike path committees are crafting an RFP to get to a point for surveying and preliminary designs for the connector portion of the path. Ms. McDonald requested Council approval to move forward with the RFP. Council approved on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith.

**Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon suggested there be a joint Barre City Council/Barre Town Selectboard meeting at which the committees can make a presentation of the proposals submitted in response to the RFP. Ms. McDonald said such a joint meeting could be held in mid-December.

#### **C) Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War – Youth Triumphant Memorial Request.**

Mayor Lauzon said this agenda item has been postponed to a future Council meeting.

#### **D) Errors & Omissions #1.**

City assessor Joseph LeVesque presented seven properties for assessment change through errors and omissions. Council approved the recommended changes on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring.

**Motion carried.**

**E) BADC Monthly Update.**

BADC executive director Darren Winham updated the Council on recent and current activities, including:

- Working with the state to help find temporary office space for displaced workers.
- Attended event with Governor Shumlin at which the Governor announced this year's tax credits.
- The RFP for the expansion of the downtown historic district should be out this week.
- Radio spots featuring Mayor Lauzon and Town Selectboard Chair Jeff Blow will start running soon.
- Meeting with the Granite Museum to develop synergies.
- Meeting with ReSource to assist with its capital campaign.

**F) Discussion of 219 N. Main Street Redevelopment RFP.**

Mayor Lauzon recused himself, due to conflict of interest. Acting Mayor Smith assumed the chair.

Mr. Winham reviewed the draft RFP and said submitted proposals will be reviewed by him, along with City Planner Michael Miller and Manager Mackenzie. There was discussion about the scoring system, and the viability of this project when there are other vacancies in the downtown area.

Mr. Lauzon reviewed his ideas for the space and said he doesn't see why the City can't be a significant player in the redevelopment of the site. Mr. Winham said the Council needs to consider if it wants to maintain control of the property. Mr. Miller reviewed the Neighborhood Stabilization Grant Program, through which the City acquired the site, and the criteria for redevelopment.

**Councilor Boutin made the motion to approve putting out the RFP with a minimum 60 day deadline, with Mr. Winham, Mr. Miller and Manager Mackenzie to determine the proper deadline. The motion was seconded by Councilor Herring.**

Council agreed that the RFP should include a request for developer experience and financing. Council discussed how to proceed with the discussion as to whether the City should maintain control of the space.

Resident Joe Crosier said the community needs a grocery store or a different idea for a grocery store. He suggested building an arcade space and filling it with small groceries, and perhaps putting an antique arcade on the second floor.

**Council approved the motion as presented.**

**Roundtable – NONE**

Council adjourned at 9:18 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. Acting Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting.

An audio transcript of this meeting is available through the Clerk's Office. Audio transcripts are kept on file for two years, as per state statute.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk