

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held November 1, 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 I, Councilor Paul Poirier; 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 Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the Regular Council meeting of October 18, 2011.
- City Warrants.
- Building Permits:
 - Ray & Joyce Marshall, 21 Jorgensen Lane.
- Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - 2011 single event Entertainment License for Vermont Democratic Party event at Old Labor Hall on Saturday, November 5th from 4:00 – 9:00 PM.
 - 2011 single event Entertainment License for Barre Historical Society event at Old Labor Hall on Saturday, November 12th from 5:00 – 7:00 PM.
 - 2011 Food Vending License, Sambel's Catering & Concessions food truck, to be located at 167 S. Main Street.

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

- The Board of Civil Authority will hear the final report from inspection teams on November 2nd, as it finishes the property tax assessment appeal hearings for 2011.
- The 2nd quarter property taxes are due by November 15th.

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. Mr. Jones said there are approximately 300 children at last weekend's Scary Barre events at the auditorium.

Liquor Control Board –

Council approved the following Request to Cater permits on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried, with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

- November 5, 2011: McGillicuddy's catering an event for the Vermont Democratic Party to be held at the Old Labor Hall on Saturday, November 5th from 4:00 – 10:00 PM.
- November 12, 2011: The Hilltop Restaurant catering an event for the Barre Historical Society to be held at the Old Labor Hall on Saturday, November 12th from 4:00 – 9:00 PM.

Visitors and Communications – NONE

City Manager's Report –

The Manager's report included a list of meetings attended in the past week, and upcoming meetings.

Mayor Lauzon asked about re-paving on Beckley Street, where flood repairs have been done. Manager Mackenzie said he will look into it. The Mayor asked about the granite grout that is being trucked into the City and loaded on to rail cars behind Granite Hills Credit Union. He said the work is noisy and shaking books off of shelves. Barre Area Development Corporation executive director Darren Winham said he will speak with the railroad and see if there is an alternative site for the loading work. Mayor Lauzon said he noticed that the railroad's oil terminal on Williams Lane has been significantly

rehabilitated; however, he doesn't recall any permits coming before the Council. Manager Mackenzie said he will look into it.

Old Business – NONE

New Business

A) Big Dig Construction Status and 2011 Completion Plan Update.

Jeff Luck and Chris Kepne from Luck Brothers, and Rick Hale from VTRANS updated the Council on the North Main Street Reconstruction Project progress. Mayor Lauzon asked if they are on schedule. Mr. Luck said they are a bit ahead of schedule and have started on Phase 2. The contract allows for work to continue until December 1st, however, the plan is to finish up by November 18th.

B) Re-Entry Task Force Report and Recommendations.

Chief Bombardier presented a job description for the proposed Community Outreach Interventionist, and said Susan Bartlett, special advisor to the Governor, has confirmed that the City will be receiving a \$100,000 grant to cover the costs associated with the position for 12 months. Councilor Poirier said the grant is a good opportunity for the City, and recommended accepting the grant and moving forward.

Councilor Chadderton asked what happens if the grant funds aren't available in the future. Chief Bombardier said the program will continue to receive funding if it is successful. The Chief said it is not meant to be a financial burden on the City, nor to draw additional DOC people to the City. Councilor Herring asked when the position is expected to be filled. The Chief said as soon as possible.

Council approved acceptance of the grant on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

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

C) Barre Place Update.

BADC executive director Darren Winham said he and other representatives from the City met with Mike Obuchowski, commissioner of Buildings and General Services, to discuss the state's needs for office space for workers displaced by Tropical Storm Irene, and the potential for development of such space on the previous Brooks Drugs/Coins & Hobbies lot, currently referred to as City Place. Mr. Winham read a draft letter from the Council to Governor Shumlin, expressing the City's interest in working with the state on the issue. Councilor Poirier said he would like the letter to reflect that the City is not looking to gain at another community's expense. Mayor Lauzon said he will revise the letter, and asked Councilors to stop by the office to sign it so it could go in the mail this week.

Council voted its support of the letter to Governor Shumlin on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Lauzon reviewed a purchase & sales agreement for three properties located at 9 Merchant Street, 20 Summer Street and 8 Summer Street. He said the properties are potentially related to the development of the City Place lot, and that the City has the opportunity to place a \$10,000 deposit on the properties to hold them. The City would have until June 30, 2012 to release the purchase & sales agreement and have the deposit refunded. The purchase price on the three lots combined is \$1,325,000. He said placing a deposit in the properties provides the City with time to discuss how the site should be developed, without the threat of the property being purchased by another party. He said he is not chairing this part of the discussion because a business partner of his owns the real estate firm that has the property listings.

Councilor Boutin asked where the deposit money would come from. Manager Mackenzie said he could find \$10,000 in the budget. Darren Winham said he would talk to the BADC board about the deposit funds. Councilor Poirier said he wanted it on the record that this project is in the best interest of the City, and he can't imagine the community not rallying around the project.

Council approved entering into the purchase & sales agreement for the three properties, subject to review and approval by City attorney Oliver Twombly, on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Poirier. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Lauzon said he will host weekly meetings on Wednesday mornings to move the project forward.

Mayor Lauzon resumed chairing the meeting.

Councilor Boutin made the motion, seconded by Councilor Poirier, to rescind the following Council action from the October 11, 2011 meeting:

- "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."

Mayor Lauzon said the concern with the previous motion is the amount of time, and that the City will need to act more quickly to have proposals in hand by December 31st.

Motion carried.

Councilor Boutin made the motion to accept the RFP as presented by Darren Winham at the October 11, 2011 meeting with no stated dates or deadlines, which will provide the Manager Mackenzie, Mr. Winham and City Planner Michael Miller with flexibility to allow adequate time for the development of proposals. The motion was seconded by Councilor Herring. Councilor Herring called for a point of order, but the Mayor called the question. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon said the RFP will come back to Council for review next week.

D) Resolution #2011-15 Water & Sewer Bond Refunding Resolution and Certification.

Council approved resolution #2011-15 on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Council authorized the Mayor and Treasurer to sign the bond re-funding loan agreement documents on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

E) DPW Equipment Purchase Authorization.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the list of bids received for various pieces of equipment and supplies.

Council approved the purchase of a bobcat loader from Bobcat of Champlain Valley, as recommended by staff, on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon requested additional information and staff recommendations be provided related to the bids received for the purchase of two pickup trucks. The Mayor said this item will be taken up again for consideration at next week's meeting.

Council approved the purchase of bulk supply chain from Reed Supply, as recommended by staff, on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon recused himself from the following discussion due to conflict of interest. Acting Mayor Smith assumed the chair.

F) Award of Bid for Printing of 2011 Annual Report.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the bids received for the publication of the annual report. Council awarded the bid to L. Brown & Sons, as recommended by staff, on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon resumed the chair.

G) FY 2012 1st Quarter Financial Report.

Manager Mackenzie distributed copies of the financial report and offered a brief review. Mayor Lauzon said this item will be on next week's agenda to give Council additional time for review and questions.

Other)

Mayor Lauzon asked Councilors to complete the long form for the City Manager's evaluation, and called a Special Council Meeting for next Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at 5:30 PM, at which time they will go into executive session to discuss the forms.

Mayor Lauzon asked if the audit report will be completed by early December. Manager Mackenzie said it is on target to be completed by December 7th. The Mayor asked the Manager to deliver a message to the schools strongly encouraging them to make sure their audit is included in the annual report publication in time for the 2012 Annual (Town) Meeting. Councilor Herring, who serves on the school board, said he will bring it up for discussion at the next school board meeting.

Roundtable –

Councilor Poirier said he has a personnel issue he would like to discuss in executive session. Manager Mackenzie said he has contract and legal issues that also need discussion in executive session.

Council went into executive session at 8:48 PM to discuss contract, legal and personnel issues on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council came out of executive session at 9:33 PM on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council approved a grievance settlement with Officer Stupik as recommended by Manager Mackenzie on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin voting against.**

Council adjourned at 9:35 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

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