

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held January 24, 2012**

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 Dominic Etli; from Ward II, Councilor Michael Boutin; and from Ward III, Councilor Anita Chadderton. Also in attendance were 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 Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular Council meeting of January 17, 2012
 - Special Council meeting of January 21, 2012
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:

Applicant	License	Address
Michael Boutin	Animal – ferret	5 Hillside Ave.
American Legion Post #10	Food Establishment	320 N. Main St.
Espresso Bueno	Food Establishment	136 N. Main St.
Granite Village Restaurant & Pub	Food Establishment	435 N. Main St.
Mulligan's Irish Pub	Food Establishment	6 Maple Ave.
Jerry's Sports Tavern	Food Establishment	30 Summer St.
Central Market	Food Take Out	50 Summer St.
Granite Village Restaurant & Pub	1 Video Machine	435 N. Main St.
Mulligan's Irish Pub	1 Video Machine	6 Maple Ave.
American Legion Post #10	1 Pool Table	320 N. Main St.
Jerry's Sports Tavern	1 Pool Table	30 Summer St.
Sambel's Catering & Concessions	Food Vending – 2 vehicles	vending from 167 S. Main Street with property owner's permission. Property scheduled for foreclosure sale 2/3/12. New owner's permission will be required after sale.

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

- Third quarter property taxes are due by February 15th.
- The Clerk said information about the March 2012 Annual (Town) Meeting has been posted on the Clerk's page on the City website. The deadline for ballot item petitions is January 26th, and for nominating petitions is January 30th.
- 2012 dog licenses are now available. Dogs must be licensed by April 1st.
- There is a BCA meeting on Thursday, February 2nd at 6:00 PM at Community National Bank.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control Board –

Mayor Lauzon asked that any notices of liquor violation citations be forwarded to the Council.

Visitors and Communications – NONE

City Manager's Report –

- Manager Mackenzie reported on meetings attended over the past week, on topics including Hilltop Avenue buy-outs, City Place, district heat, right-of-way along the bike path, and the Phase I environmental investigation in the Enterprise Aly area.

- The Manager said the Polar Bears – the winter equivalent of the Police Department summer Bees – are expected to start patrolling downtown on February 20th. The Bears are Norwich University criminal justice students who will be receiving credit for their service.

New Business –

A) Highgate Housing Non-Profit – Approval to Restructure Primary VHFA Debt.

Mayor Lauzon said Highgate Housing is requesting that the City approve the restructuring of the primary debt so as to allow for improvements to the property. The Mayor said Highgate has an outstanding property assessment appeal from 2010, and he worked with Highgate and the city assessor to finalize a settlement. He said that with the settlement in place, he recommends Council approve the restructuring and authorize Manager Mackenzie to sign on behalf of the City upon review of the final documents.

Council approved the Mayor's recommendation on motion of Councilor Etli, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

E) Approval of Municipal Electronic Funds Transfer Agreement.

Clerk Dawes said Council needs to approve the agreement as part of the move of banking services to Merchant's Bank. Council approved the agreement on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Etli. **Motion carried.**

F) Authorization to Conduct Tax Sales.

Mayor Lauzon said Council needs to annually approve the authorization to conduct tax sales. Council approved the authorization on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

B) Bike Path Committee Update on Museum Segment.

Bike Path Committee chair Pat McDonald introduced the committee members who were in attendance; Charlie Dindo and Susan McDowell. Ms. McDonald said other active members of the committee include Tom Semprebon and Scott Bascom. Ms. McDonald introduced Dubois & King (D&K) consultant Evan Dietrich, who updated the Council on the museum segment. Mr. Dietrich said they have been meeting with property owners and others along the proposed route to discuss right-of-way issues. D&K is preparing permit applications including stream alteration, Act 250 and storm water. They are working on updating the right-of-way records and will secure easements. Once the rights-of-way are secured, the final plans will be drafted, and the next phase will be financing.

Ms. McDonald said there will be a meeting on February 2nd at 5:30 PM at Alumni Hall to present the plans to the public. She said the museum segment has been divided into three sections with a total estimated cost of \$2.5 million. She said the committee expects to have a balance of \$200,000 - \$250,000 in the Semprebon Bike Path Fund at the completion of the design work, and the funds can be applied towards the cost of construction.\

Ms. McDonald said the committee is working jointly with the Barre Town bike path committee to select a consultant to work on preliminary plans for the connector segment of the path. The consultant will be selected by mid-February, and there will be public meetings to gather input on that section of the path.

C) Semprebon Committee Status – 2013 Reactivation Discussion.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the history of the committee's work to date. The Manager said he has received 5-6 new proposals for consideration. Mayor Lauzon asked that the proposals be forwarded to the Council for review, and passed along to the committee for consideration. The Mayor asked that the committee develop and recommend a consistent review and funding cycle, and be involved in the implementation of the projects funded through the Semprebon Fund. Manager Mackenzie said he will

talk about the issues raised with the committee at its meeting tomorrow.

G) FEMA Reimbursement Update.

Mayor Lauzon said this item will be taken up at a future meeting.

H) Resolution #2012-01 Related to City Place.

Mayor Lauzon apologized for not having the resolution ready and said it is to show the Council's support of City Place. The Mayor said the resolution is needed by this Friday, January 27th, and he asked Council to approve the resolution in advance, and authorize him to write it. Council approved his request on motion of Councilor Etli, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Old Business –

A) FY 2013 Budget Preparation – Progress Discussion.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed his budget reduction summary, and said the departments are identifying areas to trim the proposed budget. The Manager said he expects to have Draft #4 distributed to Council by Friday. Mayor Lauzon said there will be a special Council meeting budget work session on Saturday, January 28th beginning at 8:00 AM.

Mayor Lauzon said a large portion of the proposed increase in the general fund budget is attributable to the loss of the Barre Town dispatch contract. The Mayor said he has asked to address the Barre Town Selectboard to discuss getting the contract back for FY13.

Council reviewed a draft version of the Annual (Town) Meeting warning and discussed some of the ballot items. The Clerk said the last day to approve the warning is Saturday, February 4th.

New Business - additional

D) Review of Proposed Charter Revisions.

Clerk Dawes reviewed the current draft of the proposed charter revisions. Mayor Lauzon asked for additional language in the Housing Board of Review section that will allow the Council to grant more authority to the HBR. The Mayor asked for the review committee to look over the section related to fund balances, and perhaps include additional language setting a fund balance limit at 5% of the general fund budget. The Clerk said the first public hearing on the proposed charter changes will be Tuesday, January 31st during the Council meeting. She said the Council needs to finalize the language by the time the Annual (Town) Meeting warning is approved; February 4th at the latest.

Other)

Mayor Lauzon distributed information about Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts and said enabling language is included in the proposed charter revisions. The Mayor said additional TIF related language will be included on the Annual (Town) Meeting ballot and there will be meetings to inform the public on the benefits of forming a TIF in the City.

Roundtable –

Councilor Chadderton asked the Clerk who has submitted petitions for the City school board seats. Clerk Dawes said the only petition received to date is from Councilor Chadderton. Mayor Lauzon reviewed the school board seats that will be on the March ballot.

Councilor Boutin said the Barre City Republican Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, February 1st at 6:30 PM at Community National Bank, and the guest speaker will be Lt. Governor Phil Scott.

Mayor Lauzon thanked those who came out in support of last week's public presentation on City Place.

To be approved at 01-31-12 Barre City Council Meeting

Council adjourned at 8:35 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton.
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

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