

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held February 7, 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, Councilors Dominic Etli and Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilor Lucas Herring. 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 Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular Council meeting of January 31, 2012
 - Special Council meeting of February 4, 2012
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office: NONE

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

- Third quarter property taxes are due by February 15th.
- 2012 dog licenses are now available. Dogs must be licensed by April 1st.
- The office is accepting requests for early/absentee ballots for the March 6th Annual (Town) Meeting.
- The Board of Civil Authority is scheduled to meet on Thursday, February 16th at 5:00 PM to discuss reapportionment and review the census maps.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control Board – NONE

Visitors and Communications –

Resident Joseph Crosier thanked the Council for putting up three “no littering” signs on Brooklyn Street.

Thrift - Pawn & Beyond Shop owner Craig Corliss said he had some questions about the proposed charter change language related to pawn shops. Mayor Lauzon said questions would be taken up during the public hearing later in the meeting.

City Manager's Report –

- Manager Mackenzie reported on meetings attended over the past week, including: City Place, Hope Cemetery upgrades, flood reimbursement worksheets, discussion of public and private energy efficiency opportunities with BEAR (local citizens' energy efficiency group) and Efficiency Vermont.
- Working on finalization of the applications for the Hilltop properties mitigation buy-out.
- Working on FEMA pre-approval of the spillway repairs.
- Handed out schedule for budget presentations leading up to the Annual (Town) Meeting elections.
- Reminded everyone of the Greater Barre Community Justice Center informational event this Thursday evening.

Councilor Smith asked that packet materials be sent out earlier. Mayor Lauzon said they will get sent out on Fridays again, as they were in the past.

Councilor Boutin asked about the meeting with BEAR and Efficiency Vermont and the possibility of street lights being turned off. He said he wants to make sure the surrounding residents are given an opportunity to weigh in on possible changes. Manager Mackenzie said the first step is a survey of street lights in the City, and then Efficiency Vermont will make recommendations for changes. The public will be involved in the process.

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

A) Second Public Hearing: Proposed Charter Changes, Warned for 7:15 p.m.

Mayor Lauzon opened the public hearing at 7:23 PM. Craig Corliss of Thrift - Pawn & Beyond asked about the language granting power to the Council to adopt ordinances related to pawn shops. Mr. Corliss said he is concerned about the language related to prohibition of pawn shops. Clerk Dawes said the enabling language in that section is the same for all the Council ordinance powers. Mayor Lauzon said the language does not mean Council would prohibit pawn shops. Mr. Corliss said he supports regulation and licensing of pawn shops.

Resident Steve Restelli asked if the language in the section that grants authority to the Council to draft ordinances regulating transportation could affect his work as a trucker. Mayor Lauzon said yes, but only if Council adopted ordinances that regulated trucking.

Mayor Lauzon asked for additional questions or comments on the proposed charter changes. Hearing none, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:37 PM.

B) Police Cruiser Purchase.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the memo and materials on the cruiser purchase and recommended Council award the bid to Cody Chevrolet. The Manager said Cody's bid is \$363.00 more than the state procurement list price from Shearer Chevrolet in Burlington.

Councilor Smith made the motion to approve the Manager's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Herring.

There was discussion about selecting local vendors when their bids are not the low bid; the current City procurement policy; the state procurement list; actual costs of picking up a vehicle at Shearer Chevrolet; and the fuel efficiency impact of purchasing a Chevy Tahoe.

Manager Mackenzie will review the Council's questions and report back at a future Council meeting.

Councilors Smith and Herring withdrew their motion and second, respectively.

Other)

Mayor Lauzon distributed a draft resolution related to the proposed Tax increment Financing (TIF) District, and said it will be on the March 5, 2012 Council meeting agenda for a public hearing and approval of the resolution. The Mayor said he will be offering public presentations on the TIF district over the next few weeks in advance of the public hearing.

Other)

Manager Mackenzie showed a video of the damaged spillway at the Orange reservoir taken by helicopter the day after the May flooding.

To be approved at 02-14-12 Barre City Council Meeting

Roundtable –

Councilor Boutin reminded people of the informational event at the Community Justice Center tomorrow evening.

Council adjourned at 8:10 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **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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