

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held March 13, 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 Etli and Poirier; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring. Also in attendance were Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Mayor Lauzon adjusted the order of the agenda, and took New Business item C first.

**New Business –**

**C) City Place Project – Development Selection – Tech Committee Recommendation.**

Mayor Lauzon said there were representatives present from Granite City Developers and DEW Developers. The Mayor thanked all those who submitted proposals for the City Place project. Manager Mackenzie read the recommendation letter from the City Place Technical Committee, which ranked the proposals received in the following order:

1. DEW
2. Granite City
3. Retrovest.

The Committee recommended entering into an agreement with DEW for the development of City Place.

Mayor Lauzon said the vote of the Committee was 2-1 in favor of the recommendation with one vote in favor of recommending Granite City as the number one ranked developer, and had he been a voting member of the Committee, it would have been a tie vote. The Mayor said both the DEW and Granite City proposals were good and there is no bad decision to be made.

Councilor Boutin made the motion to be consistent with the Technical Committee and to accept their ranking and recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith.

Councilor Poirier said he will be voting against the motion and that his decision is based on his commitment to the project and what it means to the community. He said he is not being disrespectful of the process.

There was discussion about the capital costs included in the proposals, interviews with the developers, and last night's executive session discussion about the proposals.

Don Wells of DEW said the company will do what is necessary to make this project successful.

Mayor Lauzon polled the Council for their votes. Councilors Boutin, Smith, Herring, Etli and Chadderton voted in favor. Councilor Poirier voted against. Mayor Lauzon did not record a vote.

**Motion carried.**

**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 March 5, 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:

- Results from the March 6<sup>th</sup> Annual (Town) Meeting and Presidential Primary elections are posted on the City website.
- 2012 dog licenses are now available. Dogs must be licensed by April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Water/sewer bills have been mailed and payments are due by April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Clerk Dawes said she had received a request to cater permit application for an event at the Labor Hall this coming Saturday, and had contacted the event coordinators to inform them they need an entertainment license. The coordinators requested a copy of the entertainment license application be emailed to them, which the Clerk did. The Clerk said she spoke with Chief Bombardier about the request to cater permit, and the Chief approved the event contingent upon there being a police officer on site. The Clerk said after her discussion with the Chief, the event coordinators told her they were withdrawing the request-to-cater permit application and the event would be alcohol free. The Clerk told the coordinators about the Chief's conditions related to police coverage, and said it is up to the Chief as to whether coverage will still be required. The Clerk said she is expecting a single-event entertainment license application to arrive this evening for an event this weekend at the Labor Hall, however, the application had not yet arrived. The Clerk said she would check her email during the meeting and bring the application forward for Council consideration if it arrives.

**Approval of Building Permits – NONE**

**Liquor Control Board** – Council approved a request to cater permit from the Hilltop Restaurant for an event at the Aldrich Library on March 31, 2012 on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Etli. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

**Visitors and Communications – NONE**

**Old Business – NONE**

**New Business –**

**A) Request to Use City Hall Park for 2012 Farmer's Market.**

Scott Ackerman, president of the Barre City Farmer's Market, requested use of City Hall Park for this year's market. There was discussion about the impacts from the Big Dig.

Council approved allowing the use of City Hall Park for the Farmer's Market and waiver of the vendors' license fees on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Etli. **Motion carried.**

**B) Big Dig Project: Luck Brothers – 2012 Construction Overview and Start-up.**

Chris Kempney from Luck Bros. updated the Council on the Big Dig construction schedule for this summer. There was discussion about when the detour will go into effect, work shift schedules, contact people during construction, installing sprinkler access to all buildings along the construction route, managing vibration issues, and pedestrian ways.

Mayor Lauzon said a local granite company has offered to purchase 50,000 cobblestones at \$1 each. The Mayor recommended a bid be put out to open the offer up to other local granite companies. Manager Mackenzie said there are others waiting for cobblestones and the contractor has first dibs for stones that are being used in the reconstruction. There was discussion about making stones available free of charge to residents, provided the stones will be used and not re-sold. Council concurred on putting out a RFP for bids to purchase up to 50,000 cobblestones, and asking residents who take stones to sign a statement saying they will not sell the stones.

Manager Mackenzie said there was a request at last week's merchant's meeting to consider making Keith

Avenue one way towards North Main Street during the construction. After consideration and discussion with the Engineering Department, the Manager said the better option would be to make Pearl Street one way towards North Main Street.

Council approved making Pearl Street one way towards North Main Street during this summer's construction on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried with Councilors Etli and Herring voting against. Councilors Etli and Herring said their no votes were based on the fact that this item had not been warned for action. Councilor Etli asked for clarification on the motion; if it was to give the Manager discretion to make the decision as he sees fit. Councilor Boutin said yes, that was the intention of his motion. Councilor Etli changed his no vote to a yes vote.**

Mayor Lauzon asked if there will be detour maps available for the Big Dig. Manager Mackenzie said last year's map will be updated and there will be signage on Summer Street.

**D) Council Ratification of Manager Recommendation re: Easement Request Jeff Friot, 22 Maplewood Ave.**

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the memo from Larry Morgan in the Engineering Department. Councilor Poirier made the motion to approve the easement, and Councilor Herring seconded the motion. Mayor Lauzon said the requested easement is across a portion of undeveloped City street and there is already a driveway on the property in question, which does not have an easement. The mayor said he does not want to impede future development of the paper street. Manager Mackenzie said Council can defer the decision for a week or two to allow him to confer with departments and do some additional research. The motion and second were withdrawn.

**City Manager's Report –**

- Manager Mackenzie reported on meetings attended, include City Place and the Big Dig.
- There is a pedestrian safety forum on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 PM in the Opera House.
- The annual egg hunt is Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM at Rotary Park.
- There will be a City waste disposal day on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Civic Center.

**Other)** Clerk Dawes said she received the emailed entertainment license application referred to earlier in the meeting. The application is from Pop-Up! A Dance Party, for a dance party at the Labor Hall on Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 PM – 1:00 AM. The Clerk said she had previously touched base with Chief Bombardier about the need for police coverage, and she recommended Council approve the application on condition that the details be finalized with the police department.

Council approved the entertainment license on condition that the Manager consults with the Chief on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

**Roundtable –**

Councilor Herring reminded people that Green Up Day is approaching. Upon inquiry, the Councilor said he was elected as chair of the City School Board.

Councilor Boutin said he is excited about his re-election and the opportunity to continue to serve. He asked whether the City has a place for residents to dump lawn debris. Mayor Lauzon said previous opportunities have been abused by people who used the area to dump garbage and trash. The Mayor said he is working with Barre Town on possible dump area options.

Councilor Poirier said he is concerned about the Merchant's Bank development planned for North Main

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Street at Cottage Street. He said he would like information on the recent Development Review Board decision approving the design plans for the bank building, and legal information on what appeal options the Council has.

Mayor Lauzon said the Council will begin discussing the budget at next week's meeting in advance of a budget re-vote. The Mayor said the Council would like to hear from the public before beginning the process, and invited people to attend next week's meeting or share their thoughts with their Councilors.

Council adjourned at 8:40 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, 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

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