

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held April 10, 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, Councilors Anita Chadderton and 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 Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
  - Regular Meeting of April 3, 2012
  - Special Meeting of April 5, 2012
  - Special Meeting of April 7, 2012
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
  - Entertainment license for Spaulding High School Project Graduation for a flea market, tag sale and bake sale in City Hall Park on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. The license application fee was waived.
  - Animal license for 1 rabbit owned by Gail Mulcahy at 12 Chatot Street.
  - Animal license for 3 rabbits owned by Marlene Bonnell at 20 Willey Street.

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

- Even though the statutory deadline has passed, dogs must still be licensed, and there is an additional fee for late licensing.
- Fourth quarter property taxes are due by May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Due to a change of mind on the part of the person to whom the job was offered, the assistant treasurer position remains unfilled. The search will re-open next week.

**Approval of Building Permits** – NONE

**Liquor Control Board** – Council approved the following 2012 Liquor and Tobacco licenses on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Etli. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

**1<sup>st</sup> CLASS**

Planet Rock N' Metal Inc.	127 North Main Street
Mulligan's Irish Pub	9 Maple Avenue
Barre Lodge of Elks #1535	10 Jefferson Street
Quarry Grill & Tavern	210 North Main Street

**2nd CLASS**

Cumberland Farms #8025	524 North Main Street
Cumberland Farms #8027	132 South Main Street

**TOBACCO**

Barre Lodge of Elks #1535	10 Jefferson Street
Cumberland Farms #8025	524 North Main Street
Cumberland Farms #8027	132 South Main Street

**Visitors and Communications** – NONE

**City Manager's Report –**

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following activities over the past week:

- Meetings on the Big Dig and TIF District.
- Working on budget reductions.

**Old Business –**

**(A) Public Comment on FY 2013 Budget.**

Mayor Lauzon invited members of the public to offer comments on the FY2013 budget. There were no comments.

Manager Mackenzie referenced a memo emailed to the Council that addressed the replacement of Police Department weapons. The Manager said he will place the item on next week's agenda for Council approval. Mayor Lauzon said the funds for the weapons are coming out of the drug forfeiture fund. Councilor Etli made the motion to direct the Manager to use his best judgment in procuring the weapons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon said no additional Council action is required.

**New Business –**

**A) 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing for Charter Changes – warned for 7:15 p.m.**

Mayor Lauzon opened the public hearing at 7:08 PM. Clerk Dawes reviewed the charter changes as warned by Council at last week's meeting, and said the changes will be on the ballot for the May 8<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting election. Mayor Lauzon invited questions and comments from the public. There were no comments. The Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:10 PM.

**Roundtable –**

Councilor Herring asked if it is possible for the Council to meet less frequently if the agenda is as light as it is this evening. Mayor Lauzon said he usually cancels meetings if the agenda is light, but he plans on recessing the meeting and entering into a budget work session at the conclusion of tonight's regular agenda. The Mayor said there will be a special Council meeting on Thursday, April 12, 2012, but there will not be a meeting on Saturday, April 14, 2012. Councilor Etli said he would like to move to a bi-weekly meeting schedule. Mayor Lauzon said Council could try such a schedule through the summer.

Councilor Poirier asked if Council will finalize the FY2013 budget at the Thursday special meeting. Mayor Lauzon said yes.

Mayor Lauzon recessed the Council meeting 7:15 PM.

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

Mayor Lauzon called the Council meeting back to order at 7:26 PM for a work session on the FY 2013 budget.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the proposed revised FY2013 budget he distributed at the Saturday, April 7, 2012 special meeting. The Mayor said his proposal calls for a reduction of \$196,736 in the amount to be raised by taxes, which included by reductions in expenses and increases in revenue. He said he is recommending that the staff position in the Planning & Zoning Department become a .75 FTE position with no benefits. The Mayor said his proposal also calls for merging the Facilities, Recreation and

Cemeteries & Parks Departments into one department with one department head, and the other two department head positions would be downgraded to staff positions with reductions in salaries. The Mayor said operations expenditures are essentially level funded with these adjustments.

The following topics were discussed:

- Keeping the funding for the assistant city manager position.
- The need to confirm that the budget allows for possible health insurance increases in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year, and freezing the miscellaneous expenses line item to allow for any such increases.
- Reconciliation of the Mayor's and Manager's proposed budget adjustments.
- Level funding Barre Area Development Corporation, Barre Partnership and Aldrich Library in the face of staffing and salary cuts.
- Adjustments to paving spending to affect the tax rate.
- The impact of new debt/bond items on the budget.

Mayor Lauzon said he and Manager Mackenzie will work together on a budget adjustment presentation to bring to Council at the Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup> special meeting.

Councilor Poirier made the motion to move towards a \$200,000 reduction in the amount to be raised by taxes. The motion was seconded by Councilor Herring. There was discussion about the Council's opportunity to make adjustments to the proposed reductions at the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Councilor Etli made the motion to table the previous motion, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion did not carry, with Councilors Etli, Boutin and Smith voting for, and Mayor Lauzon, Councilors Chadderton, Herring and Poirier voting against.**

Discussion continued on the original motion. Councilor Herring and Poirier said they wanted to clarify that Mayor Lauzon and Manager Mackenzie will collaborate and present a proposal at the April 12<sup>th</sup> special meeting, and the Council will have the opportunity to make additional adjustments at that meeting. Councilor Smith said he will be voting against the motion because he doesn't agree with picking an amount without identifying specific adjustments.

Council voted on Councilor Poirier's motion. **Motion carried, with Mayor Lauzon, Councilors Chadderton, Herring and Poirier voting for, and Councilors Boutin, Etli and Smith voting against.**

Mayor Lauzon reviewed some of the revisions on the Manager's list and solicited Council opinions for the following:

- Level funding for BADC, Barre Partnership and Aldrich Library. There was consensus on level funding BADC and BP, but not on level funding the library. BADC executive director Darren Winham advocated for continued support of BADC. Mr. Winham reviewed the Barre Town community development block grant funds, and how \$500,000 of those funds are being placed in a revolving loan fund for use by Barre City and Barre Town businesses. He asked that Council make a commitment to make a similar \$500,000 investment in the loan fund should the City be the beneficiary of a CDBG in the future. Mayor Lauzon said such a commitment will be on the agenda for the April 12<sup>th</sup> special meeting.
- Cutting the Police Department "Bees" – summer patrol program. There was consensus on not cutting the program.
- Cutting the building inspector position. There was discussion about the position, the Fire Department's participation in the inspection program, the need to improve code enforcement and to review the vacant building ordinance. There was consensus to not reduce or eliminate the position.

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Mayor Lauzon said those affected by the salary cuts will qualify for unemployment insurance. The Mayor said he will have more detailed information available at the Thursday special meeting.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the agenda for the Thursday, April 12, 2012 special meeting, which is scheduled to begin at 7:00 PM.

Council adjourned at 9:10 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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