

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held May 1, 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 (arrived 8:50 PM) and Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring (left 9:42 PM). Also in attendance were Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

We Dig Barre Treasure Dig Drawing. We Dig Barre chair Mary Jane Magnan and mascot Digger asked Councilor Boutin to draw this week's Treasure Dig winner.

New Business –

A) Mayoral Proclamation – Poppy Day.

Jerri Merolli from the American Legion Auxiliary said that May is Poppy Month and gave a brief history of poppies in relation to Memorial Day. Mayor Lauzon presented Ms. Merolli with a proclamation proclaiming May 1st as Poppy Day in Barre City. Ms. Merolli and others from the Auxiliary distributed poppies to the Council.

Mayor Lauzon invited the public to attend the Memorial Day observances at the Civic Center Auditorium on Wednesday, May 30th.

B) Coin Drop SHS Project Graduation.

Lori Bailey, chair of the Project Graduation Committee, requested permission to hold a coin drop around City Hall Park on Saturday, May 19th, to benefit Project Graduation. Council granted permission for the coin drop on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

C) Coin Drop Request – Barre City Firefighters Association for MDA.

Barre City firefighters Jeff Cochran and Joe Kelly requested permission to hold a coin drop around City Hall Park on Saturday, May 12th, to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The firefighters said they would like to hold these coin drops each year on the 2nd Saturday in May, and requested approval for future years. Mayor Lauzon said he would prefer that the firefighters come in annually to make the request and raise awareness of their fundraising efforts. Council granted permission for the May 12th coin drop on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Consent Agenda: Council approved the following consent agenda items as presented on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular Meeting of April 24, 2012
- City Warrants as presented, including a community development warrant payable out of the Neighborhood Stabilization Grant Program.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Food Vending License for Hot Diggity Dogs food vending cart, including permission to vend across the street from Gusto's on weekend evenings and at Currier Park during the concerts in the park. The request to vend in Depot Square was denied.
 - Single Event Entertainment License for Jerry's Sports Tavern, 30 Summer Street, for band performance on Saturday, April 28, 2012 (retroactive)
 - Single Event Entertainment License for Studio Place Arts, 201 N. Main Street, for fundraising event on Friday, April 27, 2012 (retroactive)
 - Annual Entertainment License for Mutuo Inc., 20 Beckley Street.

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

- Early/Absentee ballots are available for the May 8th Special Meeting election. Polls will be open at the

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auditorium on May 8th from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM. Next week’s Council meeting has been moved to Monday, May 7th.

- Fourth quarter property taxes are due by May 15th.
- Even though the statutory deadline has passed, dogs must still be licensed, and the Clerk’s office is still issuing tags.
- The Board of Civil Authority is scheduled to hold its pre-election meeting on Thursday, May 3rd at 6:00 PM.
- The Clerk reviewed the arrangements for Clean Up Your Act Day on May 5th, when people will have the opportunity to bring lawn debris, bulk trash, and recyclables to the Civic Center.

Approval of Building Permits – Council approved the following building permits on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Joel Parry	111 Brooklyn Street
Deborah Goewey	8 Palmizano Plaza
Karyn Romanoski	167 Hill Street
Ronald Christie	7 Ladd Street
Estelle McPherson	39 E. Parkside Terrace
Paul & Mary Dupré	19 Palmizano Plaza

Liquor Control Board –NONE

Visitors and Communications –

John Clark, owner of 25 Madison Avenue, said he had received a letter from Manager Mackenzie informing him that he had until May 3rd to clean up his property and bring it into compliance, but he received a citation issued by Captain Matt Cetin in advance of the May 3rd deadline date. Mr. Clark said he has not been treated properly, is not being listened to and has not been given the information he has requested. There was discussion about the City rental inspection program, code enforcement and who is empowered to inspect and issue citations. Mayor Lauzon said he will meet with Mr. Clark, Manager Mackenzie and Captain Cetin tomorrow, May 2nd.

Hanna Etli, chair of the Semprebond Fund Committee, said the committee is accepting proposals until 4:00 PM on Wednesday, May 16th. The next committee meeting is the evening of the 16th.

City Manager’s Report – NONE

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

D) Award of Bid for Miscellaneous Bituminous Concrete Paving.

Mayor Lauzon recused himself from voting on this issue due to a conflict of interest. The Mayor reviewed the memo from the Engineer’s office which indicated that Johnson Paving was the low bidder. Council awarded the contract to Johnson Paving on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

E) Award of Bid for Roadside Mowing.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the memo from the Engineer’s office which indicated that Evergreen Enterprises was the only bidder. Councilor awarded the contract to Evergreen Enterprises on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

H) Cemetery Infrastructure Upgrade – Programming Review.

City Engineer Reg Abare, Cemetery Department Director Dwight Coffrin and Cemetery Department staff member Don Bullard reviewed the plans for the upgrades in Hope Cemetery, including paving, water lines and drainage/culverts. Mr. Abare said a preliminary estimate put the costs at \$395,000 - \$405,000. He said they have been working to identify areas for cost savings including limiting the scope of the water system.

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Councilors said they supported the proposal that called for 10 water spigots located throughout the cemetery. Mr. Coffrin said there are 6 spigots in the older part of the cemetery that are in good working order, and those 6 would be retained in addition to the 10 replacements. There was discussion about the use of City staff to do the work versus hiring contractors, the need for power to reactivate the fountain, possible locations for parking tour busses, access to sewer lines, trash barrels in the cemeteries and parks, and paving options. Mayor Lauzon said the costs exceed the \$250,000 Semprebon Fund appropriation previously approved by the Council, and requested that Mr. Abare and Mr. Coffrin come back to Council at the May 15th meeting with firmer estimates and options.

J) Proposed Cobblestone Distribution Policy.

Mayor Lauzon said Swenson Granite, which had previously expressed an interest in purchasing 50,000 cobblestones, is no longer interested. The Mayor said if the City receives any money for the cobbles, the money will need to be turned over to the federal government, which is funding the North Main Street Reconstruction Project. Mr. Abare said the NMSRP contractor has a need for approximately 10,000 cobbles for the project. There was public discussion about using the cobbles so people can experience Barre's history, the possibility of creating a memorial walkway with inscribed stones, paving a portion of Depot Square with cobbles, using them in the cemeteries, and using them to line flower beds.

Councilor Poirier said the City has received a request for 150 cobbles from Blue Mountain School for use in a school project. Council agreed to the request without formal action.

There was discussion about setting up a process to handle requests and distribution. Manager Mackenzie said cobblestone distribution will be handled out of the City Engineer's office.

Councilor Etli arrived at this point in the meeting, 8:50 PM.

G) 2012 Street & Sidewalks Program.

Mr. Abare reviewed the chart showing the recent history of paving streets and the streets remaining to be done. He reviewed his memo and accounting for the paving and sidewalk programs, the list of streets to be paved before the end of FY12 and the list of streets to be paved in FY13. Mayor Lauzon reviewed his memo on the time necessary to pave all the streets in the City.

Mayor Lauzon said the Council has the option of not spending all of the paving money approved by the voters for FY13. Councilor Poirier made the motion to stay with the paving program as approved by the voters, seconded by Councilor Smith. Mayor Lauzon said Councilor Etli had originally raised the question, and the Mayor said the item will be placed on a future agenda to allow for public input. Councilor Etli said the majority of the Council supports the paving project as approved, therefore there is no need for further discussion. The motion and second were withdrawn.

I) Trestle Project – USDA RD Loan/Grant Agreement Execution.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the City's USDA RD loan application for the trestle project. The Manager recommended Council grant the Mayor authorization to sign the application, with the caveat that the City determine if funding through ANR is available. The Manager said there is a possibility of ANR grant/loan funding, and the City should have a final determination by the end of the week or early next week. Council approved authorizing the Mayor to sign the application on behalf of the City, with the caveat of waiting to hear about possible ANR funding, on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried with Councilor Etli voting against.**

K) Council Priority Discussion / Summer 2013 Work Plan.

Mayor Lauzon requested that Councilors return their priority lists to him by the end of the week. The Mayor said he will consolidate the lists and provide copies at next week's Council meeting.

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F) 2013 Proposed Budget Presentation and Discussion.

Mayor Lauzon gave a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed FY2013 municipal budget up for re-vote on May 8th.

Councilor Herring left at 9:42 PM.

L) April 12th Special Meeting Minutes Discussion.

Councilor Boutin asked to informally table the discussion until next week so as to give him time to listen to a recording of the meeting. Councilor Boutin said there is a correction that needs to be made in the following item from the April 12, 2012 minutes, which were approved as previously corrected on April 17, 2012:

“Mayor Lauzon recalculated the reduction based on the previous motion, and announced that the new amounts called for a general fund budget of \$9,988,212, with \$6,770,197 to be raised by taxes. Councilor Herring made the motion to approve these amounts, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried with Councilors Boutin and Etlie voting no.**”

Councilor Boutin said the minutes needed to be corrected to reflect him voting in favor of the motion.

Councilor Boutin made the motion for the correction, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried with Councilor Etlie voting against.**

Other) Brooklyn Street resident Joseph Crosier said trash is being dumped towards the end of Brooklyn Street on the river side. Manager Mackenzie said the City will look into it.

Roundtable –

Councilor Chadderton said she attended the race at Thunder Road this past weekend and spoke with people who do not support the budget re-vote.

Councilors Boutin, Poirier and Smith said they hope people will come out and support the budget at the polls on May 8th.

Mayor Lauzon said he hopes people will support the budget revote, and encouraged people to participate in Green Up Day on May 5th.

Council adjourned at 10:00 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **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