

**Special Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held May 10, 2012**

The Special 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 Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring (arrived 7:07 PM). Also in attendance were Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Mayor Lauzon opened up the meeting for public comment. Resident John Hannigan said he hopes the Finance Director position isn't cut.

Mayor Lauzon announced that the east side of North Main Street has been designated as a new market tax credit zone, which will benefit the development of City Place.

Mayor Lauzon invited the Council to share thoughts and ideas about revising the budget. General discussion included the following:

- There was discussion of dropping the Finance Director position and re-funding the support position in the Planning & Zoning Department to assume some of the duties that would have been done by the Finance Director.
- Recent staffing turnovers in the Fire Department and the impact on revenue, expenses and ambulance transports.
- Working towards regionalization of services and possible adjustment of the \$15,000 approved by the voters in March for a public safety regionalization study.

Mayor Lauzon announced that Tuesday, May 15th is Peacekeepers Memorial Day and he will be hosting events in Montpelier that day, including a breakfast for peace keepers at 8:00 AM and a memorial service at 9:00 AM.

The budget discussion continued:

- Change Council meeting schedule to every other week to free up Manager's time.
- Create a Budget Committee to assist the Manager in working on the budget.
- Ask voters for approval on new initiatives.
- Only a limited number of FTE's, and if the City doesn't have the resources to do the day-to-day work, it won't be in a position to take on additional initiatives.
- Manager doesn't need to attend all Council meetings so as to free up his time for other projects.
- Review the salary reductions in the cemetery and recreation departments that were included in the budget that was re-voted on May 8th.
- Use of City-owned vehicles.
- Limit the issuing of permits to one day a week and have the person who issues permits work on projects part time in the Manager's office.
- Freeze all department head salaries for FY2013.
- Provide opportunities for the Manager to receive training in municipal finance.
- All non-essential employees on 4 day work week/furlough for a certain period of time to meet a target budget cut of \$100,000.
- No additional cuts – look for efficiencies.
- Need to explain the budget better.
- Discuss the elimination of certain positions.
- Cut department head salaries 5-10%.
- Don't fill current vacancies.
- Cuts in the paving program and the possibility of asking the voters to revise the amount approved in March.

To be approved at 05-15-12 Barre City Council Meeting

Planning Director Michael Miller said departments are running at 100% with no additional capacity. If Council is considering cuts in staffing, it should consider eliminating programs.

Council went into executive session at 8:05 PM to discuss personnel issues on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council came out of executive session at 8:45 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon said the executive session discussion was around the elimination of two positions for a budget reduction of approximately \$200,000. The Mayor said Council will hold a special meeting on Saturday, May 12th at 7:30 AM, at which time it will have an open discussion about the elimination of positions. He said the Manager will contact the possibly affected staff members in advance of the meeting, and will provide adjusted budget figures. The Mayor said he expects Council to set a budget figure at the Saturday meeting.

Council adjourned at 9:05 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Poirier. **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