

**Special Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held May 22, 2012**

The Special Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order at 5:40 PM by Acting Mayor Michael Smith. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilor Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Councilor Michael Boutin; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring. Also in attendance were Manager Steven Mackenzie, Clerk Carolyn Dawes, Chief Tim Bombardier, Deputy Fire Chief Joe Aldsworth, Fire Captain Matt Cetin, City Attorney Oliver Twombly, Jim Carroll and Coni Pell.

Council went into executive session at 5:40 PM to discuss pending litigation on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Carroll, Ms. Pell, Chief Bombardier, Deputy Chief Aldsworth, Capt. Cetin, Manager Mackenzie and Attorney Twombly were invited into the executive session.

Mayor Lauzon arrived at 5:41 PM and assumed the chair.

Council came out of executive session at 6:40 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon adjourned the special meeting at 6:40 PM.

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held May 22, 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, Councilor 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.

**We Dig Barre Treasure Dig Drawing.** We Dig Barre chair Mary Jane Magnan and mascot Digger asked Manager Mackenzie to draw this week's Treasure Dig winner, and announced this week's clue.

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

- Minutes of the following meetings:
  - Special Meeting of May 15, 2012
  - Regular Meeting of May 15, 2012
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
  - 2012 single event Entertainment License: "Tastes and Sounds of the Civil War" at the Aldrich Public Library, Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2:00 – 3:30 PM. Approval included waiver of the fee.
  - 2012 single event Entertainment License: wedding in Currier Park being performed by The Salvation Army, Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Approval included use of City power on the stage area.
  - 2012 Taxicab Driver's License for Donald Allen Morway with A to B Taxi.
  - 2012 Taxicab Driver's License for Craig Michael Royce with Twin City Taxi.

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

- Once Council approves the warning for the next budget vote, early/absentee ballots will be mailed out to those who requested them for the March and/or May elections.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter property tax delinquency rate was 5.78%, which is higher than usual.
- The Clerk's office continues to issue dog tags. A letter is being mailed out this week to those who have not yet licensed their dogs for 2012.

**Approval of Building Permits –**

Council approved the following building permits on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Daniel & Nancy Jarchow	110 Berlin St.
Zena Collins	15 Gordon Ln.
David & Lynn Guy	23 Jacques St.

**Liquor Control Board –NONE**

**Visitors and Communications – NONE**

**Old Business –**

**A) Inspection Program Briefing.**

Chief Tim Bombardier, City Planner Michael Miller, Fire Captain Matt Cetin, Deputy Fire Chief Joe Aldsworth and City Inspector Robbie Strachan presented an overview of the City inspection program which went into effect in February, 2012. Manager Mackenzie said the inspection team has requested the purchase of software that will consolidate the inspection programs. The Manager said he will review the request and anticipates bringing it to Council for approval. There was discussion about charging fees when additional inspections are necessary and the need to revise the City's fee schedule; the process for handling trash complaints; posting a citizen complaint form on the City website; dealing with mortgage companies that are the owners of record for vacant properties; ways to recover the City's costs for time spent bringing properties into compliance; and reviewing the vacant building ordinance.

Councilor Poirier asked the team to look into a vacant property on Circle Street where neighbors have reported questionable activity. Capt. Cetin said he will look into it.

Capt. Cetin said he has been researching how other municipalities deal with similar inspection and enforcement issues. Mayor Lauzon asked Capt. Cetin to share the information he gathers with the Council.

**B) Council Priority Discussion / Summer 2013 Work Plan.**

Mayor Lauzon said the discussions will be deferred until after the June 5<sup>th</sup> special meeting election.

**City Manager's Report –**

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following activities over the past week, and upcoming items:

- Meetings with Barre Area Development Corporation, Big Dig City Team, mini-tour of the Big Dig with members of the Council, Vermont City Manager Association meeting.
- Moving forward with modifications to the traffic/pedestrian signals at Elm/Washington and North Main/Prospect Streets.
- Reconstruction at Playground 2000 started this week.
- Green Mountain Water & Environment Association announced Barre City Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Operator Joe Rouleau is being honored with an Excellence in the Wake of Irene Award at the GMWEA awards luncheon later in the week.

**Old Business –**

**C) FY 2013 Proposed Budget Review.**

Mayor Lauzon said Councilor Etli could not attend this evening's meeting, and the Mayor reviewed an email in which Councilor Etli recommended adjusting the budgeted revenue projection for traffic tickets from \$30,000 to \$20,000, and freezing all department head salaries for fiscal year 2013. Mayor Lauzon said the net result of Councilor Etli's recommendations would be a negative adjustment to budget of approximately \$5,000, and the Mayor recommended not making the adjustments.

**D) Approve Warning for Budget Revote.**

Councilor Poirier made the motion to warn the following article for the June 5, 2012 special meeting:

- Shall the Barre City Voters authorize a General Fund Budget of \$ 9,934,620 of which an amount not to exceed \$ 6,583,204 is to be raised by local property taxes for the fiscal year July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013?

The motion was seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried with all voting in favor.**

There was discussion about placing a non-binding question on the ballot related to a possible reduction in the paving appropriation. Councilor Smith made the motion to warn the following non-binding article for the June 5, 2012 special meeting:

- Shall the Barre City Council consider reducing the 2012-2013 paving appropriation by \$ 50,000?

The motion was seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried with all voting in favor.**

Council approved moving the Council meeting from Tuesday, June 5, 2012 to Monday, June 4, 2012 on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried with all voting in favor.**

Mayor Lauzon said he will place a reaffirmation of the budget warning votes on the agenda for next week's meeting.

**F) Final Approval of Cobblestone Policy and Request Form.**

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the draft cobblestone request form. Council approved the form on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried with all voting in favor.**

**E) Public Safety Committee Updates:**

- **Fire Department**
- **Police Department**

Councilor Smith said he and Councilor Etli will work with the Chief on increasing enforcement, review of the current year's budget figures and crime statistics. Mayor Lauzon said the crime stats should be posted on the City website.

Councilor Poirier said he has made arrangements for members of the Fire Department public safety committee to visit the Winooski and St. Albans Fire Departments to review their changes in model and staffing.

**Roundtable –**

Councilor Boutin noted representatives from the local Boy Scouts were at the meeting to distribute popcorn that Council ordered several weeks ago.

Councilor Smith asked Manager Mackenzie to review the arrangements for upcoming facilities tours.

To be approved at 05-29-12 Barre City Council Meeting

Mayor Lauzon said the City Memorial Day activities will take place on Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, at the Civic Center Auditorium.

Council adjourned at 8:22 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

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