

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held January 22, 2013**

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 Charles Dindo and Paul Poirier; Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith (arrived 7:03 PM); and from Ward III, Councilor Lucas Herring. Also in attendance were City 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 Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meeting:
  - Regular Meeting of January 15, 2013
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2013 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
  - Food Take Out Licenses
    - North End Deli Mart, 475 N. Main St.
  - Taxicab Service Operator's and Vehicle Licenses
    - Twin City Taxi, 2 vehicles

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

- Ballot item petitions for the 2013 Annual (Town) Meeting elections are due by Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Nominating petitions are available in the Clerk's office and on the website, and are due in to the Clerk by Monday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Also on the website is a list of the offices up for election this year.
- The BCA and BoA are meeting next week, Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup> starting at 5:30 PM.
- Third quarter property taxes are due by February 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Parking permits and dog licenses are now available in the Clerk's office.

Councilor Poirier asked about the Council's decision letter in response to John Clark's appeal hearing, which was held at last week's meeting. The Councilor requested that a draft copy of the minutes from the January 19, 2013 special Council meeting be attached to the letter so Mr. Clark knows who participated in the deliberation and decision.

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Sandra Felhazy	31 Waterman St.

**Liquor Control Board** – NONE

**Visitors and Communications** – NONE

**City Manager's Report** –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- Attended meetings with the Citizens Budget Committee.
- Working to complete the FY12 audit preparations.
- The Transportations Alternatives grant application for the bike path was submitted last week.
- Attended presentation of the new FEMA flood maps. The turnout was low, so the City will host another presentation in the near future. Mayor Lauzon asked that a large notice advertising the next presentation be place in the Times Argus, including the maps.
- The City Place groundbreaking is scheduled for Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM at the Paramount Theater, next door to the City Place site.

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- There will be a union mediation session with the Fire Department tomorrow.
- Please remember to be vigilant during the upcoming cold snap: be on the lookout for hypothermia, frostbite, frozen & broken water pipes, chimney & house fires, and carbon dioxide from improperly vented heating systems.

Councilor Poirier said he didn't realize until this year that the City does not observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day. He said he would like to see the City observe the holiday in the future. Mayor Lauzon said he will put the item on a future agenda for discussion.

**Old Business – NONE**

**New Business –**

**A) Request for SHS Class of 2013 Coin Drop.**

Renee Bilodeau and Sandra Rouleau from Spaulding High School Project Graduation requested that Council allow them to hold a coin drop on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, to raise funds for this year's graduation celebration. Council approved the request on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon asked Ms. Bilodeau and Ms. Rouleau to coordinate the logistics of the coin drop with Chief Bombardier.

Councilor Poirier and Mayor Lauzon said they will match \$500 raised in the next five days.

**B) Keith Fund Disbursement.**

Mayor Lauzon said the upcoming cold spell puts a strain on Central Vermont Community Action Council's ability to help those who need fuel assistance. The Mayor recommended making a \$5,000 disbursement from the Keith Fund to the CVCAC fuel assistance fund.

Councilor Poirier made the motion to make the \$5,000 disbursement, seconded by Councilor Smith.

Councilor Poirier asked that the funds be limited to Barre City residents, as per the Keith Fund directives, and that CVCAC use the funds to benefit those most in need, and not be constrained by federal or state guidelines with regards to household income. The rest of the Council concurred.

Council voted on the motion with the conditions as mentioned by Councilor Poirier. **Motion carried.**

**C) Social Media Policy Discussion.**

Councilor Herring, chair of the IT Committee, reviewed the draft policy, and said it would be a guide for content and use of the City's website and any future City social sites. There was discussion about the applicability of the policy to City officials, whether elected, appointed or volunteer, and the process for adoption. Councilor Herring recommended there be a second warning for discussion at next week's meeting. Mayor Lauzon requested that the draft policy be posted in the City website.

**D) FY 14 City Budget Presentation.**

Manager Mackenzie distributed copies of budget draft#3. The Manager said he is meeting with the Citizens Budget Committee Thursday evening, and will have complete budget packets for the joint Council/Budget Committee meeting on Saturday. He said his goal is to limit the budget increase to no more than 4%, and noted that the current draft is at 6.35%.

Councilor Poirier said he would like to see the Council make a decision with regard to the School Resource Officers (SROs) and the number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) police officers in the Barre City Police Department, and then build the budget from there.

Councilor Poirier made the motion to approve a police force of 20 FTE officers, including the 2 SROs. The

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motion was seconded by Councilor Dindo.

Mayor Lauzon said he was concerned about the impact that such an increase in the police force would have on the budget. The Mayor said the City will be speaking with the Judiciary about funding police officers in communities where parolee and furlough numbers are above state average.

Councilor Poirier said the City should take the two officers from the schools and then hire two additional officers, and that he will not support the budget unless such action is taken.

Councilor Herring said he could support two new officers, but it would be detrimental to change the SRO structure in the schools. Mayor Lauzon said the City would see the same benefits from leaving the SRO structure as it is, and adding three new officers. Renita Marshall, a member of the Citizens Budget Committee, spoke in favor of the SROs and said they are resources to the students. Mayor Lauzon asked that Chief Bombardier attend the Saturday budget workshop.

Council asked to have the motion read back before taking action. Clerk Dawes read back the motion. Councilor Poirier amended the motion to read, "Motion to approve a Barre City police force of twenty Full Time Equivalent officers, including re-assigning the SRO officers to Full Time in the department." The seconder concurred with the amendment.

**Motion did not carry, with Councilors Poirier and Dindo voting for, and Mayor Lauzon and Councilors Boutin, Smith and Herring voting against.**

Councilor Boutin made the motion to ask the Manager to draft a budget to include twenty Full Time Equivalent officers in the Police Department, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried, with Councilor Smith voting against.**

Mayor Lauzon said he wants to keep the increase in the budget reasonable, and noted that the rate of inflation and the recent social security increase are 1.8%. The Mayor said the number should be right around 4%.

**Round Table –**

Councilor Herring requested a walk-through of the Senior Center, which is owned by the City. He said such a walk-through could take place in the spring. He is participating in the penguin plunge in Lake Champlain on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. He is accepting donations for his participation in the plunge, which will benefit Special Olympics at BCEMS.

Councilor Dindo said he is getting questions about parking around the City Place site as construction begins. Manager Mackenzie said City Planner Michael Miller is coordinating parking re-organization. Councilor Dindo said there is a Barre City/Barre Town Connector Path committee meeting tomorrow evening at Barre Town.

Mayor Lauzon said this is still flu season, and recommended everyone get a flu shot. The Mayor said to remember those who need fuel assistance through donations to CVCAC.

Council adjourned at 8:35 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

An audio transcript of the meeting is available through the Clerk's Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk