

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held February 26, 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 (arrived 7:18 PM); Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and 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 Smith. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meeting:
 - Regular Meeting of February 19, 2013
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2013 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Food Establishment Licenses
 - Mario's Inc. DBA Quarry Grill and Tavern, 210 N. Main St.
 - Mr. Z's, 379 N. Main St.
 - Entertainment Licenses
 - South Side Tavern, 107 S. Main St.

Mayor Lauzon said he reviewed the minutes from last week's liquor control discussion about South Side Tavern, and he feels there was an abuse of authority, and that he, as Mayor, failed to keep the meeting fair and impartial. The Mayor said he called and apologized to Mr. Parker. He said he will not accept testimony from individual Council members in the future, and will only accept testimony from the City Manager and Chief. He said he expected better from himself and nothing like that will happen again.

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

- A copy of the third quarter delinquent tax warrant was included in the Council packet. The delinquency rate for the quarter is 5.09%
- Requests for early and absentee ballots for the March 5, 2013 Annual (Town) Meeting elections are being accepted in the Clerk's office through Monday, March 4th. Those who need to register to vote, need to do so by 5:00 PM on Wednesday, February 27th. The Clerk reminded everyone that next week's Council meeting is on Monday, March 4th.
- The Board of Civil Authority will hold its pre-election meeting on Thursday, February 28th at 5:30 PM.
- Dog licenses are now available in the Clerk's office.
- There are four properties scheduled for tax sale on Thursday, February 28th at 11:00 AM.

Approval of Building Permits –

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Paul Shper & Grace Gilbert	91 Orange St.

Liquor Control Board – NONE

City Manager's Report –

Manager Mackenzie said the 2012 annual reports are available in City Hall and on the website.

Visitors and Communications – NONE

Old Business –

A) Approval of Green Mountain Power Easement Rte. 14.

City Engineer Reg Abare outlined the easement, including the proposed guy wires associated with two poles that serve as anchors for poles across the street. Mayor Lauzon said the easement includes language that would allow GMP to expand the standard easement width without additional approval from the City, and such expansion would impose on the City's property. The Mayor suggested approving the easement with the removal of the expansion language. Mr. Abare said his office can make that amendment.

Council approved the easement as amended and authorized Manager Mackenzie to sign on the City's behalf on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

New Business –

B) BEAR Home Energy Challenge.

BEAR members Fred Thumb, Elaine Wang and Phil Cecchini said BEAR does energy efficiency work, including conducting the current street light audit, hosting energy fairs and holding button-up workshops. Mr. Cecchini said BEAR is participating in the Vermont Home Energy Challenge, sponsored in part by Efficiency Vermont. Mr. Thumb said the goal is to have 3% of Barre City's homes participate, which is a total of 122. They are encouraging people to sign pledge cards and do efficiency upgrades, and are looking for volunteers to talk to their neighbors about participating in the challenge.

There was discussion about energy audits, partnerships with Community Action Council, the Nelson Street Hydro Project, and this year's energy fair, which is scheduled for April. Mayor Lauzon asked for quarterly updates from BEAR.

A) Greater Barre Community Justice Center Update.

Executive director Lori Baker and re-entry program coordinator Kate Aylward updated the Council on the Justice Center, including the mission statement and information on restorative justice and criminal justice. There was discussion on the number of annual cases, number of volunteers and volunteer hours, community service hours provided by clients, the re-entry program, the relationship with the community outreach specialist and program funding.

C) Charter Changes Currently Before the Legislature.

Clerk Dawes reviewed her memo on the charter changes, and said the Council can request that the legislature expand the changes as approved by the voters in May 2012 to make consistent adjustments of the terms "alderman/aldermen" to "councilor/councilors" throughout the charter. The Clerk recommended Council authorize her to make that request of the legislature. Council approved the Clerk's request, authorizing the Clerk to submit the additional changes to the legislature and to advocate on behalf of the City in front of any relevant committees, on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

E) Ratification of Firefighter Labor Contract.

Mayor Lauzon said this agenda item is being deferred as there are additional discussions on the contract.

Councilor Herring left the meeting at 8:12 PM.

D) Proposed FY14 Budget Municipal Budget Presentation.

Manager Mackenzie gave his PowerPoint presentation on the FY14 budget. Citizens' Budget Committee chair Justin Johnson said the budget doesn't have a lot of fat in it. Mr. Johnson said the committee looks forward to next year's process, and having the opportunity to look at the Council's goals and lining up the

budget with the goals. He asked if there will be any local effect from the possible federal sequestration, which is anticipated for the end of this week. Manager Mackenzie said he received an email that sequester may impact future COPS grants, but will not affect the current grants. Mayor Lauzon said there will be no effect on municipal expenses, but there will likely be effects on federal services received by City citizens.

The Mayor said the committee will be pressed into service this spring on the water & sewer rate adjustments, and will look at the long-term capital plan.

Round Table –

Councilor Poirier said he would like an executive session to discuss personnel and contracts. He said, with regards to the Mayor's comments under the consent agenda, he doesn't believe the Mayor has the authority to say what any Councilor brings forward at a meeting, and he intends to put in ordinance language requiring any business that is fined more than \$500 by VT DLC to come before Council.

Mayor Lauzon said he met the recipients of this year's Freezing Fun for Families fundraising events. The Mayor said he would support the ordinance revision proposed by Councilor Poirier, and that what transpired during last week's local liquor control board goes beyond the scope of the board. He said he believes the local liquor control board overstepped its authority.

Council went into executive session at 8:50 PM to discuss personnel and contracts on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Manager Mackenzie was invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 9:23 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 9:23 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk