

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held May 21, 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, Councilor Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Alderman Michael Boutin and Councilor 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 Smith, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meeting:
 - Regular Meeting of May 13, 2013, as corrected.
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2013 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Animal License, Angela Williams, 20 Grandview Ave., 6 poultry.
 - Entertainment License, Central VT Catholic School, annual carnival June 6-9. Various hours. License approval includes closing portion of West Street abutting the school. Street will remain open to local traffic.
 - Commercial Swimming Pool License, Country Way Condominium Association, Fecteau Circle.

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

- 744 voters participated in last week's May 14th Special Meeting election. Election results are posted on the City website.
- Fourth quarter property taxes were due May 15, 2013. The delinquency rate is 5.02%
- Dog licenses are still available in the Clerk's office.
- Charter changes recently approved by the legislature have been updated on the website.

Clerk Dawes reviewed a sidewalk use license agreement application received from BK's Computing, requesting use of the sidewalk in front of their building on North Main Street this Friday, May 24th, from 6:30 – 9:00 PM. Council approved the license agreement and authorized Manager Mackenzie to sign on behalf of the City on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Alderman Boutin. **Motion carried.**

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>
Jamie & Sara Palmisano	42 Abbott Ave.
Catherine & Brian Lane-Karnas	164 Camp St.
Thomas & Ellen Sivret	134 Elm St.

Liquor Control Board –

Council approved a Request to Cater permit application from Gusto's for roller derby events at the Civic Center BOR on June 22, July 27, August 17 and September 21 on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried with Alderman Boutin abstaining.**

Visitors & Communications –

Sue Higby, director of Studio Place Arts (SPA) told the Council about the Barre Cultural Alliance (BCA), an alliance of local arts and cultural organizations. Charter members are SPA, Aldrich Library, Old Labor Hall, Barre Opera House and Vermont History Center. Ms. Higby said the BCA is working

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together on multi-organizational events, such as Storytime in Barre, scheduled for June. The BCA goal is to be a resource to the Council.

Local Boy Scout Ben Fortman said he is attending tonight's Council meeting as part of his work towards his communications badge.

Clerk Dawes was presented with a cake and singing on behalf of her birthday.

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

C) COPS Grant Application Approval.

Chief Tim Bombardier and Councilor Herring, in his capacity as BCEMS school board chair, addressed the Council on the grant application, which is due tomorrow. The Chief said they had been exploring funding options for the school resource officer after the item did not receive voter approval at last week's Special Meeting election. The grant would provide a 50% match for a new police officer position for 3 years, with a commitment from the municipality to pay the full cost for the officer in the 4th year. The Chief said he has reached out to the school to get a commitment from them of financial support for the shared position. Mr. Herring said the grant presents an opportunity to reduce the cost for the SRO for both the City and the School. Councilor Poirier said the SRO ballot item failed twice, both in March and May, and asked when do you take the voters actions into consideration.

There was discussion about the amount of the grant, the annual costs for the City and school, the percentage split for the costs associated with the SRO, and the effect of the election results on the number of Barre City police officers. Chief Bombardier said the City's FY14 budget will allow for the position to exist until October, after which there will be no funding for the position. The Chief said results of the grant application will be known in late September or early October. Mr. Herring said the school board will discuss how to find its portion of the matching funds in their budget over the next couple of months. Councilor Smith said Council's action tonight is only to approve submitting the application for the grant, and there can be further discussion in the future about the SRO.

Councilor Poirier moved to accept the Chief's recommendation to submit the application for the COPS grant, seconded by Councilor Smith.

Councilor Chadderton said she is a member of the BCEMS school board and spoke in support of the SRO. Councilor Poirier said Councilor Chadderton should recuse herself from the vote on this issue. Mayor Lauzon said the vote is related to a City grant application and it is appropriate for Councilor Chadderton to vote on the motion. Councilor Poirier said he withdraws his request that Councilor Chadderton recuse herself. He said he will present a ballot item for the March Annual (Town) Meeting election that would preclude people from serving on both the Council and the school board.

Councilor voted on the motion. **Motion carried with Councilor Herring abstaining.**

Mayor Lauzon asked that there be a substantive discussion with the school board in August.

A) Civic Center Committee – Events Promoter/Marketing Position.

Jon Valsangiacomo (chair), Art Dessureau, Jerome Bolkum, Brad Ormsby, Karl Fortman and Rick Dente, members of the Civic Center Committee, appeared before the Council. Mr. Valsangiacomo reviewed the promoter materials previously distributed to the Council, and recommended Council fund the position for three years through the Semprebon Annuity. There was discussion about the Civic Center facilities and current use levels of the different buildings.

Councilor Poirier said he is not prepared to decide tonight. Mayor Lauzon said neither is he. There was discussion about the length of contract for a promoter, fleshing out the details for the proposal, and key performance indicators.

Mayor Lauzon said there had previously been discussions about installing a digital sign to advertise the Civic Center. The Mayor said the state will never allow such a sign.

Mr. Dessureau said the Committee has met with the large renters, all of whom are happy with the facilities and personnel. He said more income from the property will allow for additional improvements to be made.

Councilor Poirier made the motion to commit \$50,000 for a year, and the Council will consider future years upon report of the committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Herring.

There was additional discussion about funding and timelines.

Councilor Poirier amended his original motion to commit up to \$100,000, with \$50,000 in the first year. The seconder agreed with the amendment.

There was additional discussion about the process of searching for a promoter, the Council's opportunity to hear more about specific proposals before making a final decision, and the Manager helping the Committee craft the RFP for the position.

Councilor Poirier amended his amended motion to commit \$100,000 for 2 one-year contracts with an option for a 3rd year based on the recommendation of the Manager. The money is to be paid out of the Semprebou Annuity funds. The seconder agreed with the 2nd amendment.

Councilor Herring said the results of the RFP will come back to the Council for review and approval. Mayor Lauzon said he would like the Committee to report back in 2-3 months, and would like interim reports in the meantime.

Council voted on the motion as amended. **Motion carried.**

B) Pool ADA Lift update.

Recreation Director Stephanie Quaranta reviewed the ADA requirements for the municipal pool and said the City is required to install a chair lift at the pool before it can open this year. Ms. Quaranta said the low bidder on the job is Pettinelli & Associates. There was discussion about the ADA requirements, installing a ramp versus the lift and the possible need for a back-up battery for the lift.

Council authorized the purchase of the lift as recommended by Ms. Quaranta on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

D) Cemetery Paving Bid Approval.

City Engineer Reg Abare reviewed the results of the bids and recommended Council award the contract to low bidder Engineers Construction of South Burlington.

Councilor Boutin made the motion to award the contract to Engineers Construction, seconded by Councilor Herring.

Mr. Abare said the paving work would be done in June. He said he would like the Council to consider

not paving the lower exit onto Maple Avenue, and allowing the City to use that area for dumping clean waste. The area would support up to 10 years of the City's needed space for clean waste dumping, and such dumping would result in the creation of approximately 2 acres of additional burial ground in the cemetery. Mayor Lauzon said he does not want to make a decision tonight on the lower exit, as he wants the public to have an opportunity to weigh in.

Council voted on the motion as presented. **Motion carried.**

E) Authorization To Apply for DWSRF Loan for "Trestle" Water Transmission Main Project.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the history of the trestle project and funding options. The Manager said the DWSRF loan will be a 30 year note at zero percent interest.

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

F) Resolution 2013-05 Grant Acceptance Resolution Regarding City Place Brownfield Grant.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the resolution and said Council needs to approve it so the City can receive the \$200,000 grant.

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

Round Table –

Councilor Poirier said he wanted to clarify his comments on the school resource officer, and that the voters have spoken on the issue.

Councilor Herring said he agrees there is need for more discussion on the school resource officer issue. He said there are currently 353 members of Front Porch Forum, and 652 likes on Alderman Boutin's Facebook page. He said the VT Granite Museum is installing bathrooms to accommodate tourist traffic this summer, they are holding meetings to recruit additional volunteers, and upcoming events are listed on the museum's website.

Councilor Smith reiterated the information on the Granite Museum's volunteer meetings.

Alderman Boutin wished Clerk Dawes a happy birthday.

Mayor Lauzon thanked the legislature for moving forward on the TIF legislation. The Mayor said he will have a suggested TIF timeframe for Council review next week, and will be proposing a Special Meeting election for the TIF district for July or August.

City Manager's Report –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- Attended meetings on/with: Civic Center Committee, weekly conference call on the FEMA buyout grants, National Peace Keepers Memorial Day ceremonies, VT City Managers Association spring conference.
- Big Dig paving was delayed due to weather. It is hoped to be completed this week.
- The City got word it received the VT Department of Public Safety grant for a generator to be installed at BCEMS.
- The City will host a yard debris drop-off this Saturday, May 25th from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the Civic Center parking lot.

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Councilor Herring asked for a report on last weekend's Grand Prix bike races. Manager Mackenzie will invite the presenters to attend a future Council meeting.

Mayor Lauzon reminded everyone of the Memorial Day parade and ceremonies on Monday, May 27th, stepping off from the auditorium at 10:30 AM.

Council adjourned at 9:30 PM on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk

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