

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held July 17, 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 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 Carolyn Dawes.

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

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Special & Regular Meetings of July 10, 2012
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Animal License for 5 chickens, Matthew & Heather Flinn, 222 Camp Street.

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

- Tax bills went in the mail July 12th. The first quarterly payment is due by August 15th.
- The Board of Civil Authority is scheduled to meet on Thursday, July 26th at 6:00 PM to hold its organizational meeting in preparation for this year's property tax assessment appeal hearings.
- Early/absentee ballots are available for the August 28th primary election.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control Board –

Council approved a Request to Cater permit application from The Hilltop for a reception at the Vermont History Center on Thursday, July 26th from 4:30 – 8:00 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

We Dig Barre Treasure Dig Drawing. Barre Partnership executive director Dan Jones and mascot Digger invited Councilor Herring to draw last week's winner, and announced this week's clue.

Visitors and Communications – NONE

City Manager Report –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- Attended meeting with staff re. an insurance claim, a meeting with the City Place developer re. tax credits, a meeting with FEMA and the consulting engineer re. repairs to the spillway.
- Received notification from FHWA about the first round of reimbursements from the May 2011 flooding damage. Council approved acknowledgement and acceptance of \$194,780.66 due to the City of Barre, of which \$124,183.95 is being received with this acknowledgement, and the balance of \$70,596.71 will be forthcoming at a later date. Approval came on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon gave an update on City Place, and said the state is solidly on board with placement of the Department of Education and some members of the Agency of Human Services. Central Vermont Medical Center is on board with administrative space, and the Rehab Gym has given preliminary approval for space in the building. The final format of the project should be completed by August with ground breaking tentatively scheduled for November 1st and completion by the end of 2013. Tenants in the apartment buildings are being relocated by Central Vermont Community Land Trust.

New Business:

B) Semprebon Fund Committee Presentation.

Committee chair Hannah Etli distributed a list of proposals considered by the committee, which included the results of committee votes to support the project. Ms. Etli said the committee is bringing forward four projects for Council consideration:

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|-------------------------|-------------------|---|
| • Barre Opera House | \$3,000 | theater camps |
| • Bike Path | balance of estate | bike path |
| • SHS Football | \$50,000 | seed money for lights at ball field |
| • VT Historical Society | \$12,400 | presentation equipment for community room |

Mayor Lauzon said Council will gather information this evening and will deliberate and make decisions at a future Council meeting.

There were questions and discussions about the different projects, why some projects that were proposed did not get considered, and why some considered projects aren't being recommended for funding.

Committee member Tom Semprebon said the Semprebon family is pleased with the way the bequest funds have been allocated, and they would like to see the balance of the estate go to support the bike path.

There was discussion as to who voted for and against the different proposals. Councilor Chadderton asked why the proposal to replace playground equipment at BCEMS wasn't on the list of considered projects. Ms. Etli said the committee's opinion was that the project should be paid for out of the school's budget. There was discussion about the safety of the current playground, the possible use of the BCEMS long term maintenance fund and grant opportunities for the project.

There was discussion about the bike path, additional funding sources, making sure the project is completed, and long-term maintenance. Councilor Poirier said he supports giving the balance of the funds for the bike path, and will vote thusly when Council makes its decisions.

SUHSD board member Giuliano Cecchinelli spoke in support of the football field lighting project. Councilor Poirier said he would support having lights at the field. There was discussion about seeking funding from other organizations and teams that use the fields, placing the lighting on the ballot for voter approval and funding, future bonding plans for the SHS roof, and public use of the fields.

Vermont Historical Society executive director Mark Hudson spoke in support of the funding request for presentation equipment. Mr. Hudson said this year marks the 10th anniversary of the History Center in Barre, and will feature the opening of new exhibit galleries, including the Barre Heritage gallery. Mayor Lauzon asked if there are naming opportunities at the History Center, and said he would like to see a permanent display honoring Mr. Semprebon's bequest to the City.

Mayor Lauzon thanked the committee members for their service. The Mayor said the Council will deliberate and take action on the recommendations at its August 7th meeting.

E) Consideration of Big-Dig Parking Meter Amnesty Program.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed his memo on the proposed parking meter amnesty program, and recommended Council approve free meter parking in the Merchant's Row area from behind Sidewalk Village to Depot Square through the completion of the Big Dig. Council approved the Manager's recommendation on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Manager Mackenzie said the amnesty program will be in effect by the end of the week.

Other)

Mayor Lauzon asked for an update on the insurance issue for the Heritage Festival. Bob Nelson said the Barre Partnership is waiting for a quote. The Mayor said there have been discussions with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns about having the festival fall under the City's umbrella policy. He said a statement from the Council to that effect would satisfy VLCT, and will be on next week's agenda for Council action.

C) Council Authorization of FY 13 Current Expense Note (CEN).

Clerk Dawes said the CEN will provide funding for repairs related to the May 2011 flooding until the City receives reimbursement. Council approved resolution #2012-06 authorizing the note on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

A) TIF District Consulting Services.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the history of the Barre City TIF district, and said the next step is to apply to VEPC for designation. Barre Area Development Corporation executive director Darren Winham said the consultant being proposed to write the application has written three successful applications in the past. Mayor Lauzon said his proposal is for the \$30,000 funding for the consultant and the application fee to come from the funds being repaid to the Semprebon Fund by the City Place developer. After a brief discussion, Council agreed to place the item on next week's agenda for action. Mr. Winham will arrange for the consultant to give a presentation to Council at next week's meeting.

Old Business:

A) Hope Cemetery Infrastructure Upgrade – Final Budget.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed his matrix for the infrastructure upgrades and said Council has already selected its preferred options for paving and utility work. Mayor Lauzon said he would like to see granite posts used to anchor the water spigots. There was discussion about restoring, relocating and/or replacing the fountain, and Council requested that a scope of work be developed and proposals be solicited.

Council approved appropriating \$400,000 from the Semprebon Fund for the infrastructure work at Hope Cemetery as outlined in column B of the Manager's matrix, and to include granite posts, on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Poirier. **Motion carried.**

Council agreed to withhold approval of funds for the fountain until additional data is available. Randy Edmunds said there may be restrictions on the current fountain. Mayor Lauzon said he will research any restrictions. Mr. Edmunds asked who will be the keeper of the gates for the infrastructure project. He said it shouldn't be Cemetery Director Dwight Coffrin. Mayor Lauzon ruled Mr. Edmunds out of order. Mr. Edmunds continued to speak, and the Mayor ordered him removed from the meeting. Mr. Edmunds left.

B) Public Safety Committee Updates:

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

No reports.

New Business:

D) Post Big-Dig: Permanent Traffic Changes – For Discussion Only.

Mayor Lauzon requested that Manager Mackenzie's memo be posted on the City website and the item be placed on next week's agenda for discussion. The Mayor also asked that a copy of the memo be forwarded to Fred Ford, chair of the Barre City Transportation Advisory Committee.

To be approved at 07-24-12 Barre City Council Meeting

Round Table –

Councilor Herring said Front Porch Forum is up and running with 70 members already signed up. He will give a more detailed presentation in August.

Mayor Lauzon said it's time to gear up for the Heritage Festival, which is next weekend. The Mayor said he will not tolerate one City employee bad mouthing another.

Council went into executive session at 9:43 PM to discuss litigation on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Council came out of executive session at 10:10 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 10:10 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk