

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held August 27, 2012**

The Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order at 5:45 PM by Mayor Thomas Lauzon at the Barre City Water Treatment Plant in Orange, Vermont. In attendance were: From Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; from Ward III, Councilor Lucas Herring. Also in attendance was City Manager Steven Mackenzie.

Council toured the water treatment plant with Steve Micheli, Assistant Director of Public Works.

Mayor Lauzon recessed the meeting at to allow Council to travel back to City Hall for the remainder of the meeting.

The Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called back 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 City Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk Carolyn Dawes.

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

**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 meetings:
  - Regular Meeting of August 21, 2012
  - Special Meeting of August 23, 2012
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office: NONE

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

- The polls will be open for tomorrow's primary election at the Auditorium from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM.

**Approval of Building Permits** – NONE

**Liquor Control Board** – NONE

**Visitors and Communications** – NONE

**City Manager Report** – Manager Mackenzie reported on the following activities over the past two weeks:

- Attended meetings with/about:
  - FEMA re. Hilltop Avenue HMGP buy-out program
  - Labor attorney to review tentative union agreement with DPW, and prepare for firefighter union contract negotiations
  - FEMA and others involved in bids for the spillway repairs, to maximize reimbursement
  - Tax stabilization and TIF district meetings
  - Barre Partnership and VLCT re. insurance for Partnership events
- The state archeologist has invited Council to attend an open house for the state archeology center opening at the Vermont History Center. The open house is September 13<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 – 6:00 PM.
- Pike should be starting on the final street paving in the near future. This year's streets are on schedule to be finished before the end of the season.

To be approved at 09-04-12 Barre City Council Meeting

Manager Mackenzie said discussions about the City Hall improvement plans include the removal of the handicap ramp on the front of the building. The rear entrance provides the necessary accessible entrance. Councilor Poirier asked for more information about removing the ramp. The Manager said the plans will be presented to Council in the near future, and Council will give the final approval. Councilor Poirier said he would like to hear from the ADA Committee.

Mayor Lauzon asked for an update on the North Main Street Reconstruction Project. Manager Mackenzie said substantial completion is expected by mid-November. Base coat paving on the southern end of the project should begin in the next few weeks. The street lights installed on the north end of the project should be activated by the end of this week. Mayor Lauzon said he would like to meet with the contractor to talk about storm water routing. The Mayor said he continues to have questions about what was said to building owners, and what work was done. The Mayor asked that a NMSRP update be included weekly on the Council agenda.

#### **Old Business –**

##### **A) Annual Appointments.**

Mayor Lauzon asked that this item be held over to next week.

##### **B) Public Safety Committee Updates:**

- **Fire Department –NONE**
- **Police Department – NONE**

#### **New Business –**

##### **A) Second Reading and Public Hearing: Ordinance #2013-01 City Hall Park & Usage – Warned for 7:15 PM.**

Mayor Lauzon opened the public hearing at 7:25 PM and invited comments. The Mayor reviewed the proposed language. Manager Mackenzie suggested changing the opening hour for City parks from 5:00 AM to 6:00 AM, and changing the closing hour from 10:00 PM to 9:00 PM. The Manager also suggested adding Tarquinio Park, Lincoln School recreation field, Bailey recreation field and North Barre skating rink to the list of parks and recreation facilities covered by the ordinance. Councilor Boutin said he will vote against the ordinance revisions because of the inclusion of the smoking ban.

Mayor Lauzon asked if the ordinance should include a list of parks and recreation facilities or a definition of the types of area covered. There was discussion about other City-owned areas that might be listed, including the cow pasture, Canales Woods, dog park and bike path.

Ellen Sivret, member of the Matthewson Playground Committee, said the committee recommends that the hours of operation for playgrounds be set at 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM. Facilities Director Jeff Bergeron agreed with those hours.

Councilor Herring made the motion to set the public park hours at 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM and the playground hours at 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM, and to add the four parcels recommended by the Manager to the list. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried, with Councilors Boutin and Chadderton voting against.**

##### **B) First Reading and Public Hearing: Resolution #2012-11 Proposed Tax Increment Financing District (TIF) – Warned for 7:25 PM.**

Mayor Lauzon opened the public hearing at 7:38 PM. Stephanie Hainley of White & Burke reviewed the history of the Barre City TIF application. Ms. Hainley said once the resolution is approved by the Council, the application will be submitted to the Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC) for review. Mayor Lauzon said the next step would be for the voters to approve a debt ceiling amount. The Mayor said bonding for individual projects would also require voter approval.

Resident Phil Partridge asked if the TIF district program would make loans for development in the City. Mayor

Lauzon said no, the City would make public infrastructure investments which would support private development. The incremental tax revenue generated by private development would cover the costs associated with the bonding for the infrastructure improvements.

There was discussion about bonding and other possible sources of funding for infrastructure improvements, Burlington's TIF district and its voter-approved debt ceiling and the total amount spent for infrastructure improvements through Burlington's TIF district plan. Mayor Lauzon said the proposed infrastructure improvements in Barre City total approximately \$10 million and the Council could choose to phase the votes on the debt ceiling. The Mayor said the earliest date for the debt ceiling vote is the November election, and there would be a number of forums and meetings in advance of the debt ceiling vote to inform the public on the issue.

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

**C) Duffy Road Easement Authorization with Larry Bennett, 30 Maplewood Ave.**

Council approved the contents of Manager Mackenzie's memo on the Duffy Road easement, and voted to allow the Manager to execute the agreement after it is drafted to his satisfaction, and to the satisfaction of the City attorney, on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

**D) Dominic Etli Resolution.**

Mayor Lauzon asked that this item be placed on next week's agenda.

**F) Warning Ward I Caucus to Fill City Council Vacancy.**

Council warned the Ward I caucus for Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at Alumni Hall on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

**H) Nelson Street Hydro Project Easement Approval.**

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the draft easement with the Damores, the abutting property owners, and said there will be no long term cost to the City. The Mayor said the easement calls for \$1,000 of in-kind compensation and \$3,000 of cash compensation to the Damores.

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

Councilor Smith asked for an update on the Nelson Street hydro project. Mayor Lauzon said it will be put in the agenda for two weeks from now.

**I) Appointment of Manager as Voting Delegate to the VLCT Annual Business Meeting.**

Council approved Manager Mackenzie as the Barre City voting delegate on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

**E) Front Porch Forum Update.**

Councilor Herring gave an update on the City Front Porch Forum website and listings, and described how to navigate through the email notices that are sent out by FPF. Mayor Lauzon suggested Councilor Herring talk with VideoVision about taping a Front Porch Forum tutorial to run on channel 7.

**G) Council Consideration of Refund and Small Credit Balance Policy.**

Clerk Dawes reviewed the proposed policy. Mayor Lauzon said he would like to see water/sewer overpayments applied as a credit to the next quarter. The Mayor also suggested increasing the refund limit amount to \$20 or \$25 from the Clerk's recommended \$10. The Clerk said she will look into applying credits to water/sewer payments and report back to the Council.

**Round Table –**

Councilor Smith reminded everybody of tomorrow's primary election. He also reminded people of the Vermont Historical Society's "flash mob" event in City Hall Park this coming Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. VHS is re-creating an historic photo on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Theodore Roosevelt's visit to Barre in 1912.

Councilor Boutin asked Manager Mackenzie to contact the state about the traffic light at the Berlin Street/Route 62 intersection, and asked if it's possible to remove the "no right on red" sign that prohibits turns from Berlin Street onto Route 62 heading towards the hospital.

Councilor Chadderton reminded everyone that school starts tomorrow and people should drive carefully.

Mayor Lauzon reminded people to vote at the primary election tomorrow. The Mayor reminded people that tomorrow is the 1 year anniversary of Tropical Storm Irene, and there will be commemorative activities in Randolph tomorrow afternoon.

Council went into executive session at 9:00 PM to discuss legal, labor negotiations and personnel issues on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.** Manager Mackenzie was invited into the executive session.

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

Council adjourned at 9:23 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, 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