

**Special Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held September 11, 2012**

The Special Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order at 5:25 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.

Council went into executive session at 5:15 PM to discuss pending litigation on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.** Manager Mackenzie, City Attorney Oliver Twombly, Chief Tim Bombardier, Constance Pell, Jim Carroll and Terri McAdams were invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 6:35 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

The special meeting of the Barre City Council adjourned at 6:35 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held September 11, 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 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.

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

- Minutes of the following meeting:
 - Regular Meeting of September 4, 2012
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2012 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Entertainment License for mixed martial arts event at Civic Center Auditorium on Saturday, September 15, 2012 from 5:30 – 10:30 PM, with conditions as recommended by Chief Bombardier.

We Dig Barre Treasure Dig Drawing. Barre Partnership executive director Dan Jones and mascot Digger invited Councilor Poirier to draw last week's winner, and announced this week's clue. Mr. Jones said there will be two more drawings this year.

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

- Voted ballots from the August 28, 2012 primary were transported by Mayor Lauzon and Councilor Smith to the Washington County courthouse for the Progressive Party gubernatorial candidate re-count, which is scheduled for Thursday, September 13th.
- There are three properties scheduled for tax sale on September 13th.
- The Board of Civil Authority is scheduled to hold tax appeal hearings on September 20th.
- The registered voters from Ward I are invited to attend a ward caucus on Thursday, September 27th at 7:00 PM at Alumni Hall to fill a council seat vacancy until the March Annual (Town) Meeting.
- The Clerk's office is accepting requests for early/absentee ballots for the November general election. The ballots will be available by September 21st.

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Location</u>
CV Community Land Trust	5 Giudici Street
David Green/Criterion Corp.	319 Prospect Street
Peter & Katrina Pelkey	20 Country Way

Liquor Control Board – NONE

Visitors and Communications –

Patty Meriam, chair of the Vermont Granite Museum board, told the Council the VGM will host a public forum on Thursday, October 11th from 7:00 – 9:00 PM at the museum. At the forum, a five year plan will be presented, and the public will be invited to offer input and feedback. Ms. Meriam said part of the plan is to get artists working in the museum. She said the museum had been working with a local artist who will be carving a public display piece being funded through the Semprebon Fund. Ms. Meriam said there were concerns that the local artist will not be working at the museum, and Ms. Meriam said it was due to the high cost of heating the space through the winter months. Ms. Meriam said the museum had been working on ways to fund the cost of heating, however, the artist found a different location that better suited her needs. Ms. Meriam said the museum is committed to working with artists and finding ways to have public use of the museum space. She said Councilors Herring and Smith have joined the VGM board and are serving as liaisons with the City. She said the museum will be open on Fridays and Saturdays over the next several weeks, and they are looking for volunteers to help staff the building.

Councilor Poirier said he had heard there is an ongoing issue with perceived competition between the stone arts school and local granite manufactures, who are concerned about the school teaching trade secrets. Ms. Meriam said the board is working to re-open the school while still honoring the legacy of Barre artistry.

With regards to the Semprebon-funded sculptures, Mayor Lauzon said it would like to see a strong preference for selection be given to artists who will work at VGM or be willing to open their studios to the public one day a week.

Old Business –

A) Public Safety Committee Updates:

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

New Business –

A) Resolution #2012-DWSRF Municipal Loan Application/Final Design & Construction.

Manager Mackenzie said the resolution is in support of the Nelson Street Hydro Project. Council adopted resolution #2012-03 on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon said the Nelson Street hydro project will have a 13 year payback period.

B) Nelson Street Hydro Project Update.

Manager Mackenzie gave a status update and reviewed the project timeline. The timeline calls for project completion by July 2013.

D) Award of Sidewalk Reconstruction Bid.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed a memo from City Engineer Reg Abare, recommending that the bid be awarded to low bidder Hutch Concrete. Council awarded the bid to Hutch Concrete on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

C) Big Dig Services Inventory.

Mayor Lauzon said he had some questions about service replacements to buildings along the North Main Street Reconstruction Project. Manager Mackenzie reviewed the inventory list, which outlined all the connections made along the construction route. There was discussion about project designs, condition of cast iron piping and trenchless technology. City Engineer Reg Abare participated in the discussion. Mayor Lauzon said the City is getting what it paid for.

Councilor Boutin asked Mr. Abare about the “no right on red” sign on Berlin Street turning onto Route 62. Mr. Abare said that intersection is controlled by federal regulations, and the City has attempted to have the sign removed in the past. There was discussion about the number of lanes at that intersection and the sensors for the traffic signals. Mr. Abare said he will look into the situation.

Councilor Smith thanked Mr. Abare for repairs to the railroad crossings. Mr. Abare said VTRANS was responsible for those repairs. There was discussion about signaling for the railroad crossing at the end of Route 62. Manager Mackenzie said conduit has been run to allow for the installation of signaling in the future, but there are no plans for it at the moment.

E) Ratification of DPW Union Contract.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed highlights of the contract. Council approved ratification on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried, with Councilor Chadderton not voting as she was out of the room.**

City Manager Report – Manager Mackenzie gave a brief update on the North Main Street Reconstruction Project. The Manager said the contractor is installing lights, trees, sidewalks and shrubs on the north end of the project. They hope to have the lights operational by Friday. Paving on the south end of the project will begin later this week. The Manager said the Council will tour the Civic Center next week before the Council meeting. The tour will begin at 5:45 PM. The street paving contractor will begin paving the balance of the City streets on this year’s schedule later this week.

Round Table –

Councilor Herring asked for an update from the group of Spaulding High School students who addressed the Council in the spring. Mayor Lauzon said he will follow up with the students via email.

Councilor Smith asked for Council to review its priority lists.

Council adjourned at 8:40 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