

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held August 13, 2013**

The Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomas Lauzon at 7:00 PM at Barre City Hall. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilors Charles Dindo and 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 Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meeting:
 - Regular Meeting of August 6, 2013.
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2013 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
- Entertainment license for Faith Community Church to offer concerts in Currier Park & City Hall Park in the early afternoons and early evenings, August 18, 19, 20, 22.

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

- First quarter property tax payments are due by August 15th.
- The BCA will hold its assessment appeal hearings on Thursday, August 15th.
- Eight properties are scheduled for tax sale on September 18th.

Clerk Dawes said she received a parade permit request from the Vermont Association of the Blind, requesting a permit for Tuesday, October 15th, to observe White Cane Awareness Day. The Clerk said the group's intention is to gather at City Hall and make several crossings on crosswalks around City Hall Park. There is no intention to disrupt traffic or other pedestrians. Mayor Lauzon said the Council has no jurisdiction over such a gathering and there is no need for a parade permit.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control Board – NONE

City Manager's Report –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- Attended several meetings of the Vermont Downtown Action Team last week.
- Met with representatives from VTRANS and Washington County Railroad to discuss ways to finalize land swaps necessary to facilitate the Merchants Row redevelopment project, and to realign the bike path through the former rail yard.
- Senator Leahy is meeting with City representatives tomorrow to be updated on what's happening in Barre.
- Quarry Street intersection has been paved. A meeting is set for August 29th between abutting neighbors and VTRANS.

Visitors & Communications –

Councilor Dindo passed around photos of recent damage done in the Cow Pasture by all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). Manager Mackenzie said there's been no damage to the work accomplished to date through the use of Semprebond Funds. The Manager said there are signs that prohibit ATVs during the early spring months, but we have had a wet summer this year, which has allowed for damage. The Youth Conservation Corps recently completed cutting a new trail up Killer Hill and there is no damage to that

project. The Cow Pasture committee may come to Council and request additional protections for the area. There was discussion about closing the Cow Pasture to ATV traffic and holding a hearing on use of the area. Mayor Lauzon asked Councilor Dindo to prepare a report for discussion at the August 27th Council meeting.

Mayor Lauzon read a letter from Dave Maunsell, recommending the City not charge for parking, but ask the public to make voluntary contributions into the parking meters. The Mayor asked if Council was interested in considering Mr. Maunsell's recommendation. Councilor Chadderton said she would like to hear feedback from the citizens. No other Councilor spoke in favor of consideration and the matter died.

Old Business –

A) Council Approval of the Delinquent Dog List and Warrant to First Constable.

Council approved the list and warrant as presented on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

New Business –

A) Inspection Program/Trash Ordinance FY13 Update.

Representatives from the City's Inspection Program attended the meeting; Chief Bombardier, Deputy Chief Joe Aldsworth, Captain Matt Cetin, Inspector Robbie Strachan, and Zoning Administrator Janet Shatney. Cpt. Cetin reviewed the program's accomplishments for FY13, including findings, numbers of inspections, violations cited and violations cleared. Approximately 30% of all rental properties were inspected during the fiscal year. Capt. Cetin said they are working their way through the rental properties alphabetically by street name.

There was discussion about rental unit information received from landlords, issues with over-capacity at some venues, working closely with property owners, and taking repeat violators to court.

Capt. Cetin presented a draft rewrite of the City's housing ordinances contained in chapter 7. He said the intent is to meet and discuss the proposed changes with the landlords association and bring it to Council for a first reading at the August 27th meeting.

B) Parking Meter Tokens/Contest.

Mayor Lauzon said this discussion will be deferred to next week's meeting.

Round Table –

Councilor Poirier said there is grass growing through the pavement in Matthewson Playground. Manager Mackenzie said he will have it looked into.

Councilor Herring said he is pulling together a 15 person Barre City team to compete in the fire truck pull in Burlington on September 28th to benefit Outright VT.

Councilor Smith said there is one more week of the Authors at the Aldrich and two more weeks of the Concerts in Currier Park. The Farmers Markets continue through September.

Councilor Dindo said Mayor Lauzon was a good sport in the dunking booth during the Heritage Festival, and he passed around photos of the Council's bathtub race team, which won the event.

Councilor Chadderton suggested that if parking meter tokens aren't a viable option, merchants could hand out tickets that could be placed on windows to allow free parking.

Mayor Lauzon said after an every-other-week schedule through the summer, the Council will now

To be approved at 08-20-13 Barre City Council Meeting

continue on its usual weekly schedule. The Mayor said he had a great time participating in last weekend's Enduro race in Thunder Road.

Council went into executive session at 8:35 PM to discuss legal issues on motion of Alderman Boutin, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Manager Mackenzie was invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 8:45 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Council adjourned at 8:45 PM on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Herring. **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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