

**Special Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held September 17, 2013**

The Special Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomas Lauzon at 6:05 PM at Barre City Hall. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilors Charles Dindo and Paul Poirier (arrived 6:40 PM); from Ward II, Councilors Chadderton and Herring; and from Ward II, Alderman Michael Boutin (arrived 6:20 PM). Also in attendance were City Manager Steve Mackenzie, labor attorney Scott Cameron, Randy Edmunds, Dwight Coffrin, Jim Brown and Michael Blair.

Council went into executive session at 6:06 PM to discuss personnel issues on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Manager Mackenzie, Mr. Cameron, Mr. Edmunds, Mr. Coffrin, Mr. Blair and Mr. Brown were invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 7:00 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon adjourned the special meeting of the Barre City Council. There is no audio recording of the special meeting.

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held September 17, 2013**

The Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomas Lauzon at 7:10 PM at Barre City Hall. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilors Charles Dindo and Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Councilors Chadderton and Herring; and from Ward II, Alderman Michael Boutin and Councilor Michael Smith. Also in attendance were City Manager Steve Mackenzie and City Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Special and Regular Meetings of September 10, 2013.
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2013 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Entertainment License, Faith Community Church, concerts in City Hall and Currier Parks, September 28th & 29th.

Councilor Dindo moved approval of the consent agenda, seconded by Alderman Boutin. Clerk Dawes said the Faith Community Church has requested waiver of the application fee for its entertainment license. There was discussion on the use of public property by religious groups, and waiver of license application fees for religious groups. The mover and seconder withdrew their motion.

Council approved the minutes and warrants in the consent agenda on motion of Alderman Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Council approved the entertainment license application on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Alderman Boutin. **Motion carried with Councilor Poirier voting against.**

Councilor Chadderton moved to waive the entertainment license application fee. The motion died for lack of a second.

The City Clerk and Treasurer Report – Clerk Dawes reported on the following:

- Water bills were mailed out the end of August and are due by September 30th.
- Two properties are scheduled for tax sale on September 18th.

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Location</u>
Elizabeth Hunt	49 Wellington St.
Debra Sue Deforge et al	19 Vine St.
Claude Metivier	7 Westwood Pky.
Frank & Kay O’Neil	3 Cleveland Ave.

Liquor Control Board – Council approved a request to cater permit for the Hilltop Restaurant to cater a reception for People’s Health & Wellness Clinic for Saturday, October 5th at the Old Labor Hall from 5-11 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried with Alderman Boutin abstaining.**

City Manager’s Report – Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- The Manager will be out of the office most of next week attending conferences in Boston.
- The deadline is this Friday for those wanting to submit letters of interest to serve on the Cow Pasture Stewardship Committee.

Mayor Lauzon asked for an update on the traffic signal issues. Manager Mackenzie said work is ongoing.

Councilor Poirier asked if the additional flag poles planned for City Hall Park will be installed this fall. Manager Mackenzie said yes, they will.

Visitors & Communications –

Resident Connie Godin asked that the agenda published in the newspaper include a list of items to be considered under the consent agenda. Mayor Lauzon said the license and permit applications included in the consent agenda are frequently received after the publication deadline for the agenda. The Mayor said the Clerk will read off the list of applications at future Council meetings.

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

A) Cemetery Committee Appointments.

Manager Mackenzie said long-time Cemetery Commission member Herb Jorgensen has submitted his letter of resignation. The Council accepted Mr. Jorgensen’s resignation with regrets and appreciation on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Alderman Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon said he will prepare a resolution honoring Mr. Jorgensen’s years of service to the City.

Council interviewed prospective cemetery committee appointee Connie Godin. Council appointed Ms. Godin to the committee on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council interviewed prospective cemetery committee appointee Real Maurice. Council appointed Mr. Maurice to the committee on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

B) Announcement of “Community Safety Series”.

Greater Barre Community Justice Center executive director Lori Baker said October is Crime Prevention Month, and said the center and other partners will be offering a weekly series of safety workshops throughout the month, funded through a grant from National Life.

Mayor Lauzon asked Ms. Baker if the center could hold a public forum on racial discrimination. Ms. Baker said yes. The Mayor said he will contact her to discuss holding a forum to make the community more safe, welcoming and aware.

C) Discussion: Accepting Credit Card Payments for Taxes.

Clerk Dawes reviewed her memo on accepting credit cards and said it is her intention to contract with Xpress-Pay for credit card services. There was discussion about future expansion to allow payment of other City fees, convenience charges to card holders, and clearly-marking access to the Xpress-Pay’s payment portal on the City website.

D) Set Date for TIF District Vote.

Mayor Lauzon said the City will vote on the first TIF District projects on November 5th, and Council will approve the warrant for that election at the October 1st meeting. The Mayor said the first projects will include property acquisition for public parking areas. He said the Barre Senior Center board has voted to join the proposed Summer Street Center project. Ms. Godin asked about the current home of the Senior Center in the Wheelock building. Mayor Lauzon said the City owns that building and any future use will involve preservation and restoration.

E) Review of VLCT Municipal Policy Legislative Guidance.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the documents and said he had no disagreements with the proposed policy. The Mayor said he would like to know what the priorities are. He encouraged the Manager, as the City’s representative to the VLCT Town Meeting, to vote affirmatively on the policy. Council concurred.

Other) Bike Path Committee FaceBook Page.

Mayor Lauzon called attention to memos from bike path committee chair Pat McDonald and the Manager, requesting Council authorization to create a FaceBook page for the committee. There was discussion about including other central Vermont bike path committees, the City’s social media policy and monitoring content.

Council approved the creation of the Bike Path FaceBook page and accepted the Manager’s recommendation that Ms. McDonald monitor content on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Round Table –

Councilor Poirier said he is presenting a forum on the Health Care Exchange which goes into effect on October 1st. The forum will be at the Elks Club on Wednesday, October 2nd from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. There will be representatives from the state there to answer all questions.

Councilor Herring recommended changing the layout of the agenda to fit it all on one page.

Alderman Boutin reminded people of the SPA fundraiser, which will include chicken sh*t bingo, on Saturday, September 28th.

Councilor Dindo said there was a neighborhood rally regarding the Quarry Street project, and neighbors are voting on fencing and/or planting options to help control noise. Manager Mackenzie said the state has

been very receptive to the idea of adding fencing/plantings, but there is no guarantee that the neighbors' requests can be accommodated.

Mayor Lauzon said there will be a benefit concert at the Civic Center Auditorium on October 26th. The concert will feature former members from the bands Boston and Steely Dan, among others, and will benefit the Civic Center.

Councilor Herring said there have been no responses from City staffers to participate in the fire truck pull in Burlington on September 28th, so the City will not be mounting a team.

Council went into executive session at 8:44 PM to deliberate testimony given during the grievance hearing held at the earlier executive session on motion of Alderman Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Councilor Smith left the meeting at this time, as he had not been present during the earlier executive session.

City Manager Mackenzie was invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 9:10 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Councilor Herring made the motion to uphold the Union Grievance, seconded by Councilor Poirier. **Motion failed, with Mayor Lauzon and Councilors Herring and Poirier voting in favor, and Alderman Boutin and Councilors Chadderton and Dindo voting against.**

Council adjourned at 9:13 PM on motion of Alderman Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk