

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held October 1, 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, Councilors Chadderton and Herring; and from Ward II, Alderman Michael Boutin and Councilor Michael Smith. Also in attendance were City Manager Steven Mackenzie and City Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

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

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular Meeting of September 24, 2013.
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2013 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office: NONE

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

- The office is completing the process necessary to begin accepting credit cards for payment of property taxes.
- Washington County Probate Court has named the City of Barre as the successor trustee for the Brusa Trust. The accounts are being moved to the City, and the Clerk will report balance and investment information to the Council in the near future.
- Loomis Armored Transport is scheduled for the first meter coin pick-up this Friday.
- October 15th is the deadline to file homestead rebate paperwork with the state.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control Board – NONE

Mayor Lauzon said the City currently charges a fee for an electrical permit required for the installation or replacement of a smoke detector. The Mayor said the next time Council reviews the fee schedule, he will recommend removing that fee.

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

- The City received a health insurance quote that represents a 13.3% blended increase for calendar year 2014. This is lower than had been budgeted for. Two additional quotes are expected.
- Will brief the Council on the personnel review process in three weeks, including the schedule for implementation.
- Work is moving ahead on the overall management review, and is expected to be completed by mid-November.
- The City received the COPS grant which will provide funding support for the School Resource Officer position. Chief Bombardier will be at the meeting in two weeks to discuss the distribution of the funds between the City and BCEMS. The Chief will also give an update on the funding for the community outreach specialist position.
- Meeting weekly with the Budget & Finance Committee. Will be reporting on the FY14 capital & streets budget next week.
- The municipal pool was broken into and vandalized.
- The new flag poles in City Hall Park will be installed by the end of next week.
- Emergency roofing repairs are being made to the Opera House.
- Repairs to the bike path are nearly complete.

- Upcoming events include the 10/5 Taste of Home Show at the auditorium, 10/9 Culture Crawl around downtown cultural facilities, and 10/15 ADA Committee crosswalk safety event.

Councilor Herring asked for a status update on the IT RFP's. Mayor Lauzon requested that they be posted. Once responses are received by the committee, they are to be forwarded to Manager Mackenzie, and then come to the Council two weeks after that.

Visitors & Communications –

Hill Street resident Betty Armstrong said she's been told by her realtor that she cannot sell her house due to the noisy neighbors. Ms. Armstrong requested more police patrols along Hill Street and Hilltop Avenue. Mayor Lauzon said he would like the Transportation Advisory Committee to consider banning on-street parking on both sides of lower Hill Street. The Mayor said he will be in touch with the Community Justice Center and ask them to mediate a neighborhood meeting. Councilor Poirier requested to be kept in the loop and invited to join any visits or meetings.

Barre Rotarian Roy Somaini said the Rotary Club is excited by the development in the downtown. The Club is inviting business owners to speak at its weekly meetings, which recently moved to the Quarry Grill & Tavern. Mr. Somaini invited the public to attend the Rotary meetings, and said the schedule of speakers can be found on the club's website.

Mayor Lauzon said VTRANS is taking issue with some of the banners along North Main Street because they block road signs. The Mayor said he has been meeting with VTRANS to address the issue. The City is interested in hanging holiday banners sponsored by local businesses and people, but VTRANS is saying any sponsorship language on the banners would be considered advertising, which is a violation of state sign laws. Councilor Poirier said he and Representative Taylor would be willing to help discuss the issue with VTRANS.

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

A) Update on Granite City Grocery.

Emily Kaminsky updated the Council on GCG progress. Ms. Kaminsky said there are currently 330 owners with another 300 pledged owners. They have commissioned a market study to work on site selection. They are committed to a downtown site that is walkable, has parking and visibility. The first board elections will be in mid-November at the first annual meeting. On October 22nd, there will be a free soup & bread dinner at the Labor Hall, followed by a moving screening and discussion on hunger.

B) Update on Aldrich Public Library.

Library board chair Nancy Pope thanked the Council its their ongoing support. Director Karen Lane gave an update on activities at the library and said 631 free lunches were served this summer. Aldrich Library is the first public library in the state to offer free lunches. Young Adult and Social Media Librarian Sara Kosta reported on teen programs and said the library is forming a teen advisory council. Ms. Lane said the library will be hosting a health exchange navigator several hours/week, available to answer people's questions and help them sign up for the exchange. CCV intern Amber Bothfeld said she is working with patrons on computer skills, helping people fill out forms on-line and find jobs. Mayor Lauzon thanked the library staff and volunteers for their service and commitment to the community.

C) Cow Pasture Stewardship Committee Appointments.

Councilor Dindo invited those interested in being appointed to introduce themselves and say why they're interested in serving on the committee. The following people spoke: Alexandra Pastor, Martha Englert, Mike Zimmerman, Renee Proteau, Chris Russo-Fraysier, Nathan Reigner, and Mike Perrigo.

Council appointed all those who spoke on motion of Councilor Dindo, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon reminded the committee that Council recently banned motorized vehicles in the Cow Pasture. The Mayor said we're moving towards winter and snowmobile season, and he would like the committee to take a balanced approach to use of the pasture so that a variety of users can co-exist.

E) Approval of Real Estate Purchase/Option Agreements.

Mayor Lauzon said the initial discussions of the purchase/option agreements will be held in executive session. The Mayor said he and Councilor Poirier are conflicted out of the discussion and any decisions due to conflicts of interest. Acting Mayor Smith assumed the chair. Mayor Lauzon and Councilor Poirier left the Council chambers. Council went into executive session at 8:35 PM to discuss real estate issues on motion of Alderman Boutin, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Manager Mackenzie, Clerk Dawes, Eileen Peltier, Martha Englert and Michael Miller were invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 9:12 PM on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Council approved entering into options to purchase 12-30 Keith Avenue and 35 Keith Avenue on motion of Alderman Boutin, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried, with Mayor Lauzon and Councilor Poirier abstaining due to conflicts of interest.**

Mayor Lauzon resumed chairing the meeting.

Mayor Lauzon said the City is interested in acquiring 1 Campbell Place through use of TIF funds to develop additional surface parking. The Mayor said the City and seller Trono Fuels have settled on a price of \$130,000. Contingencies included in the purchase and sales agreement include successful passage of the TIF vote scheduled for November 5th and subsequent ratification by the Council. He said there is a tenant in 1/2 of the building and the City has agreed to accept the building with the tenant. The Mayor said the City could offer the space for emergency housing for homeless families through the Good Samaritan Shelter or other service agencies. The P&S agreement calls for a \$5,000 deposit.

Council authorized the Manager to sign the Purchase & Sales Agreement with Trono Fuels for 1 Campbell Place for \$130,000, contingent upon a successful TIF vote and Council ratification, and authorized payment of the \$5,000 deposit on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

D) Approve the Warning for the November 5th TIF District Vote.

City Planner Michael Miller reviewed the proposed budget for the Downtown Parking Enhancement Project, the estimated number of parking spaces and cost per parking space developed. Mayor Lauzon said the project will be self-funding through the TIF district and development of Summer Street Center. Council reviewed the proposed warning language.

Councilor Poirier made the motion to approve the warning, seconded by Councilor Herring. Councilor Herring suggested a small change in wording, which was approved by the mover and seconder.

Council approved the warning for the November 5, 2013 TIF District vote as amended. **Motion carried.**

Round Table –

Councilor Poirier said his forum on VT Health Connect has been rescheduled to October 17th at the Elks Club.

Councilor Herring said he attended the public safety regionalization meeting and was impressed with the progress that's been made. He said Front Porch Forum is now in more than 10% of Barre City households. He said he spoke to one of the token contest winners, who hasn't received anything yet from the City. Clerk Dawes said she will follow up.

Alderman Boutin said he attended Saturday's SPA benefit which featured chicken sh*t bingo. He said he was in a chicken costume.

Councilor Dindo said the fire department responded to a call to his house last Saturday and found a fire in the hot water heater. He credited the department with saving his home and thanked the firefighters.

Councilor Chadderton asked when the roads in her neighborhood will be paved. Manager Mackenzie said the paving bids are being opened tomorrow and he will be coming to Council next week with the results.

Mayor Lauzon said he is disappointed with those serving in Washington DC as the government shut-down went into effect today.

Council adjourned at 9:57 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk