

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held October 15, 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, Councilor Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Councilors Chadderton and Herring; and from Ward III, 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 Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular Meeting of October 8, 2013.
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2013 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Parade Permit, Veteran's Day Parade, November 11th, mustering at auditorium at 10AM, stepping off at 10:30AM, ceremonies at Youth Triumphant at 11AM. Use of auditorium in case of inclement weather.

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

- The Brusa Trust accounts have been transferred into the City's name. The Clerk will prepare a report for the Council in the near future.
- The drop box has been installed on City Hall and is available to receive payments outside normal office hours.
- The ability to accept credit cards for property tax payments is nearing completion. The Clerk will go through training and then the link will go live on the City website.
- The Secretary of State will hold a Transparency Tour stop in Barre City on November 14th. The Clerk encouraged anyone serving on a board or committee to attend this discussion on holding open meetings.

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Allen Yantz	42 Beckley St.

Liquor Control Board –

Council approved a request to cater permit for The Hilltop Restaurant to cater a Democratic Party reception at the Old Labor Hall on Friday, October 18th from 6:00 – 10:00 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried with Alderman Boutin abstaining.**

City Manager's Report – Manager Mackenzie announced the following:

- The City of Barre has made arrangements with the Town of Barre to allow City residents to use the Town yard waste drop-off site over the next 2 ½ weekends. The information is posted on the City website, on Front Porch Forum and will run several days in the Times Argus.
- The Manager reminded everyone of the Legends of Rock concert at the auditorium on October 26th. The concert benefits the Civic Center.

Mayor Lauzon said he is presenting a mayoral proclamation naming tomorrow as Recovery Day in Barre City. The Mayor said the naming coincides with tomorrow evening's Opera House screening of the film "The Hungry Heart", which addresses the issue of recovery.

Visitors & Communications – NONE

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

A) Update on the Community Outreach Position.

Chief Tim Bombardier and Community Outreach specialist Emma Moreau updated the Council on recent activities. Ms. Moreau said she is working with 12-18 active clients on any given day. The Chief said he received word last week that the Department of Corrections is providing \$100,000 of funding to allow the program to continue for another year, and the City has also applied for a federal grant to help expand the program.

There was discussion about opportunities for mini-grants, the lowered recidivism rate, partnerships with Washington County Mental Health, support from the Department of Justice, and possibilities for Council members to shadow Ms. Moreau. Chief Bombardier said more than 80 people have been impacted to date. Ms. Moreau talked about helping people find jobs and the need for helping people get necessary identification papers once they are released into the community. There was discussion about partnering with Green Mountain Transit Agency to offer bus passes, and proposed legislation to help people get their driver's licenses back.

B) Update on the COPS Grant, Resolution of School Resource Officer (SRO) Cost Sharing.

Mayor Lauzon thanked Chief Bombardier, Councilor Herring in his capacity as BCEMS school board chair, and the BCEMS board for working together on the COPS grant and funding for the SRO. Chief Bombardier said the City received the \$125,000 grant, which provides funding support over three years, with the City agreeing to pick up the full cost in the fourth year.

Council approved accepting the grant on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried with Alderman Boutin out of the room for the vote.**

C) Status Update on BOR Mold Remediation Efforts.

Mayor Lauzon said the projected cost of the remediation project has increased due to the need to heat/dry the building. Facilities Director Jeff Bergeron said the cost of the three heating/drying units is \$37,000/week. There was discussion about the need to continue to heat/dry the building after the first week, whether it's the City's or the contractor's responsibility to pay the costs associated with the heaters/dryers, when the mold problems were first identified, and how to keep the problem from resurfacing in the future. Manager Mackenzie said the plan is to finish the heating/drying this week and then reassess the need for future heating/drying. The Manager said there will be a firmer grasp on the proposed costs after that reassessment. Mr. Bergeron said remediation work has begun in the locker rooms. Mayor Lauzon said the humidity levels are generally high in the locker rooms, and he suggested looking into the cost to install air exchangers or ventilators.

Manager Mackenzie said he will present financing options for the project at next week's Council meeting. Mayor Lauzon suggested Council visit the BOR next Tuesday before the regular meeting. Mr. Bergeron will talk with the contractor to set a time.

Round Table –

Councilor Herring said the IT RFPs have been sent out. The IT committee is meeting next week for a presentation on social media.

Councilor Poirier said there will be a forum on the Vermont health exchange on October 17th at the Elks Club. He said the enrolment process will be gone through step-by-step.

Alderman Boutin said the Justice Center and Police Department are holding a workshop on October 17th on protecting your money and identity.

Mayor Lauzon reminded everyone of tomorrow evening's film at the Opera House. The Mayor spoke about the giant zipper sculpture project at Studio Place Arts, and he said he is in support of the project and in agreement with City Planner Michael Miller on the need for a Development Review Board permit. He said the City is working through the banner and signage issues along North Main Street, and the holiday banners are being ordered. The Mayor said he and Manager Mackenzie participated in White Cane Awareness Day earlier this afternoon, when they were blindfolded and led around through several intersections and sidewalk areas to experience what it's like to travel around the City as someone with a visual impairment. He said the City will be looking to make some accessibility improvements.

Council adjourned at 8:15 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Herring. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk