

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held December 17, 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 City Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

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

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular Meeting of December 10, 2013.
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2014 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Animal Licenses:
 - Douglas Hull, 1 Pond Street, honey bees
 - Sylvia Lozier, 203 Prospect Street, 3 horses
 - Katherine Bramhall, 25 Colby Street, 9 chickens
 - Jennawave Lepage, 7 Laurel Street Apt. 2, 1 Columbian red tail boa
 - Food Establishment Licenses:
 - Burger King, 243-260 N. Main Street
 - Subway, 88 N. Main Street
 - Domino's Pizza, 322 N. Main Street
 - Bag Ladies Express Café, 56 Depot Square
 - Food Take Out Licenses:
 - Champlain Farms, 15 S. Main Street
 - Champlain Farms, 169 Washington Street
 - Fastop, 377 N. Main Street
 - North End Deli Mart, 476 N. Main Street
 - Quality Market, 155 Washington Street
 - Entertainment Licenses:
 - Barre Opera House, 6 N. Main Street
 - Barre Elks #1535, 10 Jefferson Street
 - American Legion Post #10, 320 N. Main Street
 - Movie Theater Business Licenses:
 - FGB Corporation – Paramount Theater, 241 N. Main Street
 - Waste Disposal Collectors Licenses:
 - Myers Container Service Corporation, 11 vehicles, pick-up only
 - Haggett's Trucking, 1 vehicle, pick-up only
 - Curt & Linda Doyle, 2 vehicles, pick-up and drop off
 - Casella Waste Management, 10 vehicles, pick-up only
 - Vending Licenses:
 - Sani Sport Service, skate sharpening, gear cleaning, landscaping, etc. vending location 92 Summer Street
 - Taxicab Service Operator's Licenses:
 - Capital Cab & Car Service LLC, 1 vehicle
 - Taxicab Driver's Licenses:
 - Timothy Bingham, Capital Cab & Car Service

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

To be approved at 01-07-14 Barre City Council Meeting

- Three properties were sold at tax sale on December 11th.
- Petitions for public office are available in the Clerk's office and on the City website. The Clerk read off the list of offices to be elected at the March 2014 Annual (Town) Meeting, and said she will be running for re-election as clerk/treasurer.
- Proposals for the TIF Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) were received yesterday afternoon. After comparing the three proposals that were submitted, the Clerk has selected the proposal from People's National Bank. Paperwork will come for Council approval in early January.

The Clerk said she received a 2014 Food Establishment license application from The Cornerstone Restaurant Group for Two Loco Guys to be located at 136 North Main Street. The restaurant is scheduled to open on January 6, 2014, before the next Council meeting, so the Clerk recommended Council approve the license application contingent upon it receiving Health Officer approval before the restaurant opens. Council approved the license with the contingency on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith.
Motion carried.

Clerk Dawes said the office had received a Taxicab Driver license renewal application from John Russell, and while the Police Department was conducting a background check, it came to light that Mr. Russell gave false information on his application when he stated he had never been arrested. The records show Mr. Russell has a felony conviction from 1985. The Clerk said Mr. Russell currently holds a Barre City taxicab driver's license, and his conviction wasn't picked up on his previous background check. The Clerk said Mr. Russell's 2013 license application also indicated no arrest history. The Police Department denied the 2014 renewal application and the Clerk asked Council if it would like to revoke Mr. Russell's current license for the remainder of 2013. Mayor Lauzon said Council will hold a hearing on Thursday, December 19, 2013 at 7:00 PM, and requested that Mr. Russell, the owner of the cab company for which he works, and representatives from the Police Department be present at the hearing. The Clerk will make the arrangements.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control Board – Clerk Dawes called the Council's attention to the three notices of hearings received from the Vermont Department of Liquor Control.

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

- The closing for City Place is scheduled for this Friday, December 20th.
- Attended Summer Street Partners coordination meeting last week.
- Received four engineering proposals for the Merchants Row/Enterprise Aly re-development. Staff is evaluating. Anticipate closing on related properties in mid-January.

Mayor Lauzon asked about the benches and bike racks along North Main Street, and said he wants to make sure they are protected during snow plowing. Manager Mackenzie said the benches have been removed for the winter, but wasn't sure about the bike racks. He will look into it.

Visitors & Communications –

Councilor Dindo said the Post Office has asked that new residents moving into his neighborhood move their mailbox receptacles from their houses to a post at the end of their driveways. He asked if there was anything in City ordinance that would prevent the Post Office from mandating such changes. Mayor Lauzon said he didn't believe the City could control the actions of a federal agency, but he will speak to the Barre Postmaster about it.

Old Business –

A) Fourth Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance #2013-06: Minimum Housing 7:15 PM.

Mayor Lauzon opened the fourth reading and public hearing at 7:25 PM. Fire Captain Matt Cetin and

To be approved at 01-07-14 Barre City Council Meeting

Zoning Administrator Janet Shatney reviewed the changes approved by Council at last week's meeting.

Alderman Boutin made the motion to approve Ordinance #2013-06 as presented, seconded by Councilor Smith.

Barre Housing Authority executive director Chip Castle said BHA has done its best to raise the legal issues about charging fees to BHA, that BHA is different than privately owned apartments and BHA believes the fee is a form of taxation.

Mayor Lauzon asked for additional public comment. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing at 7:31 PM.

Council voted on the motion as presented. **Motion carried.**

There was discussion about the possibility of phasing in the fee with regards to BHA and whether such phasing could be accomplished through adoption of the fee schedule or through ordinance revision. No action was taken.

New Business –

A) Resolution #2013-17 Parking Meter Borrowing.

Clerk Dawes said Council had previously approved borrowing up to \$150,000 for the parking meter program. The City has borrowed \$125,000 to date through a Revenue Anticipation Note, which now must be converted to a traditional 5 year revenue note. The resolution is part of the note documents with Community National Bank. Council approved the resolution on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

B) Revision to the City Fee Schedule.

Clerk Dawes reviewed the proposed fee schedule revisions and noted there are no proposed fee changes, only language changes. It came to light that the proposed fee schedule was not included in the Council packet. The Mayor requested Council be provided with copies and moved on to the next agenda item.

C) Policy on Miscellaneous Accounts Receivable Penalty and Interest.

Clerk Dawes reviewed the draft policy. Councilor adopted the policy as presented on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Clerk Dawes said the Delinquent Collections Office will review all delinquent MAR invoices issued and paid since the beginning of the fiscal year, and will issue refunds where applicable.

B) Revision to the City Fee Schedule. - continued

Copies of the proposed revisions were distributed and Council returned to its discussion. Councilor Herring recommended revising the language on re-inspections.

Council adopted the schedule with Councilor Herring's revisions on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Clerk Dawes said the revisions will go into effect thirty days after publication in the newspaper.

D) DPW Equipment Purchase.

Mayor Lauzon said this agenda item will be deferred to a later date.

E) Barre Town Bike Path Committee Consideration of Pouliot Avenue Alternative.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed Barre Town's attempts to select a route that ties its bike path together with the

To be approved at 01-07-14 Barre City Council Meeting

Barre City bike path, and said the Barre Town Bike Path Committee is seeking feedback from the Council with regards to a proposed exploration of an alternate route utilizing Pouliot Avenue. The Manager recommended Council allow the Town to entertain this alternate route. Council approved the Manager's recommendation on motion of Councilor Dindo, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

F) FY15 Proposed Budget.

Manager Mackenzie presented his proposed FY15 budget. Justin Johnson and John Hannigan, members of the Budget and Finance Committee, were present for the presentation. The Manager gave an overview of the adjustments. There was discussion about the proposed health insurance increase, library appropriation, issuance and collection of traffic tickets, dispatch capital transfer allocation, consideration of adding police officers, and the division of voter-approved funding for streets and capital. Chief Bombardier will be invited to a future meeting to discuss traffic tickets.

Mayor Lauzon said the Council and Budget and Finance Committee will hold their first work session on January 4, 2014 starting at 8:00 AM.

G) FY13 Unbudgeted Expenses – Preliminary Funding Proposal.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the chart of possible funding scenarios for the unbudgeted expenses. Mayor Lauzon said the City is anticipating ending FY13 with a \$200,000+/- surplus and he would like to use \$170,000 to pay off the mold remediation work, with the balance being used to reduce the FY15 tax increase. There was discussion about pursuing recovery for the turnout gear, amortizing the culvert over 10 years, holding back final payment on the mold remediation until the work is finalized in the spring, and how the current FY14 budget is running. Manager Mackenzie said he is scheduled to hold a quarterly review of the current fiscal year with the Budget and Finance Committee, and he believes the current year is running a bit over budget. Mayor Lauzon said he would support a shift in the capital and paving funds, but he wants to see the effect on the paving program street by street.

Round Table –

Councilor Herring said 495 people have signed up for Front Porch Forum.

Members of the Council wished everyone a happy holidays.

Alderman Boutin reminded people they can make donations of new and slightly used toys to Toy Joy to be given to local children. Mayor Lauzon gave all the toys in the room to Alderman Boutin for Toy Joy.

Mayor Lauzon said he will be delivering Meals on Wheels with Governor Shumlin on December 23rd, and is hosting a gathering of the Vermont Mayors Coalition later this week.

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk