

**Special Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held January 14, 2014**

The Special Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order by Acting Mayor Michael Smith at 6:34 PM at Barre City Hall. In attendance were: Mayor Thomas Lauzon (arrived 6:37 PM); from Ward I, Councilors Charles Dindo and Paul Poirier (arrived 6:52 PM); from Ward II, Alderman Michael Boutin (arrived 6:35 PM) and Councilor Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring. City personnel in attendance were City Manager Steven Mackenzie, City Engineer Reg Abare and City Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes. Also in attendance was appellant Ken Randall.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed Mr. Randall's letter requesting an abatement hearing, stating that, "We removed the float and found material on the inlet side of the float. We feel that this material came in from the 20" main that feeds our line. We are requesting that our bill be reduced to our average amount of \$125.00." The Manager said City staff met to discuss the request and does not have a recommendation, and he said he cautions the Council on setting a precedent.

Clerk Dawes administered the oath to Mr. Randall, Mr. Abare and Manager Mackenzie.

Mayor Lauzon arrived at this time and assumed chairing the meeting.

Mr. Randall offered his testimony, speaking of Barre Town's replacement of guardrails, excess water runoff, and having experienced problems with his cistern in the past. He passed around the float from the cistern, and spoke of the debris that was blocking the float. Manager Mackenzie explained Mr. Randall's cistern system. Mr. Abare said Mr. Randall owns the system from the main to his property. There was discussion about the age of the system, and the possibility of debris traveling from the City main to Mr. Randall's cistern.

Councilor Poirier arrived at this point in the hearing.

Mayor Lauzon said he is inclined to recommend cutting the bill in half, citing the reason that it cannot be ruled out that there might have been sediment in the City's main line.

Council approved abating half of Mr. Randall's bill on motion of Councilor Dindo, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried with Councilor Poirier abstaining.**

Mayor Lauzon closed the special meeting at 6:55 PM.

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held January 14, 2014**

The Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order by Acting Mayor Michael Smith at 7:06 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 Herring, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
  - Special Meeting of January 4, 2014.

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- Regular Meeting of January 7, 2014
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2014 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
  - Food Establishment License, Two Loco Guys, 136 North Main Street

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

- 2014 dog licenses are available. All dogs must be licensed by April 1, 2014.
- Third quarter property taxes are due by February 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Petitions are available for the March Annual (Town) Meeting offices up for election. The deadline for ballot question petitions is January 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the deadline for nominating petitions is January 27<sup>th</sup>.
- 2014 Parking Permits are available in the Clerk's office – both daytime and 24 hour permits.

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Randall & Judie Copping	1 Foss Street

**Liquor Control Board** –

Council approved the following on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried with Alderman Boutin abstaining.**

- New 2013 1<sup>st</sup> class license for Two Loco Guys, 136 North Main Street
- Request to Cater permit for Cornerstone Pub & Kitchen for open house at North England Oral Surgery, 14 North Main Street, Friday, January 17, 2014 from 4:00 – 7:00 PM.

Mayor Lauzon arrived at this time and assumed chairing the meeting.

**A) Fire Inspections.**

Fire Captain Matt Cetin reviewed the situation on annual fire inspections for liquor licenses and requested that the inspection department be allowed to move to biennial inspections for those establishments that are not subject to assemblies of 50 or more people. Those establishments with such assemblies would still be subject to annual inspections. Capt. Cetin said the department is now doing brief nighttime fire inspections. Mayor Lauzon said he would like to establish a policy on inspections and authorize the inspectors to waive inspections in certain instances.

Councilor Poirier said he has heard complaints about the nighttime fire inspections from establishments who are perceiving the inspections as harassment. Capt. Cetin said it is not a full inspection, just a quick review for appropriate exits, occupancy loads, fire extinguishers and sprinkler systems. Councilor Herring suggested letting establishments know about the nighttime inspections so they can expect them. Clerk Dawes will work with Capt. Cetin on drafting a policy.

**B) Denial of Licenses for Outstanding Bills.**

Mayor Lauzon said he would like Council to adopt a policy of denying liquor license renewals where there are delinquent property taxes, water/sewer charges or miscellaneous accounts receivable bills. Clerk Dawes said she will incorporate that language in the policy she is working on with Capt. Cetin.

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

- There are 3 property closings happening this week related to the TIF parking projects.
- The Nelson Street hydro project should be feeding into the grid by the end of the month. Mayor Lauzon asked that assurances be given to the abutting property owner that his property will be

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restored to its previous condition as soon as possible after completion of the project.

- The Budget & Finance Committee is meeting on Thursday to continue work on the FY15 budget.
- A letter has been received from Cynthia Hooker, requesting the Council submit a letter or similar greeting to Eagle Scout Justin Folsom to be presented during a recognition ceremony on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Councilor Herring will work on a resolution to be brought to the Council for approval.

## **Visitors & Communications – NONE**

### **New Business –**

#### **A) 7:20 PM Public Hearing Draft EPA Brownfields Cleanup Applications.**

Mayor Lauzon opened the public hearing at 7:34 PM. City Planner Michael Miller reviewed the brownfields grant applications for EPA cleanup funds, and said the applications are being submitted with regards to 1 Campbell Place, 9 Depot Square and the Granite Museum parking lot – all properties that the City is purchasing as part of the TIF parking project. Tim Andrews of Nobis Engineering said they have identified strategies for the cleanup efforts, including soil excavation, chemical oxidation and soil vapor extraction.

There was discussion about the scope of the project, liability for the City, testing requirements, monitoring periods, ongoing maintenance of equipment and the extent of the brownfields area.

Mayor Lauzon asked if there were any additional comments or questions from the Council or public. Hearing none, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:56 PM.

#### **B) BCEMS/SHSBTC Budget Presentation.**

Appearing as representatives from the Barre schools were Superintendent John Bacon, Business Manager Lynne Carpenter, Spaulding school board chair Norma Malone, and members of the Barre City Elementary and Middle School (BCEMS) board, including Sonya Spaulding, and Councilors Herring and Chadderton, who left their Council seats to participate in the discussion as members of the school board.

Dr. Bacon presented the BCEMS, Spaulding Union High School (SUHS) and Barre Tech Center (BTC) budgets, along with a chart showing the anticipated tax rates based on the proposed budgets, and a chart showing 2014 spending and tax comparisons of a number of local communities, noting that Barre City has the lowest tax rate on the list and the second lowest spending per pupil.

There was discussion about the state's proposed 7 cent increase to the statewide education tax rate, anticipated increased revenues, use of a portion of the fund balance to offset tax increases, changes in programs at all three schools, health insurance increases and salary increases in the proposed FY15 budgets, and the effect of the City's rising common level of appraisal (CLA) on the school tax rate.

Mayor Lauzon asked the board chairs for their opinions of the proposed budgets. Ms. Malone, chair of the SUHS board, spoke about the low tax increases since 2009, programs and changes, and the building's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

Councilor Herring, chair of the BCEMS board, spoke about technology improvements, the recent installation of a generator, and work developing a building maintenance plan.

There was a discussion about consolidation of school districts, and the possibility of the legislature doing away with small school grants to encourage consolidation.

### **Old Business –**

#### **A) Approval of FY13 Unbudgeted Expenses Funding Proposal.**

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Manager Mackenzie reviewed his memo and proposed funding plans. Council approved the Manager's plans as presented on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Alderman Boutin. **Motion carried.**

**New Business, continued -**

**C) Approval of the TIF District Property Purchases.**

- 1. 1 Campbell Place**
- 2. 9 Depot Square**
- 3. VT Granite Museum – Depot Parking Lot (North)**

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the materials for the purchases of the three properties.

Council approved ratifying the purchase of 9 Depot Square and the Vermont Granite Museum north Depot Parking Lot and authorizing the manager to sign on behalf of the City on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Council approved Resolution #2014-04 related to the purchase of 1 Campbell Place, which authorizes the purchase of the property and authorizes the Manager or Mayor to sign on behalf of the City, on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

**Round Table –**

Councilor Poirier said the City of Barre has the highest number of people on the waiting lists for treatment for drug addiction. He said he would like to invite Dr. Richter, who provides treatment services, to come address the Council on drug addiction and what support can be offered on the local level. He will make arrangements for Dr. Richter to be on the agenda for the January 28, 2014 meeting.

Councilor Herring said Front Porch Forum has hit 500 members. He said he visited the BOR earlier this evening and noticed several sections of the recently painted ceiling are peeling. He asked about the promoter position for the Civic Center. Manager Mackenzie said he expects the RFP to go out next week.

Councilor Dindo said there is a bike path committee meeting tomorrow.

Mayor Lauzon said there is a special Council meeting tomorrow evening in Montpelier, as the Barre City Council meets with the Montpelier Council to discuss the proposed Central Vermont Public Safety Authority.

Council went into executive session to discuss contracts at 8:58 PM on motion of Alderman Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Council came out of executive session at 9:05 PM on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon said Alderman Boutin has been working to address bylaw changes with the board and executive director of the Greater Barre Community Justice Center (GBCJC), but the board and director have not been receptive. The Mayor said he would entertain a vote of no confidence of the GBCJC board and executive director. Alderman Boutin said that on behalf of the Council, he has been looking to have the bylaws changed to allow for one Council appointment to the GBCJC board, and one Mayoral appointment from those who work at the Barre City Public Safety Building. Mayor Lauzon said Alderman Boutin has been seeking an opportunity for the Council-appointed members to serve as voting members on the board, but not be counted towards a quorum. The Mayor said the board refuses to have the discussion, and he is disappointed with the board and executive director. He said the Council needs to demand representation. Councilor Poirier suggested inviting the GBCJC board and executive director to attend a Council meeting to discuss the Council's request.

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Council approved a motion to invite the GBCJC board and executive director to attend a future Council meeting on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried with Councilor Herring and Alderman Boutin disclosing their relationships with the GBCJC.**

Councilor Herring said, with regards to the earlier action related to the purchase of the Vermont Granite Museum parking lot, he wishes to disclose that he serves as the Council liaison to the VGM board.

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Alderman Boutin. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk

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