

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held April 29, 2014**

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 Charles Dindo; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and 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 Smith. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
  - Regular Meeting of April 22, 2014
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2014 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
  - Animal License
    - Daniel Sorrentino, 19 Dagmont Avenue, 6 chickens
  - 2014 Food Establishment License
    - Morse Block Delicatessen, Dustin Smith, 260 North Main Street, Suite #19
  - 2014 Vending License
    - The Garden Gnome, Justine Macris, 22 Second Street. Vending flowers and vegetable starts from cart. Approval included an alternate vending location at Currier Park on Wednesdays.

Council requested that The Garden Gnome's request to vend next to the kiosk in Depot Square be placed on next week's ballot for discussion, and possible input from downtown merchants.

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

- The election to vote on the revised budget will be held on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to register to participate in the election. The Board of Civil Authority will need on May 8<sup>th</sup> to hold its usual pre-election meeting.
- Third quarter property taxes are due by May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- There are three properties scheduled for tax sale on May 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The Central Vermont Public Safety Authority charter passed out of the House today.

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Beverly & Charles Thygesen	57 Sixth Street

**City Manager's Report** –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- The City has made arrangements for residents to bring yard waste to the Barre Town stump dump from May 7<sup>th</sup> through May 24<sup>th</sup>. Days and times are on the City website. This program is funded through a grant from Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District.
- The Manager is waiting for authorization from the state to set the closing date for the Hilltop Avenue properties damaged by flooding in May 2011.
- The Manager is waiting for the state archeologist to review the plans for the stormwater projects in the North End.
- The tenant living at 1 Campbell Place is moving out this weekend. The environmental review

will begin next week, in preparation for razing the building.

- The City submitted the BRELLA application for 12 Keith Avenue.
- Met with ACCD in regards to parking at 9 Depot Square. ACCD advised waiting until the environmental review is completed, which should take 30-45 days.

Mayor Lauzon noted that the work on the vault and hydro project at the corner of Hill and Nelson Streets is progressing. The turbine should be commissioned in June.

**Visitors & Communications –**

Mayor Lauzon said he put in a records request to the state, seeking information on state funding used to house people in Barre City hotels and motels. The Mayor said he wants to ensure that the City, state and hotel/motel owners are using best practices, and to that end will be arranging a meeting with the owners. He asked the Council if such a meeting should be open to the public, and the consensus was it should be.

**Old Business – NONE**

**New Business –**

**A) 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter FY14 Budget Status Review.**

Mayor Lauzon said this item is deferred.

**B) FY15 Revised Budget Proposal Review.**

Manager Mackenzie gave a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed revised budget. Mayor Lauzon said Councilor Dindo has developed flyers to be distributed to voters and displayed around the City. He encouraged Councilors to visit their wards and talk to voters.

**E) FY13 Audit Review.**

Fred Duplessis from Sullivan & Powers PC gave an overview of the firm's role and responsibility as the City's auditors, and the FY13 audit report. Mr. Duplessis said Sullivan & Powers gave the City a clean opinion. He said there will be a big change in the FY15 audit, which will need to carry the City's share of the unfunded VMERS retirement account.

There was discussion about the general fund balance at the end of the fiscal year, adjusting water & sewer rates to even out the enterprise fund balances, reportable conditions and the City's work to respond and correct the conditions.

**C) Authorization to Execute VTrans Utility Relocation Agreement re. Quarry Street.**

Council approved the authorization on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith.

**Motion carried.**

**D) Authorization to Execute 1 Keith Avenue Purchase Option and Purchase & Sale Agreement.**

Mayor Lauzon noted the agenda reads "1 Keith Avenue", when the property in question is 12 Keith Avenue. Councilor Herring made the motion to authorize the Manager to provide official notification to the owners of 12 Keith Avenue that the City intends to exercise its option to purchase, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon asked the Manager to share copies of the draft purchase and sales agreement with the Council, and place on the agenda again in the future for Council action.

**Other) Dam Alteration Agreement.**

Mayor Lauzon said the Manager has a draft settlement agreement. The Mayor asked the manager to bring the agreement forward for consideration in open session at next week's meeting.

**Round Table –**

Councilor Chadderton thanked City Engineer Reg Abare and the City DPW workers for completing the work on Foster Street.

Councilor Boutin said he appreciated the Mayor being proactive with regards to hotels and motels in the City.

Councilor Smith encouraged people to put the May 13<sup>th</sup> budget vote on their calendars, and said Green Up Day bags are available in the Clerk's office.

Councilor Herring said Green Up Day is May 3<sup>rd</sup> and encouraged people to clean up around the City.

Council went into executive session at 8:20 PM to discuss litigation on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

Manager Mackenzie was invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 8:35 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk