

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held May 12, 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, Councilors Charles Dindo and Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilor Lucas Herring (arrived 8:03 PM). 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, as corrected:
  - Regular Meeting of May 6, 2014
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2014 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
  - Entertainment License:
    - Faith Community Church, use of Currier Park for "Kids in the Park" events from 9AM – noon on June 28<sup>th</sup>, August 16<sup>th</sup> and September 13<sup>th</sup>. Approval includes access to electricity.

Clerk Dawes said a food vending license application had been received from Southern Hospitality LLC to operate a hot dog cart at the east point of City Hall Park. They have also requested authorization to vend outside Gusto's, in front of City Place and throughout downtown Barre. Council approved the license with the following locations on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

- East point of City Hall Park
- Outside Gusto's in the evenings
- Currier Park on Wednesdays for the Concerts in the Park.

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

- The election to vote on the revised budget is tomorrow. The polls will be open at the auditorium from 7AM – 7PM.
- 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>.
- There is a special Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 PM.

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
J & C Berwick, LLC	5 College Street
Marc & Helen Proteau	29 Tremont Street

**Liquor Control** – NONE

**City Manager's Report** –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- There are two weeks left in the yard waste disposal at the Barre Town stump dump. Days and times are on the City website.
- Work continues on the \$1 million disaster recovery grant application for the Enterprise Aly/Depot Square project.
- The Facilities Department will be conducting the spring bike path inspection in the near future.
- The ribbon cutting at City Place will be on May 27<sup>th</sup>.
- City Planner Michael Miller's last day is May 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be an open house that day from 1 – 3PM. The City has received six applications for the position. The Manager will be putting a team

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together to review the applications and conduct interviews.

- The ads for the City Engineer position should be out by the end of the week.

### **Visitors & Communications –**

Barre City Representative Tommy Walz introduced himself to the Council. Rep. Walz said he was appointed by the Governor to fill the vacancy created when Rep. Tess Taylor stepped down from her seat. Rep. Walz encouraged the public to contact him with any concerns or questions about the legislature, and he announced he will be running for the seat in the next election.

Councilor Dindo said he and Mayor Lauzon went door-to-door over the weekend to encourage people to get out and vote on the revised budget. He said they noted several abandoned properties in poor condition, which will be reported to the Planning & Zoning Department for vacant building registration, and to the Inspection Department to ensure the properties are safe, secure and in compliance with City ordinance.

Councilor Dindo said he has received phone calls about snow plow damage to lawns. He wanted to let the public know that DPW is waiting until dry topsoil is available before completing the repairs. He asked about the status of repairs to the tennis courts. Manager Mackenzie said he will get an update from Facilities Director Jeff Bergeron.

### **Old Business – NONE**

### **New Business –**

#### **A) Appointment of C. Bell to the Recreation Committee.**

Mayor Lauzon called Council's attention to Ms. Bell's letter of interest in serving on the Recreation Committee. It was unclear as to whether Ms. Bell had been invited to attend this evening's meeting to introduce herself to the Council; she will be invited to do so in the near future. Council appointed Ms. Bell to the Recreation Committee on motion of Councilor Dindo, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

#### **B) Old Labor Hall Update.**

This item was deferred to a future Council meeting.

#### **C) Barre Heritage Festival Update.**

Clerk Dawes said BHF representatives will be here next week to request a coin drop and to give their update.

#### **E) SPA "Gargoyle Bike Rack" siting Approval.**

Studio Place Arts executive director Sue Higby shared photos of the completed bike rack with the Council, and said the preferred location is on North Main Street near the Grakles store. Ms. Higby said she needs to coordinate the installation with the artist and the Department of Public Works.

#### **K) FY15 Revised Budget Proposal Review.**

Manager Mackenzie gave a brief review of the revised budget, and said the projected combined Barre City/BCEMS tax increase is 1.82%. Mayor Lauzon talked about the economic development initiatives undertaken recently, and tax stabilizations.

Citizen Finance Committee chair Justin Johnson reviewed the work of the committee, and said this is not the time to stall the momentum in the City. Mr. Johnson said growing the grand list will continue to provide the services the public wants to have.

Mayor Lauzon said there are three vacancies on the Finance Committee, and said those who would like to be appointed to the committee should submit letters of interest to the Manager's office.

Councilor Poirier said the flyers being passed out by Councilors, encouraging people to vote on the revised

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budget, are paid for by the Councilors and did not come out of City funds.

**F) Authorization to Negotiate City Hall Phone Upgrade Procurement.**

This item is deferred to next week.

**D) Authorization to Purchase Asphalt Reclaimer.**

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the memo from City Engineer Reg Abare, and echoed Mr. Abare's recommendation to purchase the reclaimer from low bidder H. P. Fairfield of Morrisville. Council approved the recommendation on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Manager Mackenzie said the Department of Public Works will be holding a yard sale at the City garage. The public and employees will be invited to purchase items.

Councilor Herring arrived at 8:03 PM in the middle of the next agenda item.

**G) Authorize Manager to Negotiate Barre Opera House Lease Renewal/Reinstatement.**

Council authorized the Manager to negotiate the lease with the Opera House on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried with Councilor Herring abstaining.**

**H) Authorization to Award/Execute the Cobble Hill Water Main Construction Contract.**

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the history of this state-funded project and the memo from Dufresne Group related to its review of the received proposals. Dufresne Group recommends the project be awarded to Courtland Construction Corp. of Milton, subject to approval by the state. Council authorized the awarding of the bid after approval of the state on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

**I) Acceptance of Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant Award.**

Council accepted the grant on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

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

This item was deferred until next week.

**Other)**

Mayor Lauzon said Council heard and denied a union grievance recently, which was then appealed to arbitration. In advance of the arbitration, the parties have been talking and the employee has agreed to accept four vacation days. The Mayor said Manager Mackenzie recommends Council accept the four vacation days, with notation included that this is not establishing practice or precedent. Council accepted the Mayor's recommendation on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

**Round Table –**

Several Councilors encouraged the public to vote in tomorrow's special election of the revised budget.

Mayor Lauzon adjourned the meeting at 8:11 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk