

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held May 27, 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, 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 Boutin. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
  - Regular Meeting of May 20, 2014
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2014 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
  - Entertainment License:
    - Hedding Methodist Church, Currier Park, Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 AM – 3:30 PM. Worship, free music, free food. Annual event, part of Heritage Festival.

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

- Three properties were sold at tax sale on May 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Water/sewer bills will be in the mail by the end of the week, and are due by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Nominating petitions for the August primary and for independent Justice of the Peace candidates are due to the Clerk by June 12<sup>th</sup>.

**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>
Fecteau Residential	109 Country Way

**Liquor Control** – NONE

**Visitors & Communications** –

Mayor Lauzon said the City will be receiving some good news tomorrow about funding for a City project.

**Old Business** – NONE

**New Business** –

**A) Consideration of ACS/Xerox contract for Upgrade to Digital Land Records Storing & Archiving.**

Clerk Dawes reviewed the current and proposed processes for handling land records, and recommended Council authorize her to execute the contract. Council authorized the Clerk to execute the contract on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

**B) Approval of the Miscellaneous Paving Bids.**

Due to a conflict of interest, Mayor Lauzon recused himself from chairing this portion of the meeting, and from participating in the discussion and decision. Acting Mayor Smith assumed the chair.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the memo from City Engineer Reg Abare. The Manager said the City received three miscellaneous paving bids, and Mr. Abare recommends the Council award the contract to low bidder Johnson Paving of Barre. Council awarded the contract to Johnson Paving on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

To be approved at 06-03-14 Barre City Council Meeting

Mayor Lauzon resumed chairing the meeting.

**D) FY15 Budget Discussion and Approve Warning for June 10<sup>th</sup> Budget Revote.**

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the proposed adjustments, the overall impact on the budget and the amount to be raised by taxes. Mayor Lauzon said the proposal includes a reduction in costs associated with reorganizing the Recreation, Facilities and Cemeteries & Parks Departments, however, the reorganization approach does not need to be finalized this evening. The Mayor said the reorganization will involve public meetings and debate.

Councilor Poirier said he made a suggestion involving staff to Manager Mackenzie that he would like to look at in executive session in the near future. He said he had been communicating with someone about overtime expenses and wants to explore if the City is operating the Police and Fire Departments in the most efficient way. He said he is in favor of going forward with the proposal as set forward this evening.

Councilor Herring said he supported everything except the merger of the three departments. He said he would like to have a thorough discussion before implementation.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed other reductions and changes that were contemplated but are not among those being considered this evening, including removing the subsidy to the Barre Energy Action Resource (BEAR), reducing the number of printed copies of the annual reports, eliminating the proposed ½ time parking ticket clerk position, possible reductions in insurance, Fire & Police Departments budgets.

Special Project Manager Pat McDonald said she is meeting with staff in the Recreation, Facilities and Cemeteries & Parks Departments to discuss opportunities for increasing revenues and efficiencies through the departments merger. Mayor Lauzon said the merger of the departments will be effective as of July 1, 2014.

Citizen Finance Committee chair Justin Johnson said the committee supports the proposal, and said the committee will work with the City to look for efficiencies and opportunities to improve services without additional expense.

Mayor Lauzon said the combined City/School projected tax rate increase is less than 1%.

Clerk Dawes distributed copies of the draft warning and reviewed the total budget number and the amount to be raised by taxes number. Councilor Poirier made the motion to adopt the warning for the June 10<sup>th</sup> special meeting as presented, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried with Councilors Chadderton and Herring voting against.**

**City Manager's Report –**

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- The City has been informally advised it will receive \$600,000 from the EPA to assist with the Enterprise Aly project. The official announcement will be made tomorrow.
- The City Place ribbon cutting was this morning, and the Nelson Street hydro generator commissioning ceremony will be next Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Councilor Poirier asked if the City has an animal control officer. Manager Mackenzie said the City has a contract with Barre Town to use their ACO, and those with animal control issues should contact the Police Department.

**New Business, continued -**

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

Manager Mackenzie said he is concerned FY14 is moving towards a low six-figure deficit. Mayor Lauzon said he is not that pessimistic and believes the budget can be managed through the remainder of the year. The Manager will email the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report to the Council.

Councilor Poirier said he would like to track overtime on a month-by-month basis. Mr. Johnson said both overtime expenses and offsetting revenues would need to be tracked. Chief Tim Bombardier said overtime in the Police & Fire Departments is connected to mandatory minimum staffing, ambulance runs and outside details. Manager Mackenzie said a tutorial on overtime will be given to the Council in July, and that most of the overtime is service-driven.

**Round Table –**

Councilor Dindo said this was a great day for Barre with the ribbon cutting at City Place.

Councilor Chadderton asked if the Police Department summer bike patrol Bees have started yet. Chief Bombardier said they are scheduled to start on July 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be five Bees, with an additional person who can fill in as needed.

Mayor Lauzon said he hopes the voters will support the revised budget vote on June 10<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor echoed Councilor Dindo's comments about this being a great day for the City with the ribbon cutting at City Place.

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Smith.  
**Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk