

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held August 19, 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 Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
  - Regular Meeting of August 12, 2014
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2014 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
  - Food Vending License:
    - The Candy Van, James Fitzgerald. Pre-packaged ice cream.
    - Maria's Bagels, Dustin Poitras, wholesale & retail bagels.
  - Entertainment License:
    - Faith Community Church, City Hall Park, Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. 1:00 – 5:00 PM. Music, band, vocals, speakers.
    - Barre Universalist Church, City Hall Park, Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM. Large rocking horse rides to benefit the church's children's programs.

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

- Property tax bills were mailed last week, and the first due date is September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Early/absentee ballots are available for the August 26<sup>th</sup> primary election. Polls will be open at the auditorium that day from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM. Last day to register to vote is August 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Next week's Council meeting will be held on Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup> because of the primary election the following day.

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Marcia Kepnes	102 Merchant Street
Jonathan Hutchins	23 Snow Avenue
Raymond & Elaine Spaulding	7 Lague Lane

**Liquor Control** – Council approved a Request to Cater Permit application from Pizzapalooza and Micropub for a benefit concert at the Barre Opera House on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried with Councilors Boutin and Chadderton abstaining.**

**City Manager's Report** –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- A budget and services survey is being conducted by the Budget & Finance Committee. A link to the survey is on the website and hard copies will run in The World over the next two weeks.
- The Budget & Finance Committee is meeting with employees by department over the next several meetings. Employees are being asked to share ideas for improvements and efficiencies.
- The Public Works Department is holding a surplus property public sale of equipment. Sealed

bids are being accepted. Additional information is posted on the website.

- Had a successful meeting with Irving Oil representatives to discuss the Smith Street bike path sections that will cross their property. Also had successful meeting on the re-location of utility poles out of the bike path area.
- Received word from Vermont Emergency Management that the City has been awarded two grants for storm sewer work on Granite Street and near People's Heath & Wellness in the North End. The construction will be completed next summer.

It was noted there haven't been any Fire Department reports in the Manager's report for the past few weeks. The Manager will ensure that a report is included next week.

There was discussion about the grant the City received several years ago for extension of the North Main Street sidewalk towards Richardson Road. Manager Mackenzie said the grant was returned a couple years ago as it was not a priority for the City.

The closings on the Hilltop Avenue properties destroyed in the May 2011 flooding have been delayed due to the property owners waiting on SBA clearance before the sales can be completed.

Mayor Lauzon said he would like to hold open houses at City facilities on Saturdays through September. The Mayor said he will work with the Manager over the winter on plans for replacement of the Public Works garage.

#### **Visitors & Communications –**

Barre Lions Club president Charlie Livendale requested Council approval to hold a coin drop on North Main Street near Domino's on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Mayor Lauzon said Council approval will be contingent upon coordination on the location and safety with the Manager and Police Chief. The Mayor said because this isn't a warned item, Council's action this evening will be ratified at next week's meeting.

Council approved the coin drop request contingent upon coordination with the Manager's office and Police Chief on motion of Councilor Dindo, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

#### **Old Business – NONE**

#### **New Business –**

##### **A) Approval of Public Safety Building Bond Refinancing.**

Clerk Dawes said the City received word that the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank recently refinanced a pool of bonds, including the Public Safety Building bond. The savings to the City will total more than \$114,000 over the remaining life of the bond, and will begin with a savings of more than \$3,500 in the current fiscal year.

Council approved the Municipality Certificate as to Municipal Bond on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

##### **B) Set Interim Water/Sewer Rates.**

##### **C) Resolution 2014-18: Water & Sewage Rates Schedule.**

Council considered both items together as one agenda item. Manager Mackenzie reviewed his memo on the proposed interim rate changes, and said the proposed rates would remain in effect until the FY14 audit is completed, after which time the rates will be reviewed for possible additional adjustments. The Manager said the revised rates schedule includes the proposed rate adjustments and other changes to reflect current practice. Mayor Lauzon said he would like to develop a default rate increase provision

going forward. There was discussion about the base charge and what it supports, capacity in the systems, shifting the proposed base charge increase to the usage increase, annual infrastructure improvements, and the proposed changes to the flat billing rates for granite sheds.

Council approved resolution #2014-18 on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Dindo.  
**Motion carried with Councilor Herring voting against.**

**D) Progress Report on Enterprise Ally.**

Manager Mackenzie gave an update on the project, saying the City has received approximately \$2.6 million in funding which will cover the majority of the anticipated \$2.7 million costs for the project. Meetings have been held with the Vermont Granite Museum about the Depot area, and with other abutters to discuss the project design and impact during construction. The project is slated to begin construction in May 2015 and be completed by mid-November 2015. Mayor Lauzon asked the Manager to share the latest draft plans with the Council and post poster-size copies in City Hall for public viewing. The Mayor asked the Manager to give a presentation of the plans to Council in six weeks. Mayor Lauzon said he has poster-size plans of the Summer Street Center project, which he would also like posted in City Hall.

**Round Table –**

Councilor Dindo said the Cow Pasture meeting this Thursday will be held at the Maplewood Avenue entrance to the property.

Councilor Chadderton said schools open next Tuesday and she reminded people to be on the lookout for children and busses. Manager Mackenzie said all crosswalks have been recently repainted in anticipation of the start of school.

Mayor Lauzon said he received a letter thanking Acting Public Works Director Steve Micheli and the Public Works crews for their good service addressing issues with a blocked storm drain on Camp Street.

Clerk Dawes said CVTV's public access will be changing from channels 7 & 23 to channels 192 & 194 beginning September 3<sup>rd</sup> or soon thereafter.

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, 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