

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held October 7, 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 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.

Absent: From Ward I, Councilors Charles Dindo and Paul Poirier.

**Adjustments to the Agenda** – Mayor Lauzon said presentation of a mayoral proclamation and a report on the City’s Let’s Move activities will be added as the first item under new business.

**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 September 30, 2014
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2014 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk’s office: NONE

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

- Early/absentee voting is available for the November General Election.

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
James & Linda McWilliam	297 Tremont Street
Kevin & Donna Scott	41 Park Street

**Liquor Control** – NONE

**City Manager’s Report** –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- Read memo regarding letters from HomeServe USA Repair Management Corp. recently received by Barre City water customers. The letters offer insurance services for water lines. The Manager said the City does not endorse the letters, nor did the City provide HomeServe with a database of names and addresses.
- A corrective action plan has been developed for 8 & 20 Summer Street, and there will be a public hearing on the plan tomorrow evening at Central Vermont Community Land Trust.
- The senior center is moving to Wall Street on South Main Street. The City, which owns the North Main Street building that currently houses the senior center, will secure it for winter.
- Closing for the purchase of the Ormsby’s properties on Keith Avenue and Pearl Street is set for October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Demolition of 1 Campbell Place is complete. An interim parking plan will be implemented, and the area will be paved in the spring.
- Alumni Hall is undergoing weatherization improvements.
- Flooding of the BOR begins tomorrow, and the ice season begins on October 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The Cobble Hill water main project is nearing completion, set for November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Fall yard waste drop off dates begin October 18<sup>th</sup>.

- Updated on open staff positions. Currently still open are the City Planner, Director of Public Works, Delinquent Collections Clerk, Chief Operator at the Water Treatment Plant, new part-time Parking Ticket Collections Clerk and part-time Parking Meter Enforcement position.

There was discussion about additional Council tours of City facilities. Mayor Lauzon asked that Council tour the Cobble Hill project and the Wheelock building, soon to be former home of the senior center. The tours will be conducted on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor said because of the historic nature of the Wheelock building, he wants to make sure it is properly secured for the winter. He also requested that the City attorney research the deed and any restrictions on usage of the building.

**Visitors & Communications – NONE**

**Old Business – NONE**

**New Business –**

A1) Mayor Lauzon presented a mayoral proclamation to Assistant Director BCS – Recreation Stephanie Quaranta and Karen Lauzon, who are working on Let's Move activities. The proclamation named October 8<sup>th</sup> as Walk to School Day in Barre City. Mayor Lauzon said Barre City is the first municipality in Vermont participating in the national Let's Move program. Ms. Quaranta and Ms. Lauzon talked about the Walk to School Day program, and other activities and initiatives the City is undertaking.

**A) Civic Center Committee Appointment Request for Sue Higby.**

Ms. Higby expressed her interest in serving on the Civic Center Committee. Council approved the appointment on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Ms. Higby, executive director of Studio Place Arts, said SPA working on a fundraising project to pay down the mortgage, led by a significant gift which is being used to encourage other donations.

**B) Review with the Budget Committee Council Goals and Objectives.**

Committee members Justin Johnson, chair, John Hannigan and Alex Pastor were present. Councilors made suggestions for things they would like to see incorporated into the FY16 budget, including reduction of debt service, expansion of the police force through a grant program, combining the new officer with the new part-time parking meter collection/enforcement position, addressing deferred maintenance, limiting tax increase to 1-2% overall including municipal and school taxes. Manager Mackenzie reminded everyone that Councilor Poirier wanted to see what a zero budget increase would look like.

Mr. Johnson said the intention is to have a first look at the budget by December 10<sup>th</sup>. There was a discussion about the current level of services, looking at the City by cost center, and reviewing offsetting revenues. Mayor Lauzon said he had some ideas about levels of service, and he would forward them to Mr. Johnson and the Manager.

**C) Review/Comment Regarding Public Safety Authority Draft MOU.**

Councilor Smith and fellow PSA board member John Hannigan led the Council through a review of the draft. There was discussion about the allocation formula, the process and timeline for implementation of merged services, local control, and possible inclusion of some funding in FY16 budgeting. It was noted there is still one at-large board position available.

**Other)**

Merchant Street resident Charlotte O'Hara said she missed attending last week's Development Review Board meeting, and wanted to appeal a permit granted to her neighbor. Ms. O'Hara said her neighbor is

doing work on his property, and in the process has damaged her property, and she passed around photos of her property. The Mayor asked Manager Mackenzie to visit the property with Zoning Administrator Janet Shatney and Inspector Robbie Strachan to ensure that the work is reconciled with the permit.

**D) Barre Town Water Agreement.**

Mayor Lauzon and Manager Mackenzie reviewed the history of the agreement, and the City's response to recent records requests from Barre Town. Mayor Lauzon said the Town is questioning the City's recent water rate increase, and did not include the increase in its recent payment. The Mayor asked Manager Mackenzie to meet with Barre Town Manager Carl Rogers to work it out. There was discussion about the City's history of waiving and abating late fees for the Town, and Mayor Lauzon said there is an expectation of reciprocity for the courtesy the City has extended on the past. Councilor Herring asked that this be back on the agenda in two weeks for an update on resolution to the issue.

**E) Presentation of Enterprise Aly Design Plans.**

Manager Mackenzie said there are still some revisions that need to be incorporated into the plan, and he expects to have an updated version in 1-2 weeks. Mayor Lauzon asked the Manager to get 10 copies of the plans to display in downtown windows.

**F) Removal of Existing Trees in Front of Alumni Hall.**

Council reviewed photos of the trees in front of Alumni Hall. There was discussion about removing the trees and replacing them with shrubbery. Councilor Smith said he opposes the removal, and requested that City Tree Warden Dwight Coffrin look at the trees for possible pruning. Mayor Lauzon requested that the record indicate he abstained from the testimony on this matter.

**G) Discussion on U-Turn Ordinance Chapter 15, Sec. 17-38.**

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the discussion on this matter from last week's Council meeting, and reviewed the current ordinance language. Clerk Dawes said the language could be made clearer to allow what is known as a Vermont U-turn. The Clerk will work on proposed revised language and bring it to Council for review.

**Round Table –**

Councilor Smith said the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority board is meeting on Thursday.

Councilor Herring said the Spaulding High School civics class is looking for ideas for this year. A few ideas were shared.

Mayor Lauzon said he is honored that Barre City is the first municipality in Vermont to be participating in the national Let's Move initiative.

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:15 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