

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held November 18, 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.

Absent: NONE

Adjustments to the Agenda – Mayor Lauzon said he will be adjusting the order of items on the agenda to accommodate those in attendance.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Council approved the following consent agenda items on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular Meeting of November 11, 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:

- Second quarter property taxes were due by November 17th. The delinquency rate currently stands at 5.63%, with additional payments expected to be received over the next few days.
- Annual license renewals will be going in the mail in the near future.
- The winter parking ban is in effect from November 15th to April 1st. Overnight parking permits are available.

Clerk Dawes said she received a parade request for the annual Holiday Parade to be held on Saturday, November 29th. Renee Proteau reviewed the set-up, route and times, and said she spoke with Chief Bombardier about police participation. Council approved the parade request, including closure of Granite Street and North Main Street, on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Dindo.

Motion carried.

Mayor Lauzon said the Council will hold its annual dollar drop on Saturday, December 6th to raise funds for the Christmas for Kids program. The drop will be on North Main Street in front of Domino’s Pizza.

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>
Sandra & Joseph Lockerby	61 Brook Street
Sandra & Joseph Lockerby	35 Elliston Street

Liquor Control – NONE

City Manager’s Report – Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- This year’s street paving is being completed this week and next. There was a discussion about assuring that paving is completed by November 1st in the future and the need for contracts with our paving contractors.

Visitors & Communications – Ray Fries addressed the Council, saying he grew up in Barre and recently moved back. Mr. Fries said he is interested in getting involved in the community. Mayor Lauzon said he will meet with Mr. Fries for lunch tomorrow to discuss ways he can get involved.

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

A) Capstone Community Action Council Request for Donation to Fuel Assistance Program.

Capstone Energy Service Coordinator Susan Rossi said she handles the crisis fuel program. Ms. Rossi said the City made a \$5,000 donation to the program nearly two years ago and the funds have now been exhausted. The City's donation served 16 households providing emergency heating fuel relief. Mayor Lauzon reviewed a memo from Clerk Dawes outlining funds available from the Keith Fund and the Brusa Trust, and the Clerk's recommendation to donate \$1,000 from each of the funds.

Councilor Poirier made the motion to donate a total of \$4,000, of which \$2,000 would come from the Keith Fund and \$2,000 would come from the Brusa Trust. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chadderton.

There was discussion about the amount of money in the funds, the restricted use of the funds and the amount of need in the community.

Council voted on the motion as presented. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin voting no.**

Councilor Boutin said his vote was not a vote against supporting the program, but he is concerned about spending down the balances of the funds.

B) Review/Approval of Updated GBCJC/Barre City MOU.

Greater Barre Community Justice Center executive director Lori Baker gave an update on the current programs and activities. Ms. Baker thanked the City for installing insulation in the Alumni Hall attic, as their offices are much warmer now.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the draft MOU and asked if the previous MOU has expired. Ms. Baker said the previous MOU was never signed. Mayor Lauzon said he would like to run the MOU by Scott Williams, the newly elected state's attorney, along with having a discussion with him about the relationship between Mr. Williams' office, the City and the Justice Center. The Mayor said he would like to defer signing the MOU until the Council has had an opportunity to meet with Mr. Williams. Council concurred without formal action.

Councilor Boutin asked Ms. Baker to provide the Council with copies of the board of director job descriptions and the GBCJC bylaws.

E) Enterprise Aly Revised Site Plan Endorsement.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the alternate design developed with input from last week's Council meeting. The Mayor said the alternate design allows for the addition of seven new parking spaces, and provides flexibility for bus usage.

Tanya Kristen and Meredith Birkett from Green Mountain Transit Agency said they encourage the Council to approve the alternate design. There was discussion about the proposed expansion of the GMTA Link Express to Barre City, which would provide commuter access along the I89 corridor to Waterbury and Burlington,; the amount of space needed to accommodate a commuter bus; possible future

need for enough space to accommodate two buses; inclusion of a bus shelter in the plans; and other City-owned lots as potential commuter parking lot locations.

Council approved Site Plan Alternative #1 in concept on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon asked Zoning Administrator Janet Shatney for her opinion of the Enterprise Aly site plan. Ms. Shatney voiced her support and said the plan will come before the Development Review Board at its December 4th meeting. The Mayor thanked Ms. Shatney for taking on extra work while the City Planner position is vacant. He said the City Manager will report next week on a firm plan to fill the Planner position.

C) Discussion/Approval of December 1st 2014 Billing Water and/or Sewer Rates Resolution.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the packet of materials he distributed to the Council. He thanked Deputy Director of Public Works Steve Micheli for taking on extra work while the Director of Public Works position is vacant. The Mayor reviewed the 15% water rate increase and 8% sewer rate decrease and said the resolution includes a 3% annual rate increase going forward. The net result of the rate changes is a joint water/sewer rate increase of 6%+, in addition to the 6% water rate increase approved in September. He said the City's rates are reasonable as compared to other municipalities.

Clerk Dawes read the resolution, and Manager Mackenzie reviewed the rate changes. There was discussion about specific fees and the possibility of postponing until next week's Council meeting. Manager Mackenzie said approval is needed this evening to accommodate the timeline for printing December bills. There was further discussion about which items would fall under the annual 3% escalator. Council requested a memo on how those items not affected by the annual escalator will be reviewed and adjusted going forward. The memo is expected within 60 days.

Council approved the resolution as read and reviewed by Clerk Dawes and Manager Mackenzie on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

D) Approve Bid Award the Demolition of 12 Keith Avenue ("Ormsby")

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the memo outlining the results of the demolition bids, and recommended Council award the contract to low bidder Lajeunesse Construction. Demolition is scheduled to begin next week and be completed by mid-December.

Council awarded the demolition contract to Lajeunesse Construction on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

F) Purchase of Used 1 Ton Dump Truck for DPW.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed his email recommending Council approve the truck purchase from Formula Ford, along with a plow package from McLeod's. Council approved the purchases as recommended on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Round Table:

Councilor Dindo referenced a memo emailed to members of the Council complaining about traffic dangers in the Depot Square area. Councilor Dindo requested that a police officer be stationed in that area to observe traffic behavior. Manager Mackenzie will speak with the Chief about the issue.

Councilor Dindo announced an upcoming concert at the Congregational Church.

Councilor Smith said the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority has a vacancy on its board which it

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plans on filling at its meeting later this week.

Councilor Boutin said he will not be attending next week's Council meeting, and therefore he wishes everyone an early Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Lauzon encouraged people to support local organizations that help area residents during the Thanksgiving and holiday season.

Executive Session: NONE

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk

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