

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held December 22, 2014**

The Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomas Lauzon at 6:00 PM at Barre City Hall. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilor Charles Dindo; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin (arrived 6:05 PM) 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, Councilor Paul Poirier.

**Adjustments to the Agenda** – The Mayor said he is not aware of any adjustments.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

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

- Minutes of the following meetings:
  - Regular Meeting of December 16, 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:

- Water & Sewer bills are due by December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Daytime and overnight parking permits for 2015 are available through the clerk's office.
- The Clerk will be away on vacation next week.

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

| <u>Applicant</u>     | <u>Address</u>        |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Sidewalk Village LLC | 136 North Main Street |

**Liquor Control** – NONE

**City Manager's Report** – Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- There are still issues with the North Main Street traffic signals. Mayor Lauzon reached out to Transportation Secretary Sue Minter, and the decision was made to have VTRANS change out the camera sensors for radar. The majority of the cost will be borne by the state.
- Met with the paving contractor, ECI, to finalize the paving contract for FY15.
- Two vacant positions have been filled; the delinquent collections clerk, who started last week, and the new ½ time parking enforcement person, who will start January 5<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Lauzon thanked Secretary Minter and VTRANS for the quick response on the traffic signals.

Councilor Herring asked for an update on the Civic Center marketing position, and said information was to be presented to the Council by Christmas. Manager Mackenzie will get an update from Special Projects Manager Pat McDonald.

**Visitors & Communications** – NONE

**Old Business** – NONE

**New Business –**

**A) Aldrich Library FY16 Budget Appropriation Request.**

Nancy Pope, president of the library board of trustees, gave a brief update on recent library happenings, including the completion of a strategic plan, hiring a new children's librarian and beginning a national search for a new executive director. Ms. Pope introduced board member Rob Spring, who gave a presentation comparing the Aldrich Library to other libraries in the state. Mr. Spring reviewed the services provided by the library to the Barre City and Barre Town communities, how the library's statistics compare to other libraries in the state, and statewide statistics. Tax dollars from Barre City and Barre Town make up 43% of the library's annual operating budget, as compared to the statewide average of 85% for towns of 4,000 or more people. Mr. Spring said at the statewide average, the City and Town should each be contributing \$323,000/year to the library, and the library is requesting \$235,000 from each community for FY16. The current year contribution from Barre City is \$122,000 and is level funded from the previous year.

There was discussion about the library's current operating budget of approximately \$540,000, use of endowment funds to support operations, and placing a separate ballot item on the March Annual (Town) Meeting ballot for the additional funding. Mr. Spring will forward a copy of his presentation to the Manager to be passed along to the Council, and Mayor Lauzon requested a copy of the current year budget be shared with the Council.

**B) Authorization to Execute Stray Animal Holding Agreement.**

Manager Mackenzie said the City has the option of entering into an agreement with the Central Vermont Humane Society in East Montpelier or Random Rescue in Williamstown for stray animal holding services for FY15. The Manager said he had some questions about each draft agreement, and will get the answers to his questions and bring the agreements and a recommendation back for consideration at next week's meeting.

**C) Approve Errors and Omissions Adjustments.**

Manager Mackenzie said this item will be taken up next week to allow Council time to review the materials. Clerk Dawes distributed a sheet with information about errors and omissions from the Lister's Handbook and state statute.

**D) Fire Department Annual Equipment Ancillary Purchase Authorization.**

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the proposal from ZOLL Medical Corporation for the purchase of three defibrillators. The Manager said ZOLL is offering financing over the next 18 months that will allow the purchase to be spread over three fiscal years for a total cost of 103,363.58. The money for the equipment will come out of the capital fund.

Council approved the purchase and the financing option on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon said he is re-ordering the next two agenda items, and will take the snow blower attachment item first.

**F) Authorization to Purchase Sidewalk Snow Blower Attachments.**

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the memo on the snow blower attachments for the Bobcats, and recommended the City purchase two attachments from Champlain Valley Equipment. It was noted the quote from Champlain Valley is not the lowest, but the equipment is compatible with the City's current Bobcats and would not require retrofitting.

To be approved at 12-30-14 Barre City Council Meeting

Council approved the purchase as recommended by Manager Mackenzie on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

**E) Draft FY16 Budget Proposal Overview.**

Mayor Lauzon said the auditors reported last week that FY14 ended with a \$143,000 deficit. Planning for the FY16 budget will need to include eliminating the deficit. The Mayor said in addition to addressing the deficit, to stay within the 1.5% increase target set by Council, an additional \$250,000 of reductions will need to be identified in the budget draft presented at last week's meeting. The Mayor said the Council will hold a series of Saturday budget workshops.

**Round Table –**

Councilor Chadderton asked about removal of snow banks in the Foster Street area. Manager Mackenzie asked her to email him a reminder, which he'll pass along to the appropriate department.

Councilors wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

**Executive Session: NONE**

The Council meeting adjourned at 7:15 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