

**Special Meeting of Barre City Council
Held January 20, 2015**

The Special Meeting of the Barre City Council was called to order by Mayor Thomas Lauzon at 6:30 PM at Barre City Hall. In attendance were: From Ward I, Councilors Charles Dindo and Paul Poirier (arrived 6:38 PM); from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin (arrived 6:35 PM) and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring (arrived 6:35 PM). Also in attendance were City Manager Steven Mackenzie, City Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes and City Attorney Oliver Twombly.

Absent: NONE

Executive Session:

Councilor Chadderton made the motion to find that premature general public knowledge of the litigation issues to be discussed would clearly place the City of Barre at a substantial disadvantage should the discussion be public. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Council went into executive session under the provisions of 1 VSA sec. 313 to discuss litigation at 6:31 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Manager Mackenzie, Clerk/Treasurer Dawes and Attorney Twombly were invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 6:58 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon adjourned the special meeting at 6:58 PM.

There is no audio recording of this special meeting.

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held January 20, 2015**

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 Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Absent: NONE

Adjustments to the Agenda – NONE

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:
 - Special meeting of January 10, 2015
 - Regular meeting of January 13, 2015

- Special meeting of January 17, 2015
- Approval of the City Warrants as presented.
- 2015 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - 2015 ANIMAL LICENSE.
 - Christopher Sorrentino, 19 Dagmont Avenue, 4 chickens
 - 2015 FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE:
 - The Alley Cat, 10 Keith Avenue
 - American Legion Post #10, 320 North Main Street
 - Asian Gourmet, 276 North Main Street
 - Bag Ladies Express Café, 56 Depot Square – moving to 14 N. Main St.
 - Bamboo Gardens, 115 South Main Street
 - Barre Buffett, 435 North Main Street
 - Barre Elks Lodge #1535, 10 Jefferson Street
 - Barre Technical Center, 136 North Main Street
 - Basil's Pizza Restaurant, 20 South Main Street
 - Burger King, 242-260 North Main Street
 - Chinatown, 302 North Main Street
 - Cornerstone Pub & Kitchen, 47 North Main Street
 - Domino's Pizza, 322 North Main Street
 - Gusto's, 28 Prospect Street
 - Hollow Inn & Motel, 278 South Main Street
 - Jerry's Sports Tavern, 30 Summer Street
 - L&M Diner, 240 North Main Street
 - Ladder 1 Grill, 8 South Main Street
 - Mister Z's, 379 North Main Street
 - Mutuo Inc., 20 Beckley Street
 - Planet Rock N' Metal, 127 North Main Street
 - Quarry Gill & Tavern, 210 North Main Street
 - Maureen's Sweet Treats, 162 North Main Street
 - Ellie & Shirl's Simply Delicious, 56 Depot Square – moving to 14 N. Main St.
 - Soup N' Greens, 325 North Main Street
 - Southside Tavern, 107 South Main Street
 - Subway, 88 North Main Street
 - Two Loco Guys, 136 North Main Street
 - 2015 FOOD TAKE OUT LICENSE:
 - Central Market, 50 Summer Street
 - Champlain Farms, 15 South Main Street
 - Fastop, 377 North Main Street
 - North End Deli Mart, 475 North Main Street
 - 2015 FOOD VENDING LICENSE:
 - Maria's Bagels, working out of 46 Summer Street, 1 vehicle
 - DJ's Convenience, one remote vehicle
 - Dell's Dogs, one remote vehicle
 - 2015 MOVIE THEATER BUSINESS LICENSE:
 - Paramount Theater, 2 screens

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

- The Clerk read the list of offices up for election at the 2015 Annual (Town) Meeting Day elections, and said petitions are available in her office or on the City website. The deadline to file nominating petitions with the Clerk is Monday, January 26th by 5:00 PM.

- The Clerk & Special Projects Manager McDonald are finalizing draft Fraud Risk Assessment Procedures, which are part of the compliance requirements for the federal Department of Justice grants. The procedures will come to Council for consideration at next week's meeting.
- 3rd quarter property taxes are due by February 15th.
- The Clerk said Council had discussed the Semprebon Vermont Community Foundation Trust Account during last Saturday's budget work session, and so she prepared and distributed a spreadsheet showing the current balance in the account.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE

Liquor Control – Clerk Dawes said 2015 liquor license renewal applications have been mailed out. All licenses expire on April 30th.

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

- The draft RFP for the BOR mold repainting is nearly complete. The work will be done in June. Mayor Lauzon asked that the work be completed by July 31, 2015.

Councilor Herring asked for an update on the current fiscal year. Mayor Lauzon said he is working on such an update, which will be presented in two weeks.

Visitors & Communications –

Dee Rollins, executive director of Project Independence, appeared before the Council. Clerk Dawes said PI has had a voter approved property tax exemption for at least 30 years, currently for the property located at 81 North Main Street, but with Gifford Medical Center's recent purchase of the property, the exemption expired. The Clerk said she received a petition from Mr. Rollins yesterday with more than enough signatures for placement on the ballot, however, the question on the petition does not meet statutory requirements. Clerk Dawes said she denied the petition, as required by law, and spoke with City Attorney Oliver Twombly and Ms. Rollins about the options open to PI and Gifford, including collecting signatures on a new petition with legal language, or requesting that Council place an appropriately worded question on the ballot. Clerk Dawes distributed a memo that included the relevant statutes, the denied petition language and a recommended ballot question.

Council approved placing the Clerk's recommended ballot question on the 2015 Annual (Town) Meeting warning and ballot on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

A) Ticket Fine for Parking at Charging Stations Without Connecting Vehicle.

Clerk Dawes distributed a list of current parking violations and their corresponding fines. She said the Chief and she are recommending that Council set the fine at \$15. Council approved the fine as recommended on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

B) SHS/BTC FY16 Budget Presentation.

Barre School Superintendent John Bacon presented the Spaulding High School/Barre Technical Center FY16 budget. Dr. Bacon said there is a 3% increase in the budget, and the projected tax rate increase is ½ of one cent. He said coupled with the BCEMS projected tax rate, the overall tax rate projection is a reduction of ½ of one cent. A significant portion of the FY14 fund balance is being used to offset tax increases, and the voters will be asked to place \$110,000 of the FY14 fund balance into the reserve fund.

To be approved at 01-27-15 Barre City Council Meeting

There was discussion about inclusion of increases for salaries and health insurance, no reductions in programs or staffing, management of revenue numbers, the SHS football field lighting project, and health insurance costs.

Dr. Bacon said the property tax projection is based on information from the VT Department of Taxes, which is using a 2 cent education tax increase and an increase in the student block grant as a basis for its calculations.

C) Annual Report Dedication Suggestions and Decision.

Council approved dedicating the FY14 annual report to long time City Engineer Reg Abare, who retired in July 2014, on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

D) Update on Enterprise Aly Funding.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed his handout on the Enterprise Aly funding, showing current and revised projected expenses and funding sources. The Manager said he is looking for guidance from the Council on the following possible options to help fill the funding gap:

- Using 50% of the TIF contingency
- Applying for a State Infrastructure Bank loan
- Tapping the Semprebon VCF Trust Account for \$200,000
- Tapping the Semprebon VCF Trust Account for \$30,000/year for the next 8 years

Mayor Lauzon said he is comfortable with using the TIF contingency. The Mayor said the City's current exposure for the project is approximately \$800,000 and he's looking for ways to reduce that to around \$300,000. Councilors Smith and Boutin said they are not comfortable tapping into the Semprebon Trust Account. Manager Mackenzie said he will continue to work on the issue and report back when new information is available.

Round Table –

Councilor Smith said the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority will give its annual update to Council in the near future.

Councilor Herring said the Vermont Granite Museum is interested in partnering with the City on a municipal grant opportunity that would create public parking with a shelter on the VGM property.

Mayor Lauzon reminded everyone of the special Council meeting on Thursday at 5:30 PM.

Executive Session: NONE

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:34 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