

To be approved at 02-29-16 Barre City Council Meeting

**Special Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held February 23, 2016**

The Special Meeting of the Barre City Council was scheduled to be called to order at 6:00 PM at Barre City Hall. In attendance at that time were: Mayor Thomas Lauzon, and from Ward I, Councilors Charles Dindo and Paul Poirier. Also present were City Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

**Absent:** From Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring.

Due to the lack of a quorum, no meeting was held.

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held February 23, 2016**

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; and from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith. Also present were City Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

**Absent:** From Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring.

**Adjustments to the Agenda:** NONE

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

Councilor Dindo requested that the animal licenses be considered separately from the other consent agenda items.

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

- Minutes of the following meetings:
  - Regular meeting on February 16, 2016
  - Special meeting on February 17, 2016
- City Warrants as presented: week 2016-08.
  - Accounts Payable: \$216,435.23
  - Payroll (gross): \$128,604.23
- Licenses & Permits:
  - Food Establishment Licenses:
    - Simply Subs Inc., 70 N. Main Street
    - Community Kitchen Academy, 20 Gable Place
    - Delicate Decadence, 15 Cottage Street
  - Food Takeout Licenses:
    - Cumberland Farms #8025, 524 N. Main Street
    - Cumberland Farms #8027, 132 S. Main Street
  - Food Vending Licenses:
    - Vermont Chocolate For Change, WCMHS, 23 Summer Street
    - Hot Diggity Dogs, Southern Hospitality LLC

Council approved the following 2016 Animal Licenses on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried with Councilor Dindo voting against.**

| <u>Applicant</u> | <u>Address</u>     | <u>Animals</u> |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Chad Stacey      | 15 Lague Lane      | 6 chickens     |
| Michael Kelley   | 10 Harrison Avenue | 30 chickens    |

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Clerk Dawes reviewed Capt. Matt Cetin's memo regarding the 2016 Animal License application from Normand Fortier on Fortney Place, and said Capt. Cetin denied the license because Mr. Fortier's chicken yard doesn't meet current setback requirements. Councilor Boutin made the motion to approve the license, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion did not pass with Councilor Poirier voting in favor and all others voting against.**

Clerk Dawes will let Mr. Fortier know his license application has been denied, and he can resubmit it if he brings his chicken yard into compliance.

Council granted a 2016 Entertainment License to the Vermont Center for Independent Living, for a vigil in City Hall Park on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

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

- The final delinquency rate for the third quarter property tax collection was 5.87%, which is higher than usual. We expect that some of the cause has to do with the way the Post Office is now handling mail, as they don't sort every day.
- Early absentee voting is ongoing for the March 1<sup>st</sup> Annual (Town) Meeting and Presidential Preference Primary elections.
- Dog licenses are available. Any dog six months or older must be licensed by April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- City Hall will be closed on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> for Town Meeting Day. The polls will be open at the Auditorium from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM.
- Council will meet next week on Monday, February 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The 2015 annual reports have arrived. Hard copies are available in the Clerk's office and will be at the polls on Tuesday. It will also be posted on the City website.

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

| <u>Applicant</u>                   | <u>Address</u>      |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Edward & Nancy Benoit              | 30 Park Street      |
| Barre City School District (BCEMS) | 50 Parkside Terrace |
| Nancy Lewis                        | 41 Merchant Street  |
| Blueberry Holdings LLC             | 28 East Street      |

**Liquor Control** – NONE

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

- FEMA will inspect the three proposed Harrington Avenue buyout properties later this week.

**Visitors & Communications** – NONE

**Old Business** – NONE

**New Business** –

**A) Public Hearing: Flood Mitigation Bond Article on Annual Meeting Ballot.**

Mayor Lauzon opened the hearing at 7:20 PM and invited public comment. The Mayor reviewed the projects to be funded with the bond funds. There was discussion on the three proposed buyout properties and what will become of them following razing of the buildings. Hearing no additional comments or questions, Mayor Lauzon closed the hearing at 7:25 PM.

**B) Public Hearing: Charter Change Articles on Annual Meeting Ballot.**

Mayor Lauzon opened the hearing at 7:25 PM and invited public comment. The Clerk reviewed the proposed charter changes. The Mayor spoke about the proposed Local Options Tax. Hearing no additional comments or questions, Mayor Lauzon closed the hearing at 7:32 PM.

**C) Public Hearing: All Public Question Articles on Annual Meeting Ballot.**

Mayor Lauzon opened the hearing at 7:32 PM and invited public comment. Councilor Poirier said the public questions include all the non-profit organizations seeking funding support from the Barre City voters. Hearing no additional comments or questions, Mayor Lauzon closed the hearing at 7:35 PM.

**D) CVSWMD Update.**

CVSWMD planning analyst Cathleen Gent said the executive board voted to suspend the proposed facility project. The full board will take up the question of suspension at its next meeting. If the board votes to suspend, member community annual dues will be reduced from \$2 per capita to \$1 per capita for FY17. The District will continue to review its current facilities and future needs.

Ms. Gent reviewed the benefits received by the City from the District including grant opportunities, hazardous waste collections, the Additional Recyclables Collections Center (ARCC), school programs, outreach and education. There was discussion around the Act 148 mandated recycling containers, possible sources of funding support, future composting and yard waste collection requirements, and future facility needs. Ms. Gent suggested the District could meet more frequently with the Council. Mayor Lauzon said the Council could also attend a District board meeting.

**E) Aldrich Library Update.**

Library director Sarah Costa said library usage was up 28% in 2015 over the previous year, and computer usage was up 30%. They will be hosting a college intern through the end of May who will be a job hunt helper. They received funding for an afterschool program for 4-8 graders focusing on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math). The program runs through the end of May. Ms. Costa offered an invitation to attend a benefit dinner and auction at the Elks Club on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

**F) Mid-Year Budget Status Review.**

Manager Mackenzie said this item is deferred to next week.

**G) FY17 Budget Presentation.**

The Manager gave an overview of the proposed FY17 budget being voted on at the March 1<sup>st</sup> Annual (Town) Meeting. He said the projected combined municipal/education tax rate increase is less than 1.5%.

**Round Table:**

The Mayor and Council encouraged people to vote at Tuesday's Town Meeting and Presidential Primary. Councilor Poirier encouraged people to vote in favor of the proposed Local Options Tax charter change.

**Executive Session – NONE**

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Boutin.  
**Motion carried.**

An audio recording of this meeting is available from the City Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk