

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held May 17, 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, Councilor Paul Poirier; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilor Anita Chadderton. Also present were City Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Absent: From Ward I, Councilor Charles Dindo; and from Ward III, Councilor Lucas Herring.

Adjustments to the Agenda: Mayor Lauzon said there would be an addition to the agenda.

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 on May 10, 2016
- City Warrants as presented: week 2016-20.
 - Accounts Payable: \$743,749.60
 - Payroll (gross): \$116,133.18
 - Special warrant for 2nd OIG ambulance settlement: \$63,834.95 (to be paid via wire transfer on 5/27/16)
- Licenses & Permits: NONE

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

- Fourth quarter taxes were due May 16th. The delinquency rate as of today is higher than hoped for. Additional payments should be received via mail over the next day or two.
- Ward I caucus on Wednesday, June 1st at 7:00 PM at Alumni Hall to select someone to fill Councilor Dindo's seat until the March 2017 Annual (Town) Meeting. All Ward I registered voters are eligible to participate.
- An RFP has been issued for the FY17 Tax Anticipation Note. Responses are due by June 6th.

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>
Summer Street Commons LLC	100 Summer Street
Adrian & Adelheid Otterman	186 Washington Street
Michael & Karen O'Hara	210 Fairview Street

Liquor Control – NONE

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

- The spring lawn waste drop off continues through this week. Pick up will be next week.
- The Gunner Brook progress meeting is scheduled for May 25th.
- City is accepting letters from those interested in serving on the Animal Control Committee. Letters are due by May 20th.

Visitors & Communications –

Mayor Lauzon said Council received a letter from law firm Tarrant, Gillies & Richardson with regards to the deprivation of ducks associated with the recent ordinance changes that go into effect later this week.

Old Business –

A) Effective Date/Enforcement of Chapter 3. Animals & Fowl Ordinance.

Clerk Dawes said she had read the charter and ordinance and concurred with the Mayor that there is no language that authorizes Council to act independent of the approved language. The Clerk said there have been instances when the Council has waived fees, which is not an action authorized in charter or ordinance. The Clerk said her reason for bringing up the topic last week was for Council to provide guidance to staff in addressing questions related to the animals & fowl ordinance revisions that go into effect May 20th. She said a letter and copies of the ordinance will be mailed tomorrow to those who hold animal licenses for chickens, ducks or other poultry.

New Business -

A) Washington County State's Attorney Introduction and Community Issues Discussion.

Washington County State's Attorney Scott Williams said there were 2,436 cases during 2015, which doesn't include appeals. His office did not lose a case in 2015. The Special Investigation Units are up and running and have received national certification. The office offers quarterly trainings to law enforcement throughout the county. They plan to provide child car seats for all departments, and to develop a county drug intelligence and task force. Better than 50% of all cases have opiates as an underlying factor. Mr. Williams said he will also be ramping up the efforts on earlier truancy intervention.

There was discussion on partnering with the City's community outreach specialist, treatment vs. incarceration options, working with the community justice centers, and the creation of a Project Vision program similar to the one operating in Rutland.

B) Barre Partnership Update.

C) 2016 Farmer's Market – Location and Waiver of Vendor Fees.

Partnership executive director Josh Jerome and local farmer Matt Systo said the past versions of the Farmer's Market are no longer operational, and they are looking for ways to start up a new model. They are looking to hold a modified Farmer's Market in conjunction with the Concerts in Currier Park on Wednesdays through the summer, and are requesting Council waiver of the local vending license fees.

Council approved waiving the local vending license fees, and recommended that vendors agree to commit to attending at least 4 of the 10 scheduled concert dates, on motion of councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Jerome updated the Council on recent and upcoming Partnership activities including:

- Nearing completion of the strategic planning process in advance of applying for recertification of downtown designation.
- Completed development of committee work plans.
- Summer concert season set with 10 performances between June 15 – August 17.
- Heritage Festival planning underway.
- Planning 7/1 kick-off of Efficiency Vermont's pilot program to inform and educate the community on the programs and products available from EV.
- May 24th meeting on Barre Promise Community efforts to reach out to parents to help them prepare their children to enter the school system. There may be funding available through the program to help establish a community center.
- Fresh Tracks Capital road pitch event scheduled for August 3rd at the Granite Museum. Those with business ideas will have an opportunity to pitch to venture capitalists.

Other) Update on Pearl Street Pedestrian Way Design.

Carolyn Radisch and Robert White from Greenman Pedersen Inc. (GPI) said they are working on the engineering drawings for the final design for the Pearl Street pedestrian way, which will include lighting, the feasibility of plantings, landscaping and seating. The walk through of the area earlier this evening included conversations around creation of an entryway, paint options for abutting buildings, trellises, installation of a clock and public art. The plan is to move ahead as soon as possible, and GPI is soliciting public input. Mayor Lauzon asked them to complete the engineering drawings, and then come give another presentation to Council, after which there will be a period of time for public comment.

D) Award Mower and Utility Vehicle Bids.

Council reviewed the memo from Buildings and Community Services director Jeff Bergeron, who recommended the mower contract be awarded to low bidder Champlain Motors and the utility vehicle contract be awarded to low bidder Harvest Equipment. Council awarded the contracts as recommended, pending final review by Manager Mackenzie, on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried with Councilor Poirier voting against.**

E) Acceptance of Signal Repair/Upgrade Quotes.

This item is deferred.

F) Revisions to City Fee Schedule.

Clerk Dawes reviewed the list of proposed fee changes for the recreation, police, fire and ambulance departments. Council approved the changes on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Clerk Dawes said the fee changes will be published in the newspaper this Saturday, and will go into effect thirty days after publication.

Round Table – NONE

Executive Session - NONE

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Poirier. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk