

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held July 14, 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, Councilor Paul Poirier (arrived at 7:04 PM); from Ward II, Councilor Michael Boutin; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring. Also in attendance were City Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Absent: From Ward I, Councilor Charles Dindo; and from Ward II, Michael Smith.

Adjustments to the Agenda: NONE.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

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

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular meeting on July 7, 2015, as corrected to reflect council approval of the ADA resolution.
- City Warrants as presented.
- 2015 Licenses & Permits issued through the clerk's office:
 - Fireworks License
 - Heritage Festival, Northstar Fireworks, Saturday, July 25th at dusk.

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

- Property tax bills go in the mail tomorrow. The first quarter due date is August 15th, which falls on a Saturday, so taxes will be due on the next business day, August 17th.
- Paperwork for the Grant Anticipation Note will come to Council for approval at the 7/21 meeting.
- The Clerk is working on a first draft for the funeral parking and “no parking” area ordinances, and hopes to bring it to Council for a first review at the 7/28 meeting.
- The Fire Department has proposed ordinance revisions related to no plowing or dumping of snow or ice in the water ways. Those revisions will come to Council for a first reading at the 7/21 meeting.

Approval of Building Permits – NONE.

Councilor Poirier arrived during the following.

City Manager's Report –

- The culvert on Railroad Street has been cleaned out. Still need to determine who owns and is responsible for maintenance.
- There was significant repair work done on traffic signals outside the immediate downtown area.
- Enterprise Aly update: there is a tab on the website with photos. Auxiliary nighttime security lighting has been added to the site. They will begin excavation of the hot spots next week, and for approximately a week pedestrian traffic will be routed to Granite Street.
- The three large granite monuments in the downtown will be cleaned before the Heritage Festival.
- Manager will be on vacation next week. Jeff Bergeron will cover as interim manager.

Liquor Control – Council approved a temporary outside consumption permit expansion for The Quarry Grill & Tavern for Saturday, July 25th from 11:00 AM – midnight on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

Clerk Dawes said Cornerstone Pub & Kitchen submitted a Request to Cater application for a beer garden

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on Church Street beside City Hall Park for Friday & Saturday of Heritage Festival. Councilor Chadderton made the motion to approve, seconded by Councilor Herring. There was discussion about staff concerns around setting a precedent by authorizing a beer garden that isn't contiguous with the license holder's property, and having a beer garden directly in front of the stage area.

Councilor Poirier made the motion to table the item, seconded by Councilor Herring. The motion is non-debatable. **Motion carried.**

Visitors & Communications – NONE

Old Business –

A) Approval of Purchase of Tower Truck and Discussion of Financing Options.

City bond counsel Paul Giuliani and Manager Mackenzie reviewed the two viable financing options; third party lease, and Bond/Capital Improvement Note (CIN). Mr. Giuliani explained the timeline and process for holding a vote to approve a bond or CIN. He said the CIN would be the more attractive option, as it is simpler to administer and allows the City to solicit competitive bids from local financial institutions.

There was discussion about the timing and process of authorizing the purchase of the truck before having the financing mechanism in place. Mr. Giuliani said Council could approve the purchase contingent upon voter approval. Glen Davis from Lakes Region Fire Apparatus said he can't say whether HME, the manufacturer of the truck, would hold the bid under those conditions. Mr. Davis said the City could authorize the purchase entering into a third party lease, and then seek voter approval and convert the lease into a CIN. Manager Mackenzie said the annual payments for the truck would come from a combination of general fund and capital fund money. The Manager recommended Council approve purchase of the truck. He said he believed the best financing vehicle is a Capital Improvement Note.

Councilor Poirier made the motion to follow the Manager's recommendation, and to put the decision before the voters before going forward with the purchase. The motion was seconded by Councilor Herring.

Manager Mackenzie said he wanted to clarify his recommendation, and that he recommends ordering the truck followed by seeking voter approval.

Chief Bombardier talked about the use of the current tower truck. Councilor Poirier requested information on how frequently the truck is used, and details on the last usage in the City.

There was further discussion on the need for the truck, timing for ordering and soliciting voter approval.

Councilor Herring called the question. The Council voted on the motion as made by Councilor Poirier and seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion failed to pass with Councilors Boutin, Herring and Poirier voting in favor, and Mayor Lauzon and Councilor Chadderton voting against.**

Mayor Lauzon requested that Mr. Davis ask HME if they will hold the bid price for 45 days to allow the City to hold a special election. The Mayor asked for a response by tomorrow.

Council approved holding a special meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, July 15, at 7:00 PM to hear the response from HME and continue the discussion on acquisition and financing for the tower truck on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

New Business –

A) Public Hearing: Bike Path VTRANS Grant.

Barre City Bike Path Chair Pat McDonald and Evan Detrick from Dubois & King said this public hearing

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is in preparation for submittal of a \$1.7 million VTRANS grant application for funding of the Granite Museum segment of the bike path. They reviewed a map of all the different segments of the path. The Smith Street segment should begin construction this fall or next spring. A portion of the Enterprise Aly segment is being completed as part of the Enterprise Aly project.

Ms. McDonald requested that Council authorize Mayor Lauzon to sign a letter of support for the grant application. The Council approved Ms. McDonald's request on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Ms. McDonald requested that Council allocate \$375,000 from the Semprebond Fund to serve as the local match. Council approved the request on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Ms. McDonald distributed a packet of materials containing updates on bike path development in the surrounding communities of Montpelier, Berlin and Barre Town.

There was discussion on the schedule for development of the rest of the segments, and Vermont Granite Museum's upcoming request to have the City take the lead on the construction of the museum segment. Ms. McDonald said the Barre City Bike Path Committee has set up a FaceBook page so the public can follow the progress. She thanked the committee for their ongoing work and support.

B) Resolution #2015-06: TIF Bond.

Council approved the resolution on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

C) Award Contract for Audit Services FY15, FY16 & FY17.

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the matrix of responses to the RFP for audit services, and recommended Council award the contract to Corrette & Associates.

Councilor Herring moved to award the contract to Corrette & Associates, seconded by Councilor Boutin.

Mayor Lauzon asked the Clerk if she concurred. Clerk Dawes said she recommended the contract be awarded to Sullivan & Powers. There was discussion about the pros and cons of each auditing firm.

Council voted on the motion as presented. **Motion failed to pass with Councilors Chadderton, Boutin and Herring voting in favor, and Mayor Lauzon and Councilor Poirier voting against. Upon completion of the vote, Councilor Boutin changed his vote from affirmative to negative. The change did not alter the results.**

Round Table:

Councilor Herring reminded everyone of the Wednesday evening activities in downtown Barre.

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM on motion of Councilor Poirier, 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