

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council  
Held September 15, 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 (arrived 7:32 PM). Also in attendance were City Manager Steve Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

**Absent:** NONE

**Adjustments to the Agenda:** Mayor Lauzon said there are a couple items that will be added for discussion purposes at the end of the agenda.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

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

- Minutes of the following meetings:
  - Regular meeting on September 1, 2015.
- City Warrants as presented.
- Licenses & Permits
  - Entertainment Licenses
    - Barre Partnership, 5K race, November 7<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9:00 AM. Police Department approval contingent upon police coverage as agreed upon.
    - Vermont Granite Museum/Barre Lions Club haunted house, October 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. Contingent upon successful inspection and approval from the Fire Department.
    - Capstone Community Action, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 – 6:00 PM. Includes live music and a speaker.
  - Taxicab Service License
    - Payless Taxi, one vehicle.
  - Taxicab Driver's License
    - Ann-Marie Lynn Kew, Payless Taxi.

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

- Water/sewer bills are due by September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The auditors' schedule has been adjusted. They are now scheduled to be on site starting September 21<sup>st</sup>, and staff is prepping for their arrival.
- The Clerk is working with the Fire Department on the USDA grant for the aerial truck.
- The Clerk is working on the final financing for the spillway repairs. The Current Expense Note is being split into two parts:
  - Part 1 – a continuation of the CEN for the amount due from FEMA/state (approximately \$1.1 million.) Authorization paperwork for the CEN continuation will come to Council before the end of the month.
  - Part 2 – a 10 year note for the local share (approximately \$610,000). The Clerk is issuing an RFP for the 10 year note, hoping to have the authorization paperwork come to Council in early October.
- The Board of Civil Authority is holding property tax assessment appeal hearings this Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The Clerk will be out of the office next Monday & Tuesday, attending the annual Vermont Municipal Clerks & Treasurers Association conference.

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

| <u>Applicant</u>                               | <u>Address</u>      |
|--|---------------------|
| Geno Vitagliano                                | 206 Fairview Street |
| Aldrich Public Library                         | 6 Washington Street |
| Albert Castellano & Joanne Vyce                | 6 Gordon Lane       |
| Bellavance & Sons                              | 167 Boynton Street  |
| David Copping, George Wilson, William Crowther | 105 N Main Street   |
| US Bank NA c/o Ocwen                           | 13 Maple Avenue     |

**Liquor Control** – NONE

**Visitors & Communications** – NONE

**City Manager's Report** –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- Workers have started removing the woody debris from Gunner Brook.
- Enterprise Aly update – getting a detailed schedule update later this week. Preliminary review by the contractor shows the project approximately 2 weeks behind schedule.
- There will be a public workshop next week before the Council meeting on the Pearl Street conceptual design. The public is invited to gather at Pearl Street beginning at 5PM.
- The Council will visit the Cow Pasture on 10/6 to meet with the committee, review work done to date and talk about future plans.
- Efficiency Vermont will be in Barre on 10/7 to reach out to stakeholders to discuss potential conservation measures and review projects. They will host a lunch meeting with the Council.

Councilor Smith asked about the trees along North Main Street. The Manager said they are on the to-do list, and he wants to reach out to the landscape architect who worked on the project to discuss.

Councilor Boutin said the apple tree along the bike path near the school needs pruning.

Councilor Poirier said he has reports that the railing along the steep portion of Merchant Street is wobbly and in need of repair.

**Old Business** – NONE

**New Business** –

**A) Coin Drop Request for Aldrich Library for October 17<sup>th</sup>.**

Library director Sarah Costa and board member Councilor Smith said the library is requesting authorization to hold a coin drop on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Clerk Dawes confirmed this is the last available coin drop slot for this year. Council approved the request on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon congratulated the library, which is receiving a donation of nine laptop computers tomorrow.

**B) Update from Barre Partnership.**

This item will be rescheduled to next week.

**C) Discussion/Direction re: Enforcement/Demolition at 13 Maple Avenue.**

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the history of the collapsed garage at the property in question, and said a demolition permit was approved as part of this evening's building permits. There was discussion about making sure the demolition is completed and ways for the City to take any legal actions necessary to get the site cleared.

Councilor approved authorizing the Manager to take any and all action necessary to mitigate the public safety hazard located at 13 Maple Avenue on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon said if US Bank, which owns the property, doesn't live up to its promise to have the demolition completed in a timely manner, he would like to issue an arrest warrant for the CEO.

Councilor Herring arrived during the following discussion.

**D) Authorization of Traffic Signal Pedestrian Cycle and Miscellaneous Repairs.**

Manager Mackenzie reviewed the memo from the traffic signal contractor and discussed the costs associated with the proposed work on the pedestrian signals, loop detections and no turn on red signage. The Manager recommended Council authorize him to contract for the ped signal work only, as the cost estimates came in much higher than anticipated.

Council authorized the Manger to spend up to \$30,000 on the pedestrian signal repairs for the five identified intersections on motion of Councilor Poirier, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

**Other)**

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the minutes from the February 24, 2015 Council meeting at which there was a discussion about the possible sale of the former Ward 5 school building by its current owner, the Barre Housing Authority. The Mayor said the gist of the discussion was that Council approved BHA selling the property, and asked that their board consider returning the property to the City, from whom they purchased it for \$5,000. The Mayor said he received word from the BHA board that they are not interested in giving the property back to the City, and that a recent appraisal of the property set the value at \$135,000. The Mayor said he recalled Council discussion calling for BHA to turn over to the City any sale proceeds above the original \$5,000 purchase price. He asked if his recollection is correct, and the Councilors concurred. The Mayor will draft a letter to BHA to that effect.

**Other)**

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the history of the train engine located behind Merchant's Row, currently on Metro Way property, and said the plan is to move the locomotive to the Vermont Granite Museum property for restoration and public view. The Granite Museum has asked that the City cover half the cost of the crane that's necessary to facilitate the move. The Mayor said he has offered to cover a portion of the City's share of the cost, and so the remaining balance being considered for City payment is \$1,900. Councilor Poirier said Mayor Lauzon should recuse himself from the discussion and decision, as the locomotive is located on his property and there could be tax advantages for the Mayor associated with the donation of the engine to the Granite Museum. Mayor Lauzon recused himself from the discussion and any votes, and Councilor Smith assumed chairing the meeting as Acting Mayor. There was discussion about where the funds might come from and Clerk Dawes said there is a small balance of undesignated funds remaining in the Semprebou Fund, which might serve as a source. Councilor Herring said this item wasn't warned, and as it involves appropriating funds, a decision should be postponed until it can be warned on a meeting agenda. Council agreed to hold a special meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM to vote on the \$1,900 request.

**Round Table:**

Councilor Herring said the Barre Partnership held its annual meeting this evening, which is why he arrived late. He was elected the new president. He announced that the Granite Festival at the Granite Museum is this Saturday. He thanked all Councilors for their time and service to the community.

**Executive Session:**

Councilor Herring made the motion to find that premature general public knowledge of litigation and personnel 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 at 8:08 PM under the provisions of 1 VSA sec. 313 to discuss litigation and personnel on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Manager Mackenzie and City Attorney Oliver Twombly were invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 9:08 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

No action was taken.

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:08 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