

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held September 29, 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, Councilor Anita Chadderton. Also in attendance were City Manager Steve Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Absent: From Ward III, Councilor Lucas Herring.

Adjustments to the Agenda: NONE

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 22, 2015.
- City Warrants as presented.
- Licenses & Permits:
 - Entertainment License
 - Matt Dunne For Governor political rally, October 5th from 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM in City Hall Park.

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

- Water/sewer bills are due by tomorrow.

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>
Paul Simoneau	132 Elmwood Avenue Ext
Robert Gauvin	140 Beckley Street
James Ward	46 Long Street

Liquor Control – Council approved a Request to Cater Permit application from Rock Solid Crew Inc. for a private birthday party at the Labor Hall on Saturday, October 17th from 6:00 – 11:00 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried with Councilors Boutin and Chadderton abstaining.**

City Manager's Report –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- The City is prepared for the heavy rains forecast for the next few days.
- Continuing negotiations with three of the City's labor unions.
- City residents will have drop off access to the Barre Town stump dump for nine dates between October 17 – 31. The City-wide curbside pick-up will be held during the week of November 7th.
- Pedestrian button replacements have been ordered, with the repairs set for early November.

Visitors & Communications –

Resident and business owner Arthur Dessureau asked for an update on the storm drain replacement projects for the North End. Manager Mackenzie said the City was awarded a grant to fund the projects, and the next step is to put out an RFP for design work. The Manager said he expects that work to be done

over the winter with construction planned for next summer. Mr. Dessureau said he wants to see the project move forward as quickly as possible to avoid future problems in that flood-prone area. Mayor Lauzon said it is a priority of the City's and the work will be done next construction season.

Resident Nancy Wolfe said the Universalist Church has received a grant to hold a tree pruning workshop this Sunday, and all are welcome to participate. Ms. Wolfe asked about Mayor Lauzon's recent lunch at the White House. The Mayor said he represented Barre City at a luncheon hosted by First Lady Michelle Obama for communities participating in her Let's Move initiative for health kids. Ms. Wolfe said the Planning Commission had focused the recent municipal plan rewrite on health communities, and the Let's Move initiative fits in nicely. She encouraged the City to fill the planner position quickly so the municipal plan can be moved forward.

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

A) Camping for a Cause in City Hall Park.

Mayor Lauzon said this item has been deferred to next week. The Mayor said the churches came before Council last year with a similar request to camp in City Hall Park to raise awareness for homelessness, however City ordinance does not allow sleeping overnight in the parks. He said he will discuss the issue with Rev. David Vanderlinde Abernathy, who is the spokesperson for the group, and let him know of the ordinance restrictions. If Rev. Vanderlinde Abernathy chooses to, he may bring up the discussion at next week's Council meeting.

B) Appointment of Jim McWilliams to the Civic Center Committee.

Buildings and Community Services director Jeff Bergeron said the committee would like to recommend appointing Jim McWilliams to fill a vacancy. Mr. McWilliams was introduced to the Council and expressed his interest in serving on the committee. Council approved the appointment on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

C) Approval of Recommendation for Civic Center Marketing/Promoter Vendor.

Outgoing Civic Center Committee Chair Jon Valsangiacomo reviewed the history and process around the search for a marketing/promoter vendor. There were five interested parties, and the committee interviewed three people. The committee is recommending a contract be entered into with Howie Goldfarb. Mayor Lauzon said he knows Mr. Goldfarb, who is well credentialed for this position. The Mayor recommended that Council support the recommendation and authorize the Manager to enter into a contract with Mr. Goldfarb, provided the contract has unanimous approval by the Civic Center Committee.

Councilor Chadderton made the motion to authorize the Manager to sign a promoting contract agreement with Mr. Goldfarb, contingent upon unanimous approval of the contract by the committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Dindo. Councilor Boutin said he will be voting NO on this motion because he wants to see the contract before it is approved. He also said he would prefer that the compensation be based on a commission model rather than a fee model. Mayor Lauzon said the Council will see the contract before it is signed by the Manager.

Council voted on the motion as presented. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin voting against.**

Mr. Valsangiacomo said the committee is developing a punchlist of projects for the facility, and are prioritizing the list. They are also exploring options for raising the necessary funds.

D) Council Approval of Spillway Current Expense Note Adjustment & Extension.

Council approved the current expense note documents, including resolution 2015-10, on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

E) Approval of Spaulding High School Homecoming Parade Request, October 10, 2015.

Council approved the parade permit request, contingent upon the details being worked out with the Police Department, on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

F) Council Authorization to Submit HMPG Application for Gunners Brook Mitigation.

Manager Mackenzie said the application deadline is November 6th, and the City will be seeking approximately \$500,000 to fund the buy-out of three properties on Harrington and Reid Streets. The Manager said he is seeking authorization to execute and submit the application.

Council authorized the Manager to execute and submit the HMPG grant application on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

G) Council Action RE: Locomotive Ownership Agreement.

Paul Hutchins and Jeff Martell appeared on behalf of the Vermont Granite Museum board of directors. Mr. Martell reviewed the recent process of moving the locomotive from Metro Way to VGM. Mayor Lauzon reviewed the draft ownership agreement. Councilor Poirier said he spoke recently with Ray Rouleau, who was a previous owner of the granite shed complex on Metro Way where the locomotive was sited for more than a decade. Mr. Rouleau provided Councilor Poirier with a history of the move of the locomotive to the Rouleau property. The Rouleau property was later sold, then foreclosed upon, and finally purchased by Metro Development, a company owned by the Mayor. Mayor Lauzon said his research did not turn up any ownership documents on the locomotive, including searches of City records, newspaper articles, Council minutes and bills of sale. Councilor Poirier asked Mayor Lauzon if the move of the locomotive will provide him with any benefit for future tenants and/or parking. Mayor Lauzon said there are no such benefits. The Mayor said he is working with ReSource to donate some land to them. Councilor Poirier asked if the ReSource deal benefits from the move of the locomotive. Mayor Lauzon said it does not.

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the chronology of donation of the locomotive, and said it was originally a gift to the Barre Bicentennial Committee and should be owned by the City. The Mayor said the draft agreement would clarify that the City is the owner of the locomotive, that it is on permanent loan to VGM, and that VGM is held accountable for its maintenance and display. Mayor Lauzon encouraged the Council to adopt and authorize the Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the City. He said the City will place the locomotive on its insurance policy, providing coverage for loss, and VGM will insure it for liability purposes.

Council adopted the ownership agreement and authorized the Manager to sign on motion of Councilor Dindo, seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Lauzon reviewed the history of Metro Development's relationship with the locomotive, the history of discussions with VGM about relocating the locomotive to the museum, and 2013 parking negotiations with City Place. The Mayor said Metro Development will receive a charitable contribution deduction for the donation of the flatbed railcar and the granite block, and he said VGM will get a donation for that tax deduction amount. He said nobody should benefit from the moving of the locomotive.

H) Council Action RE: Donation Towards Cost of Relocating Locomotive.

Councilor Dindo made the motion to donate \$2,500 from the Semprebon Bequest Fund towards the cost of relocating the locomotive. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chadderton. Clerk Dawes said there is approximately \$9,000 of unappropriated funds available in the Bequest Fund.

To be approved at 10-06-15 Barre City Council Meeting

Councilor Poirier made the motion to amend the original motion by increasing the donation to \$4,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Smith.

Council voted on the amendment. **Motion carried.**

Council voted on the original motion as amended. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Hutchins and Mr. Martell thanked the Council on behalf of the Vermont Granite Museum. Mayor Lauzon said thanks also go to Barry and Bonnie Chouinard, who donated \$1,900 towards the move. Councilor Dindo said he heard plans call for the granite block to be cut and sandblasted. He said he would donate the time and stencil to have the City seal sandblasted on the block.

Round Table:

Councilor Smith asked about the condition of the City's water and sewer infrastructure in light of the recent newspaper article about Rutland's aging infrastructure. Manager Mackenzie said the City has a limited, but methodical, approach to replacement. Mayor Lauzon said the City is in relatively good shape, compared to other municipalities. The Manager said the biggest need in the next five years will be improvements to the water and wastewater facilities.

Mayor Lauzon said he and Councilor Smith have been spending time in the Brook Street area helping out those who were affected by the July flooding. The Mayor said some people are having a tough time getting grant applications approved, and he & Councilor Smith are advocating on their behalf.

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Dindo. **Motion carried.**

An audio recording of this meeting is available through the Clerk's Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk