

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held November 17, 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 Charles Dindo; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring. Also in attendance were City Manager Steve Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Absent: From Ward I, Councilor Paul Poirier.

Adjustments to the Agenda: Mayor Lauzon said he will be rearranging the agenda to accommodate those in attendance.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

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

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular meeting on November 10, 2015.
- City Warrants as presented: week 2015-47.
 - Accounts Payable: \$321,094.05
 - Payroll (gross): \$1115,471.91
- Licenses & Permits: NONE

New Business –

B) Pearl Street Pedestrian-Way Concept Plan Presentation.

Manager Mackenzie announced that zoning administrator Janet Shatney has accepted the City Planner position, effective yesterday. Everyone congratulated Ms. Shatney on the promotion.

Carolyn Radisch of Greenman-Pederson Inc. gave a PowerPoint presentation of the various conceptual designs for the Pearl Street pedestrian way. Ms. Radisch reviewed the various elements, including paving, lighting, seating and other furniture, plantings, water features, overhead elements, and public art.

There was discussion on winter maintenance, management of the elements, public safety and pedestrian use, use of the area by abutting property owners, how it fits into the City's master plan, surveying business owners and people in the downtown to see what options are supported, and timing for the work. Mayor Lauzon asked Ms. Shatney to take the lead on working with abutters, the Planning Commission and other interested parties on finalizing the design plans with an eye towards construction during the 2016 season. The Mayor said there is plenty of capacity in the TIF plan to finance the project.

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

- Second quarter property taxes were due yesterday. The collection rate currently stands at 7.31%, with additional payments expected to be received through the mail over the next few days.
- The winter parking ban is in effect from November 15th through April 1st. Overnight parking permits are available from the Clerk's office for those who live in the downtown.

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>
Miles & Cathy Silk	11 Hillside Avenue

Liquor Control – NONE

New Business - continued

A) Barre Partnership Update.

Barre Partnership executive director Josh Jerome updated the Council on recent and ongoing projects:

- Fall membership campaign is set to begin.
- Winter banners, holiday lighting and garland will be installed next week.
- Holiday open house, parade and horse-drawn wagon rides on Saturday, November 28th.
- Inaugural Granite City 5K Run/Walk was a success. Already planning for next year.
- Assisting someone looking to open a bike store in downtown Barre.
- Helping manage a USDA grant for marketing support of the Barre Antique Center.
- Working with developer re. computer platform that would offer virtual tours of local businesses.
- Coordinating a pitch event to match business developers with potential funders.

City Manager's Report –

Manager Mackenzie reported on the following:

- Expecting to receive a request for an extension on the Enterprise Aly project. There are delays associated with the installation of the monitoring wells and the lighting.
- The first segment of the bike path is open as part of the Enterprise Aly project, and is being used.

Councilor Dindo thanked City staff for putting up the American flags in time for the Veteran's Day celebrations.

Visitors & Communications – NONE

Old Business – NONE

New Business – continued

C) Animal and Fowl Ordinance.

Councilor Boutin and Fire Capt. Matt Cetin reviewed the draft ordinance revisions. Capt. Cetin said as the health officer, the changes are needed to help him with enforcement. There was discussion about chickens, avian bird flu, proximity of animals to other properties, and stray and feral cats.

Mayor Lauzon requested that the revisions be brought forward for a first reading at the December 1st meeting, and that the Animal Control Officer be present at that meeting.

Round Table:

Councilor Boutin said he is working with a woman who is establishing a Safe Families for Children organization in the area to help families keep their children before they might go into the state system. He asked that the woman be invited to do a presentation to Council at a future meeting.

Mayor Lauzon reminded Councilors that their annual dollar drop will be held on Saturday, December 5th. The Mayor said he may schedule a Council workshop the first week of December to allow Council to give direction to the Budget & Finance Committee. He reminded people to support the many great organizations in the area that offer Thanksgiving dinners to those in need.

Executive Session -

Councilor Herring made the motion to find that premature general public knowledge of the litigation items and personnel item to be discussed would clearly place the City of Barre at a substantial

To be approved at 11-24-15 Barre City Council Meeting

disadvantage should the discussion be public. The motion was seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Council went into executive session at 8:49 PM to discuss litigation issues and a personnel issue under the provisions of 1 VSA sec. 313 on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Manager Mackenzie, Chief Tim Bombardier and ambulance billing clerk Bonnie Breault were invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 9:40 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, 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