

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held July 12, 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 Jeffrey Tuper-Giles; from Ward II, Councilor Michael Boutin; and from Ward III, Councilors Anita Chadderton and Lucas Herring. Also present were City Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Absent: From Ward 1, Councilor Paul Poirier; and from Ward II, Councilor Michael Smith.

Adjustments to the Agenda: Mayor Lauzon said he will be re-arranging the order of the agenda to accommodate those in attendance.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Council approved the following consent agenda items on motion of Councilor Tuper-Giles, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular meeting on July 5, 2016
- City Warrants as presented: week 2016-27:
 - Accounts Payable: \$416,968.68
 - Payroll (gross): \$139,108.30
- Licenses & Permits:
 - Fireworks License:
 - Barre Partnership/Heritage Festival, Saturday, July 30th at dusk from the Vermont Historical Society lawn. Rain date is August 6th.
 - Food Establishment License:
 - Morse Block Deli, 260 N. Main Street. Stephano Coppola owner.

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

- Early absentee voting for the August 9th primary is now available.
- Tax bills will be mailed out on July 15th, with the first payment due by August 15th.

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Steven Bigras	25 Gable Place
Nancy Lewis	41 Merchant Street
Dario Cacicio	107 Maple Avenue
Geno Vitagliano	206 Fairview Street
David & Kristin Sohlstrom	40 Colby Street

Liquor Control –

Council approved the following liquor control items on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Tuper-Giles. **Motion carried with Councilor Boutin abstaining.**

- Gusto's, extended outside consumption permit for the Heritage Festival, Saturday, July 30th from 1:00 PM to 1:00 AM.
- Quarry Kitchen & Spirits LLC, extended outside consumption permit for the Heritage Festival, Saturday, July 30th from 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM.
- Cornerstone, request to cater application for a beer garden on Church Street during the Heritage Festival, July 29-30.

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

- The Traffic Advisory Committee met last week. Their next meeting will be August 24th.
- Traffic signal maintenance is ongoing.
- On vacation next week. Stephanie Quaranta will be acting manager.

Visitors & Communications – NONE

Old Business –

A) Ratification of Recycle Bin Purchase.

Council ratified last week's approval to purchase recycle bins on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

New Business -

C) Presentation of Norwich University Student Project.

Norwich student Amanda Alger gave a PowerPoint presentation on her proposed City Hall Park renovation project. The project includes lighting, security cameras, a playground, flowers, fountain, picnic tables and additional benches. Ms. Alger said the improvements would benefit the community and local businesses. She reviewed her proposed changes to Church Street that would allow for additional parking, funding options, marketing and events. Her estimate for the cost of materials is approximately \$155,000. Councilors voiced their support of the improvements and gratitude for Ms. Alger's presentation. Mayor Lauzon extended an invitation for Ms. Alger to consider serving on the Cemeteries and Parks Committee.

A) Public Hearing Warned for 7:15 PM: Consideration of TIF District Substantial Change Requests to VEPC.

Mayor Lauzon opened the public hearing at 7:35 PM and invited comments or questions. Clerk Dawes reviewed the substantial change process and the four properties in question. There was discussion on the TIF district, increment amounts, and current and future infrastructure projects. Hearing no additional comments or questions, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:43 PM.

Council approved submitting the substantial change request and authorized the Mayor and Manager to sign the request letter on behalf of the City on motion of Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Tuper-Giles. **Motion carried.**

B) Public Hearing Warned for 7:20 PM: Enterprise Aly DR-IG-2012-Barre City-00049 Close Out.

Mayor Lauzon opened the public hearing at 7:44 PM and invited comments or questions. Manager Mackenzie gave a PowerPoint presentation of the project, reviewed the environmental and streetscape work that was done, and the funding sources. There was discussion on maintaining the landscaping, and the need to re-seed the grass areas. Hearing no additional comments or questions, the Mayor said the grant is considered closed, and he closed the public hearing at 7:53 PM.

D) Introduce Citizen Feedback System.

Assistant to the City Manager Nick Landry reviewed the citizen feedback system available in the Manager's office and on the City website. There was discussion on how the information is tracked and shared with department heads. Mr. Landry will provide a copy of the spreadsheet to the Council.

E) FY17 Street Reconstruction/Paving Program.

Assistant Public Works Director Steve Micheli reviewed the list of streets to be paved this fiscal year, along with the list of those streets that will also have infrastructure improvements and sidewalk work. Manager Mackenzie said the RFP for paving will go out before the end of the week, and the results are

expected to come to Council in 2 weeks for approval. There was discussion about subbing out some of the sidewalk work to ensure it is completed before next summer when VTRANS paves Routes 14 and 302 through the City.

F) Authorize Acceptance of FEMA/DEMHS Subgrant for Gunners Brook Phase Property Buy-outs (3).

Council accepted the three buy-out subgrants and authorized the Manager to sign on behalf of the City on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Tuper-Giles. **Motion carried.**

There was discussion on doing some of the earthwork this fall, finalizing the design plans, and construction of the upper trash rack.

Round Table –

Councilor Tuper-Giles said he attended last week's TAC meeting and was impressed with the public turnout. He asked about the weeds growing along the sidewalk in front of the Rite Aid plaza. Mayor Lauzon said that area is privately owned and the owner is responsible for maintenance. Manager Mackenzie said the City is looking for solutions to the problem.

Councilor Herring said the Council should develop a reporting structure for the various reports that are to be presented to it on a regular basis. He said the Heritage Festival is two weeks away and the list of events is posted on the website.

There was a discussion around vacant properties, homelessness, and developing systems or ordinances that would make sure vacant properties are maintained until they are sold and re-inhabited.

Executive Session –

Councilor Herring made the motion to find that premature general public knowledge of the contract, 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 Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Council went into executive session at 8:54 PM to discuss the contract, litigation and personnel issues under the provisions of 1 VSA sec. 313 on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Manager Mackenzie was invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 9:27 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Tuper-Giles. **Motion carried.**

No action taken.

The Council meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Tuper-Giles. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk