

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held August 2, 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, Councilors Paul Poirier and Jeffrey Tuper-Giles; from Ward II, Councilors Michael Boutin and Michael Smith; and from Ward III, Councilor Anita Chadderton. Also present were City Manager Steven 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 Councilor Chadderton, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular meeting on July 26, 2016
- City Warrants as presented:
 - Approval of Week 2016-31:
 - Accounts Payable: \$275,131.12
 - Payroll (gross): \$145,532.31
 - Special Community Development Warrant: Return advanced funds from the Community Development account to the General Fund: \$19,000.00
 - Special Community Development Warrant: Transfer ACCD grant funds to Downstreet.
- Licenses & Permits: none considered as part of consent agenda

Clerk Dawes distributed a packet of information about the animal license for 55 snakes deferred from last week's meeting. The packet included a report and supporting materials from Health Officer Capt. Matt Cetin and a letter from Permit Officer Heather Grandfield to the applicant, Morgan Weiss, notifying her about the need to bring her home business selling snakes into compliance with zoning ordinance.

Councilor Chadderton made the motion to deny the animal license, seconded by Councilor Tuper-Giles.

Ms. Weiss said she has been living in her apartment and raising snakes as pets since 2007, and that her landlord filed a complaint in retaliation for having to bring some issues in the apartment into compliance. She said the landlord has been aware she has snakes in the apartment since at least 2009. The Facebook price list included in Capt. Cetin's paperwork was posted to help her to reduce the number of snakes she has. She said she is a hobbyist and a private breeder, and does not sell snakes.

Mayor Lauzon said these clearly are not pets; they are being raised for retail. Ms. Weiss said this is a one-time thing offering the animals for sale. She said she is not interested in running a pet store out of her home. The Mayor reviewed the company overview language on Ms. Weiss' Facebook page for her business, Homegrown Scales. He said the language references customers and indicates the animals are for sale. Ms. Weiss said she wrote the wording poorly, and it doesn't reflect the facts surrounding her business, which involves maintaining fish tanks for clients.

Mayor Lauzon asked that the motion and second be withdrawn. The Mayor said he suggests Council table action on the animal license and allow two weeks for Ms. Weiss to work with Ms. Grandfield and Planning Director Janet Shatney to finalize the details.

Councilors Chadderton and Tuper-Giles withdrew their motion and second.

To be approved at 08-08-16 Barre City Council Meeting

Council tabled action on the animal license on motion of Councilor Tuper-Giles, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

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

- Early absentee voting for the August 9th primary is now available.
- First quarter property tax payments due by August 15th.

Clerk Dawes asked how Council would like to handle next week's meeting, with the Primary on Tuesday. Mayor Lauzon said he will make a decision by Thursday as to whether to hold the meeting on Monday or cancel the meeting for the week, based on agenda items.

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

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Catherine Gattone	9 Howard Street
Heather & John Boulanger	21 Elliston Street
Vermont Granite Museum of Barre	7 Jones Brothers Way
Dennis Martel	40 Perry Street
Matt & Courtney Lagner	18 Delmont Avenue

Liquor Control – NONE

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

- Painting of the BOR ceiling will be completed by the end of the week.
- Gave a short PowerPoint presentation on the Gunner Brook mitigation plan. Construction of the upper debris rack is scheduled for this year. Closing on the homes being purchased with grant funds is tentatively scheduled for this fall.

On a query from Councilor Smith, Mayor Lauzon said reinforcement of the wall of the swimming pool mechanical room was completed several weeks ago. Council will discuss future repair or construction plans in the fall, and will include costs in the FY18 budget.

Visitors & Communications –

Merchant Street resident Tracy Gillies said the Civic Center hasn't been closing off access to the dirt parking lot and there have been a number of cars driving through there and kicking up dust, along with a car that was parked there for a couple of days recently that had its alarm going off at random times. Mayor Lauzon said he will see to it the barrier is locked going forward. Ms. Gillies also said the dust is a problem. Manager Mackenzie said the City applies calcium chloride on a regular basis.

Old Business – NONE

New Business -

A) Review/Revise Coin Drop Policy.

Council reviewed the policy and suggested revised language. The Clerk will present a draft of the revised policy at the next Council meeting.

B) Appeal to waive fees for Capstone tax clients with late Homestead declaration filing.

Clerk Dawes said the appeal request had been withdrawn. The Clerk reviewed her conversations with Capstone; how a software problem on their end caused a few people to late file homestead declarations,

leading to penalties for late filing. The Clerk said state statute lays out the process for appealing through the assessor's office and BCA rather than through the Council. The Clerk is working with Capstone on their appeal requests.

C) Authorization to Accept VT ANR Ecosystem Restoration Grant.

Council approved accepting the grant and authorized the Manager to sign on behalf of the City on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Smith. **Motion carried.**

Round Table –

Councilors thanked all those involved in last weekend's Heritage Festival, which was a success. The Council team again won the bathtub race, becoming four-time champions.

Councilor Poirier announced he is running for re-election for the legislature.

Councilor Smith reviewed this week's Wednesday Authors at the Aldrich and Concert in Currier Park.

Mayor Lauzon said he especially appreciates those who volunteered to clean up on Sunday morning following the Heritage Festival. The Mayor said there is an entrepreneur competition tomorrow, and a ribbon cutting at Summer Street Center on Thursday.

Executive Session –

Councilor Boutin made the motion to find that premature general public knowledge of legal issues associated with the Champlain Oil environmental court appeal would clearly place the City of Barre at a substantial disadvantage should the discussion be public. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chadderton. **Motion carried.**

Council went into executive session at 8:14 PM to discuss the legal issue under the provisions of 1 VSA sec. 313 on motion of Councilor Smith, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Manager Mackenzie was invited into the executive session.

Council came out of executive session at 8:40 PM on motion of Councilor Boutin, seconded by Councilor Tuper-Giles. **Motion carried.**

No action taken.

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM on motion of Councilor Smith, 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