

**Regular Meeting of the Barre City Council
Held October 24, 2017**

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 Sue Higby and Jeffrey Tuper-Giles; from Ward II, Councilors Brandon Batham and Michael Boutin; and from Ward III, Councilors Lucas Herring and John LePage. Also present were City Manager Steven Mackenzie and Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Dawes.

Absent: NONE

Adjustments to the Agenda: Mayor Lauzon said he was going to adjust 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 Herring. **Motion carried.**

- Minutes of the following meetings:
 - Regular meeting on October 17, 2017
- City Warrants as presented:
 - Approval of Week 2017-43:
 - Accounts Payable: \$285,272.77
 - Payroll (gross): \$117,243.26
 - Special Warrant – purchase of 87 Brook Street: \$69,695.71
 - Special Community Development Warrant – from Summer Street Apartments implementation grant for reimbursement of FY16 audit expenses: \$1,248.00
- 2017 Licenses & Permits – NONE

Mayor Lauzon welcomed Councilor LePage, who was elected last week at the Ward 3 caucus to fill the seat recently held by Anita Chadderton until the March 2018 Annual (Town) Meeting.

Visitors & Communications –

Charlotte Low, outreach coordinator for Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District, said CVSWMD will be holding a special event at the Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC) on November 15th, which is America Recycles Day. The ARCC offers free electronics recycling and 24/7 food scraps drop-off. Ms. Low reviewed a partial list of other items that are accepted at the ARCC, and said a more complete list is available on the CVSWMD website.

Jacob Isham and Greg Kelly from Ceres Greens gave a PowerPoint presentation on their hydroponic vertical farming facility being built on the Metro Development campus. They said Vermont imports 90% of its produce. The farm will grow a variety of greens and is expected to produce 1,500 pounds of food per day by 2019. Production shows a 12-fold increase per square foot when compared to outdoor farming. The 12,000 square foot facility features special lighting in a plant-specific spectrum, and is expected to create 8-10 jobs. Councilors welcomed the company to Barre City.

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

- Second quarter property taxes are due by November 15th.
- The auditors will begin their field work next week.
- The winter parking ban goes into effect on November 15th.

Approval of Building Permits – Council approved the following building permits on motion of Councilor Herring, seconded by Councilor Tuper-Giles. **Motion carried.**

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Address</u>
Stephen Davoll & Beverly Frost City of Barre	18 Vine Street 0 Mill Street (dog park)

Liquor Control – NONE

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

- Yard waste drop off at the Barre Town stump dump continues through October 28th. Curbside pickup by ward will run the week of November 6th.
- The ribbon cutting for the Gunner’s Brook flood mitigation projects is scheduled for October 27th at 11:00 AM. The ribbon cutting for the Smith Street bike path segment is scheduled for October 25th at 4:00 PM.
- The Budget Committee will begin working on the FY19 budget at its first meeting next week.
- Wellington Street is scheduled to be paved the week of November 6th.

Old Business – NONE

New Business –

A) Discussion of Downtown Barre Parking Program.

Councilor Higby distributed an outline of questions and discussion points related to parking. There was discussion on increasing public information and outreach, providing dedicated parking spaces near City Hall for municipal use only, providing 15 minute free courtesy spaces throughout the City, reviewing parking permit fees for possible increases, designating free parking areas, lowering parking meter fees, replacing yellow-topped meters with green-topped meters, re-evaluating free holiday parking and exploring other possible parking promotions, expanding parking enforcement beyond 5:00 PM, and costs of maintaining meters.

Councilor Boutin distributed information on Parkmobile; an app used for remote payment of parking meter fees.

Councilor Higby said she will be attending some future Parking Committee meetings to engage the committee in the discussions.

B) Approval of Flood Mitigation Note Paperwork.

Clerk Dawes reviewed the specifics of the \$500,000 note. Council approved the paperwork, including resolution #2017-13, on motion of Councilor Tuper-Giles, seconded by Councilor Boutin. **Motion carried.**

Round Table –

Councilors welcomed Councilor LePage. Councilor LePage said it is a pleasure to serve.

Councilor Batham requested a short executive session on personnel.

Councilor Herring said this Friday is the Cornerstone’s 5 year anniversary, and Saturday is the Rotary Club ball. He reminded everyone there is no Council meeting next week.

Councilor Higby reminded everyone of the Barre Promise Community activities, which are listed on the Facebook page.

Executive Session –

Councilor Herring made the motion to find that premature general public knowledge of the personnel issue 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 Batham. **Motion carried.**

Council went into executive session at 8:48 PM to discuss personnel issues under the provisions of 1 VSA sec. 313 on motion of Councilor Batham, seconded by Councilor Tuper-Giles. **Motion carried.**

Council came out of executive session at 8:56 PM on motion of Councilor Tuper-Giles, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

No action was taken.

The Council meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM on motion of Councilor Tuper-Giles, seconded by Councilor Herring. **Motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn S. Dawes, City Clerk