Board of Aldermen Committee Minutes

Date: 2/12/16 Chair: Allaire Convened: 5:30 Adjourned:

Committee				
	☒	Charter & Ordinance	☐	Public Works
	☐	Community Development	☐	Recreation
	☐	Finance	☐	Intermunicipal
	☐	General	☐	Special Liquor
	☐	Public Safety	☐	Human Resource

Committee Members Present				
	☒	Dave Allaire	☐	
	☐	Chris Ettori	☒	Ed Larson
	☐	Gary Donahue	☐	William Notte
	☐	Sharon Davis	☐	Chris Siliski
	☐	Tom DePoy	☒	Matt Bloomer
	☐	Melinda Humphrey		

Others Present					
	☐	Dave Allaire	☐	Gary Donahue	☐ Mayor Louras
	☐	Chris Ettori	☐	William Notte	☐ Treasurer Wilton
	☐	Sharon Davis	☐	Ed Larson	☐ Attorney Romeo
	☐	Tom DePoy	☐	Chris Siliski	☐ Other_____
	☐	Melinda Humphrey	☐	Matt Bloomer	☐ Other_____
	☐		☐		☐ Other_____

Motions/Discussion

Gordon Dotchello Smoking
Charles Romeo Ordinance
Tom Heubner

CHARTER + ORDINANCE

2/11/16 THURS

5:30

DOWNSTAIRS CONFERENCE RM

AGENDA: REQUEST BY RUT. REG. MEDICAL CENTER FOR THE CITY TO ENACT ORDINANCE WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT SMOKING ON PUBLIC SIDEWALKS ADJACENT TO CAMPUS OF RUTLAND REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER.

ATTENDANCE — ALD. ALLAIRE, BLOOMER, AND PRESIDENT NOTTE MADE A QUAROM. ALSO ALD. LARSON, CITY ATTY ROMCO, GORDON DEUTSCHILD, TOM HEUBNER, SARAH COSGROVE, BRIAN KOHS, + BETHANY YORK.

THIS ISSUE/PROPOSAL WAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THIS BOARD THROUGH A LETTER SENT TO THE BOARD BY MAYOR LOUKAS DATED DECEMBER 3rd AND REFERRED AT DECEMBER 7th MEETING.

Tom Heubner, CEO of Medical Center, explained to the Committee the thought behind the request. He said this is the second attempt at making the Rutland Regional Medical Center a smoke-free campus. Heubner said we learned some lessons the first time and it did not work. As smokers loomed up on the sidewalk right outside the window of the Cancer Center.

To keep visitors from lighting up on the sidewalk, he was turning to the City.

He said the Hospital is planning on putting up plenty of signage, and he is not expecting the Rutland Police to show up writing tickets.

Alderman Blonner asked if the Hospital wanted this Ordinance to also apply to E-Cigarettes, and officials and members of the Committee agreed that it should.

After some debate, Alderman Blonner + Notte agreeing with the proposal, and while I stated some misgivings about government dictating behaviors especially on a public sidewalk, the Committee

Agreed to send the proposed draft ordinance upstairs with the added language regarding E-Cigarettes.

The Draft has been in your packets for review this last week-end. This new proposed Ordinance is fairly simple. It starts with 3460 Authority, 3461 Finding of Necessity 3462 Definitions, and 3463 Prohibition, Notice Requirement (a) - where the meat of the Ordinance is.

So, after a walk-thru of the Draft Ordinance and further discussion, a motion was made to recommend to the Full Board to adopt the Ordinance as presented with amendment on E-Cigs/Vaping and I so move.

A couple of things I made clear at the Committee I had misgivings and reservations about this proposal but I would not hold it up in Committee. I have decided I cannot support this proposal and here's why.

While I encourage the Medical Center to become smoke-free as we are the last in the state to do so, when it comes to a public sidewalk, that's a different matter. The sidewalk is public property. If we do this here, it opens up a Pandora's box to prohibit smoking everywhere.

Tom stated that he does not expect this ordinance to be enforced. Then my question, why pass it.

Finally, I believe this is another example of Big Brother mandating a behavior on a public property which is not a danger to others, while admittedly not healthy to the person smoking.

While I applaud the Medical Center for making its campus smoke free, which is private property, I cannot support this ordinance here tonite.