

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, February 2, 2015

Members Present; Board President Allaire; Aldermen Kiernan, Humphrey, Notte, Donahue, Siliski, Brodowski, Bloomer, DePoy and Davis. Also present, Mayor Louras, Attorney Romeo, and City Clerk Heck. Alderman Larson was absent.

President Allaire called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (January 20, 2015)

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Notte) to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

Motion passed.

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

John Ryan a resident of the Bardwell House, spoke on the issue of residents crossing at the intersections in front of their (Bardwell House) residence. Mr. Ryan presented a petition signed by those residents asking the City to help make those intersections safer as a woman was just struck by a car. A motion was made (DePoy) to refer the issue to the Traffic Safety and Public Safety Committees. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

Kam Johnston spoke on several issues from legalizing pot, crossing safety, and the location for tax grievances to be held.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Proclamation for RHS Cheerleaders

Because of the snowstorm and the cancellation of school, Mayor Louras noted that this proclamation will be held at the next BOA meeting.

Herald Pit Agreement

Mayor Louras briefed the Board on the issue and asked for a referral to discuss the options available for the City. A motion was made and seconded (Siliski, Donahue) to refer the issue to the Community and Economic Development Committee. **Motion passed.**

Appointment to City Planning Commission

Mayor Louras introduced Patrick Griffin as his appointee to the Planning Commission. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Notte) to table the appointment until the next meeting. **Motion passed.**

Rutland Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Closure

Mayor Louras spoke on the Rutland Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) being eliminated by the Governor. The Mayor presented a resolution for the Board to sign, noting the cities dissatisfaction with the elimination of jobs and the risk to public safety. There was brief discussion, as the Board President had also prepared a resolution against the closings. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to circulate the resolution for signatures. There was brief debate as to the intent of the motion. Some Aldermen needed clarification as to which resolution, or if it was for both. Alderman Davis withdrew her motion and so moved the suggestion of President Allaire to circulate both resolutions. This motion was seconded by Alderman DePoy. Firefighter Seth Bride spoke on his working experience at the dispatch and gave some statistical numbers to support keeping the Rutland dispatch. Chief Schlachter spoke very briefly against the elimination as well. **Motion passed.**

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Barbara Spaulding; RRA, Downtown Designation Renewal

Board President Allaire read the request for the Downtown Designation Renewal Resolution. A motion was made and seconded (Notte, Davis) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Notte, Davis) to circulate for signatures. **Motion passed.**

Brennan Duffy; RRA, Request for referral

Board President Allaire again read the request on the issue of an upcoming Downtown Transportation Fund Grant. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Brodowski) to refer the issue to the Community and Economic Development Committee. **Motion passed.**

Board President Allaire; E911 Dispatch Center Resolution

This request was discussed with the Mayor's PSAP Closure issue earlier. Both Resolutions were circulated for signatures and will be sent to the Governor.

Cindi Wight; Request to sell City Property

Superintendent Wight reviewed her request to sell City property. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to approve the Recreation and Parks Department selling the items listed on the attached list. There was brief debate on the issue of where the revenues from the sale would go. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman DePoy; Chair Public Works

Alderman DePoy, Chair of the committee, read his report on the request to utilize unspent funds for the continued Northwest Sewer Separation Project. A motion out of committee was made to approve the extension of the contract in the amount of \$39,500, regarding engineering services in the NWSSP to include Grove St. to Lincoln Ave. along Library Ave. and Kendall Ave.. Alderman DePoy so moved this motion. This motion was seconded by Alderman Davis. There was debate as to the continued process of the project vs. debt reduction. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Board President Allaire; HR Committee

Board President Allaire gave a very brief update on the continued rewrite of the non-union personnel handbook.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Alderman Siliski; Planning Commission

Alderman Siliski read his representative report for the Planning Commission noting several issues including a new chair appointment and the retirement of longtime member Jerry Hansen. Alderman Siliski noted a report on Complete Streets and briefly reviewed that report. Alderman Siliski's report was for information only.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

There were no Petitions, Letters or Miscellaneous Communications to come before the Board.

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

There were no items for the Board of Control Commissioners

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Siliski; Finance Committee Referral, Quarterly Financial Statement Reviews

Alderman Siliski noted a request from the Treasurer on quarterly financial reviews and explained her request to the Board. A motion was made and seconded (Siliski, Humphrey) to send the quarterly financial report of 12-31-2014 and all future quarterly reports to the Finance Committee for discussion and review. There was brief debate.

Alderman Davis revisited an earlier request she made to have the Board of Highway Commissioners do a sight visit on the lighting issue in the Northwest Neighborhood and again asked for a sight visit and a report back to the full Board.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Kiernan asked for a point of personal privilege and spoke on the Zamias funding requests. Alderman Kiernan expressed his point of view noting the Paramount asked for partial funding and the committee recommended and the Board approved full funding for their HD (Paramount) request. Alderman Kiernan read a prepared statement supporting his stance on preserving the Zamias Fund and asked the Board to be more thorough in their support of future request. Alderman Kiernan expressed several ideas to further support the Zamias Fund and thanked the Board for their time.

Alderman Notte brought the issue of a permit request in Rutland Town before the Board noting the request to build a BJ's in the town was meeting tough resistance from the State and sought to have the Board support the project through a petition or resolution and stated he would work on such a document to bring back to the Board.

At 8:08 PM a motion was made and seconded (Kiernan, DePoy) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk