

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, October 5, 2015

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

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (September 21, 2015)

A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Larson) to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Kam Johnston from outside the rail asked for a correction to the minutes. There was no action from the Board. The minutes were approved as presented. **Motion passed.**

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Kam Johnston spoke on a request to improve the public education piece and sought to have lister cards presented with tax bills. Mr. Johnston noted the importance of the information on the lister card and thought it being included would benefit the public. Alderman Donahue moved to refer the issue to the General Committee. There was no second. President Notte continued with the meeting.

Regina Kohlhepp from Walk a Mile in Her Shoes gave a brief update on the event and thanked all those involved in making the event a reality.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Request for Proposals; Surveying Services for City of Rutland

Mayor Louras explained the RFP request and sought direction from the Board. A motion was made and seconded (Siliski, Larson) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Siliski, Larson) authorizing the Mayor to solicit proposals for the proposed survey work on behalf of the City. **Motion passed.**

Mayor Louras then spoke on a proposed low-barrier shelter and presented the Board with a letter that he composed and sent to Hal Cohen, Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Human Services. The letter noted the City's concerns with and opposition to locating a low-barrier shelter at the Bennington-Rutland Opportunity Council (BROC) facility in downtown Rutland. Mayor Louras spoke at length on the issue. A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Davis) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Larson) authorizing the Mayor and City Attorney to draft a resolution showing the Board of Aldermen's support on the Mayors' concerns. **Motion passed.**

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None were requested.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Abby Noland; "Verbal" Library Update

Abby Noland used several handouts to update the Board on the current state of the library. Ms. Noland noted several statistics and shared several public success experiences.

Barbara Spaulding; RRA, Request to Set Public Hearing

President Notte introduced the request and sought to hold the public hearing on November 2, 2015 at 6:45 PM to fulfill the VCDP Funding grant requirement. The request was so moved and seconded, (Davis, Larson). **Motion passed.**

Barbara Spaulding; RRA, Resolution for TAP Grant Application Authority

President Notte introduced the request and noted the earlier public meeting on the related issue. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, DePoy) authorizing the Mayor to sign the Vermont Transportation Alternatives Program grant application for the Center Street Marketplace lighting investment. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Allaire) to circulate the resolution for signatures. **Motion passed.**

Jeff Wennberg; RFP; Water Distribution System Engineering Services

Commissioner Wennberg introduced the request and sought to have two separate projects approved by the Board authorizing the Mayor to seek proposals from qualified engineering firms for the planning and design of two water system improvement projects. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) authorizing the Mayor to seek proposals for the replacement of 5940 feet of obsolete water distribution mains on Park St, East St, Jackson Ave, Spellman Terrace and Engrem

Ave. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Davis) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, DePoy) authorizing the Mayor to seek proposals from qualified engineering firms for the installation of a water equalization tank on the West side of the City to address reduced pressures and flows West of Otter Creek. **Motion passed.**

Attorney Romeo; "Setting of Waiver Fines" Vehicle for Hire Ordinance

President Notte introduced the issue. 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 set the waiver fines for violation of the tax ordinance at the first offense of \$75.00 the second offense at \$150.00 and the third and subsequent offenses at \$300.00. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

Attorney Romeo; Request for Referral, Community Development, Parking Garage Budget

President Allaire introduced the item. Attorney Romeo gave a brief review for a referral request. It was noted the BOA would approve the 2016 parking garage budget. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Allaire) to refer the request to the Community & Economic Development Committee. There was brief discussion. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Sharon Davis; Chair, Community & Economic Development (2) Reports, Resolution and Water Incentive: Alderman Davis noted a time crunch for Gordon Dritchilo of the herald and allowed Alderman Allaire to report out on his Public Safety Committee report.

Dave Allaire; Chair, Public Safety, New Police Chief Contract

Alderman Allaire read his committee report on the issue of the new police contract. Alderman Allaire went over some highlights of the contract and noted the only real sticking point was in section 2B. This section dealt with living requirements, specifically within the City. This section drew the most debate. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) approving the draft police chief contract with the proposed change to the last sentence in section 2B. Debate was lengthy. **Motion passed.**

Sharon Davis; Chair, Community & Economic Development (2) Reports, Resolution and Water Incentive:

Alderman Davis continued with her committee report. Alderman Davis noted two issues discussed in her committee and read her report on a request from Stonehedge Indoor Golf-Center for water and wastewater rate reduction. Alderman Davis gave a broad description of the applicant and their request for water of 1300 GPD. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Allaire) to approve the request with the standard offer for the qualifying business. The standard offer is a waiver of the allocation fee. Water and Wastewater rate reduction for 5 years, with the first year rate reduction of 50%, the second year of 40%, the third year of 30%, the fourth year of 20% and the fifth and final year a 10% reduction. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Davis moved onto her second report for the Evelyn Street Resolution. This request allows the City to move forward with the application for a Community Block Grant looking at feasibility and cost of the Evelyn Street Redevelopment Concept. It also shows the City supports the project. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Larson) to support the resolution and to circulate for signatures. There was brief discussion from within and some public input on this issue. **Motion passed.** This concluded Alderman Davis's Community and Economic Development Report.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no Select Committee Reports.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no Representative Reports.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

S.E.P. Request; Rutland Halloween Parade, Sat., Oct. 31, 2015, 6:30 PM

President Notte introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Larson) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) to approve the Special Events Permit for the Rutland Halloween Parade, Saturday October 31, at 6:30 PM. **Motion passed.**

S.E.P. Request; Halloween 5K, Sat., Oct. 31, 2015, 11AM

President Notte introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, DePoy) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, DePoy) to approve the Special Events Permit Request for the Halloween 5K on October 31, at 11AM. **Motion passed.**

S.E.P. Request; Cropwalk for Hunger 2015, Oct. 18, 2015 1:30 PM

President Notte introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Allaire) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Allaire) approving the request Cropwalk for Hunger, October 18, 1:30 PM. There was brief debate to the time ending the request as it was void. There was also a question on the overlap of

another event on the same day. Upon gathering information from the Clerk, the Board moved forward.
Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded (Ettori, Skates) to move into the Board of Tax Abatement. **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF TAX ABATEMENT

M & K Johnston, Request to Reconsider 9/8/2015 Abatement Hearing & 9/21/2015 Meeting

Mr. Johnston brought this request back before the Board and sought a reconsideration of no action taken by the Board at their last meeting. Mr. Johnston continued to ask for recognition of a lister error. There was a fair amount of debate from Board members and Mr. Johnston. Mr. Johnston asked for more recusals noting Aldermen Siliski, Davis, and Tax Collector Wilton recuse themselves. Debate continued. A motion was made and seconded (Ettori, Bloomer) to move into deliberative session. **Motion failed.** Debate followed. A motion was made and seconded (Bloomer, Donahue) to "reconsider this issue". Debate. Alderman Donahue asked for a motion. President Notte noted a motion was on the floor. After brief discussion Alderman Donahue held off his motion. Treasurer Wilton and Mr. Johnston held a question and answer discussion. Alderman Davis asked if this was a hearing, and noted a motion was on the floor. Alderman Siliski called the question; it was seconded by Alderman Allaire. President Notte noted the question had been called and called the question. **Motion passed to call the question.** Mr. Johnston sought a roll call vote for the reconsider motion, the president noted the request. There was no action by the Board. President Notte called for a vote on the motion to reconsider. **Motion failed.** There was follow-up discussion on the Donahue motion. Alderman Donahue stated he only had a motion if the reconsider motion passed. The President noted two failed motions and asked the Board pleasure. Attorney Romeo noted that the Board had taken action to reconsider the Boards original decision that motion failed. The Board has acted upon Mr. Johnston's request to reconsider; there are no other items on the agenda. President Notte then asked for a motion to move out of the Board of Tax Abatement.

A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Ettori) to move out of the Board of Tax Abatement.
Motion passed.

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

There were no items to come before the Board of Control Commissioners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board of Aldermen.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

President Notte noted a request under new business from Barbara Spaulding and read her request for a referral to the Community and Economic Development Committee. The request was for two applicants, BROCC and Child Parent Center looking to apply for VCDP Grant Funding. The request was so moved and seconded (Davis). **Motion passed.**

With no other business to come before the Board the President asked the Board for a motion to adjourn. The request was so moved and seconded (Allaire, Ettori). **Motion passed.** The Board adjourned at 8:32 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk