

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, August 17, 2015

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

City Clerk Heck called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

City Clerk Heck opened the meeting noting that Board President Notte was acting Mayor while Mayor Louras was away. Clerk Heck stated that the first order of business would be to elect a Board Chair for this meeting.

A motion was made and seconded (Donahue, Davis) to nominate Alderman Allaire as President.

There were no other nominations. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Donahue) to close the nominations. **Motion passed.**

Clerk Heck called for the president vote. Alderman Allaire was elected President. **Motion passed.**

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (August 3, 2015)

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Larson) to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. **Motion passed.**

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Sue Bassett of 17 Melrose Avenue spoke on a water issue that has plagued their neighborhood. Mrs. Bassett was accompanied by several other neighbors. Lisa Bassett of 16 North Street spoke on the same issue as well as Debbie Poplowski a resident of Melrose Ave. A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Davis) to refer the issue to the Public Works Committee. **Motion passed.**

Brennan Duffy, Director of the RRA announced a Small Business Award to the City in the Amount of \$50,000 for developing a "business friendly" online application process and invited everyone to that event

Gail Johnson spoke on an ice cream social that would take place on August 30th, 2015

A gentleman spoke on sidewalk and curb conditions in front of his home on lower Library Avenue near Pine St. The gentleman has been requesting information for awhile and has not received any.

Recreation Superintendent spoke on several issues including the Baxter Street Park issue and newer playground equipment at White's Park and Meadow St. Park.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Acting Mayor Notte spoke on Alderman Larson who is recovering from shoulder surgery.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Acting Mayor Notte noted a request for a tax abatement for 17 Melrose Ave. and sought to have it added to the agenda. The request was so moved and seconded (Davis, Etori). **Motion passed.**

President-elect Allaire also noted a request to add the issue of an amendment to minutes from a tax abatement for Richard Bendig to the agenda. This request was so moved and seconded (Davis, Etori). **Motion passed.**

A request to add a Special Events Permit for Superintendent Wight was so moved and seconded (Davis, DePoy). **Motion passed.**

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Brennan Duffy; RRA Director, Business Incentive & Assistance Program

Director Duffy introduced the request asking for the adoption of a draft policy for the recently developed Business Incentive & Assistance Program (BIAP). A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Donahue) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to adopt the policy. There was a large amount of debate. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Siliski) to amend the language per City Attorney Romeo's language. Debate at length again. A motion was made and seconded (Bloomer, Donahue) to table the issue. **MOTION FAILED!** Motion to amend was back on the floor. **MOTION TO AMEND PASSED.** The original motion as amended was now on the floor. **Motion passed.**

Wendy Wilton; Treasurer, Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Wilton noted her report but moved on to a list of requests. A motion was made and seconded (Etori, Bloomer) to suspend the rules and take the reclassify question up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Etori, Davis) to reclassify \$35,000 of a fund balance be committed to the Police Chief search. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Bloomer, Davis) to suspend the rules and take the Treasurer's second request up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Bloomer, Davis) to transfer from the General Fund to the Bridge Fund \$53,062.29. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Bloomer, Davis) to transfer from the General Fund to the Sidewalk Fund \$5,562.17. **Motion passed.**

Cindi Wight; Rec. Superintendent, City Pool Engineering Architectural Services Proposal

Superintendent Wight requested approving Aquatics Group for City pool engineering Architectural services. A motion was made and seconded (Bloomer, Davis) to refer the request to the Recreation Committee. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Dave Allaire; Chair, Public Safety

Alderman Allaire read his report on a request from Chip Greeno to sell fireworks within the City. The Committee was deadlocked on a motion made in committee to the full Board and had no motion to present. Alderman Etori read a prepared statement on the issue and his desire to promote new business. A motion was made and seconded (Etori, Bloomer) to table the issue. **Motion failed 5-3. (Three No votes were Siliski, DePoy, Davis).** A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Etori) to approve the request for a fireworks permit in the City. Debate was very lengthy. Alderman DePoy withdrew his motion to approve. Alderman DePoy wished to reconsider the failed table motion, but was unable to do so as he did not vote in the majority. Alderman Etori and Bloomer (second) made a motion to reconsider the failed tabled motion. **Motion Passed.** The motion to table was on the floor and non-debatable. The President called for a vote. **Motion failed to table the request.** The Board heard from the Attorney and Board President on options that the Board may seek. Board members wrestled with an action before a motion was made and seconded (Etori, DePoy) to refer the issue back to Public Safety Committee. **Motion passed after a hands confirmation.**

Gary Donahue; Chair, General Committee

Alderman Donahue read his report and noted there was no action taken in regards to the request by Mayor Louras for a Social Media Policy. Alderman Donahue noted the Mayor's absence and stated the committee could not speculate on the Mayor's intent.

Sharon Davis; Chair, Community and Economic Development

Alderman Davis read her report from August 13th. Alderman Davis noted that her committee met to discuss the issue of covering the 1913 railroad car located at the Vt. Farmers Food Center. Alderman Davis explained the events leading up to and the necessity to cover the car. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to approve the use of Zambas Funds not to exceed \$33,000. Debate followed for almost 30 minutes, before the question was called and seconded (Donahue, DePoy). **Motion passed.** The president noted that they Board was back at the original motion, to approve the request, not to exceed \$33,000. There was no further debate. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Davis sought a second motion and stated a motion authorizing the City Attorney to develop an agreement working with the VFFC & BOA discussing the maintenance and liability issues regarding the train. Alderman Donahue seconded. **Motion passed.**

At 9:10 PM President Allaire called for a five (5) minute recess.

*Alderman Siliski Left.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no Select Committee Reports.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Christopher Siliski; Planning Commission

Alderman Siliski will read at the next BOA Meeting.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

The Special Events Permit request added earlier in the agenda for the Recreation Department. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Skates) to suspend the rules and take the request up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Skates) to approve the Baxter St. Park Neighborhood meeting for August 23rd. **Motion passed.**

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

BOARD OF TAX ABATEMENT

Abatement Request 60 Pine St. 2006 – 2014; this request was moved to be heard on Tuesday, September 8th at 6:30 PM. The request was so moved and seconded (Davis, Etori). **Motion passed.**

Bassett, 17 Melrose Avenue this request was moved to be heard on Monday, September 21st at 6:30 PM. This request was so moved and seconded (Davis, Skates). **Motion passed.**

Amended Minutes Request, Bendig this request was added to the agenda earlier in the meeting. Acting-President Allaire noted the request and sought to have the language 10 VSA 6249 stricken for the minutes. This request was so moved and seconded (Davis, Etori). **Motion passed**

A motion was made and seconded (Skates, Etori) to come out of the Board of Tax Abatement. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Skates) to move into the Board of Control Commissioners. **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

Downtown Bar & Grill; Outside Consumption Request

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Etori) to authorize the Clerk to sign. **Motion passed.**

Hop'N Moose; Outside Consumption Request

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to authorize the Clerk to sign. **Motion passed.**

Center Street Saloon; Outside Consumption Request

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Etori) to authorize the Clerk to sign. **Motion passed.**

1st Class Liquor Request; Hide-A-Way –Tavern, 95 State St

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Skates) to circulate for signatures. **Motion passed.**

1st Class Liquor Request; Stonehedge Indoor Golf, South Main St

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Donahue) to circulate for signatures. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Etori) to come out of the Board of Control Commissioners. **Motion passed.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Attorney Romeo; Revolving Loan Fund Agreement with Heritage Family Credit Union

Brennan Duffy, RRA Director spoke to the issue and was happy to answer any questions. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to approve the agreement and to authorize the Mayor to sign. **Motion passed.**

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

There were no miscellaneous motions, Resolutions or New Business to come before the Board.

At 9:36 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk