

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Tax Abatement Minutes
***Kam Johnston; 60 Pine Street**
Tuesday, February 17, 2015

Members Present: President Allaire, Aldermen Notte, Donahue, Siliski, Brodowski, Larson, Davis, City Attorney Romeo and Deputy City Clerk Clark

President Allaire called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM

Alderman Brodowski, Chair of the Committee, reported the committee met on February 12, 2015 to discuss the applicant seeking an abatement of \$1.06 on a portion of taxes of a shed at 60 Pine Street, appearing as a manifest error or mistake of the lister. Alderman Brodowski read her committee report, in which the committee recommended denying the abatement request and that the Board of Tax Abatement should adopt the committee's recommendation as its decision, in which she so moved with Alderman Larson seconding. President Allaire asked if there was any debate. Alderman Larson called the question. Alderman Siliski seconded and the motion passed. President Allaire said the motion on the floor is to deny the request and the request has been seconded. *Kam Johnston arrived. The motion to deny then passed. Alderman Larson moved to adjourn. Alderman Davis seconded and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan A. Clark
Deputy City Clerk

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Tuesday, February 17, 2015

Members Present: President Allaire, Aldermen Kiernan, Humphrey, Notte, Donahue, Siliski, Brodowski, Larson, Bloomer, DePoy & Davis, Deputy City Clerk Clark and City Attorney Romeo

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (February 2, 2015)

Alderman Davis moved for the approval. Alderman Larson seconded. Kam Johnston spoke outside the rail saying he would like to be on the record saying he is in opposition to legalization and in favor of keeping the 911 centers. The motion then passed.

President moved Outside the Rail after Communications from the Mayor

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Proclamation for RHS Cheerleaders

Mayor Louras read a Proclamation to the Rutland High School Cheerleaders, who were present outside the rail, recognizing their second place title in their division at the National Cheerleading Competition that was held in Dallas, Texas in January 2015. They received a standing ovation from the Board members and people present outside the rail. Each cheerleader and coach stated their names for the record. Cara Gauvin, head coach, expressed her gratitude from outside the rail.

Mayoral Appointments (tabled); Patrick Griffin, Rutland City Planning Commission

Alderman Davis moved to remove from the table. Alderman Notte seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Davis moved to circulate the ballot box. President Allaire said the motion passed. Deputy City Clerk circulated the ballot box.

Energy & Environmental Technology Incentive Fund

Mayor Louras explained his memo regarding job growth and investment opportunities within the City of Rutland and recommended the Board creating a fund based on 50% of the receipts from solar projects and referring this issue to committee. Brennan Duffy of the RRA spoke outside the rail on the issue. After discussion, Alderman Notte moved to refer the issue to the Community and Economic Development Committee. Alderman Siliski seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Kiernan opposed.

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Kam Johnston; Pine Street, spoke outside the rail on issues of he was 5 minutes late to the tax abatement meeting prior to this meeting and wasn't able to speak, Rutland Fairgrounds & Electric Car Racing, Mayoral debate on Wednesday February 18th at College of St. Joseph @7:00 PM and Street Lighting.

Kathleen Krevetski; Roberts Avenue, spoke outside the rail asking for the Board to write a letter to Commission Harry Chen regarding additives to the city and state's water system. President Allaire asked Ms. Krevetski to wait until later in the meeting when this issue would be discussed. She obliged.

Recreation Superintendent Cindi Wight spoke outside the rail on this past weekend's Winter Fest that was held in the city.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were none

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Treasurer Wilton; January 2015 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Wilton provided a packet to the Board and briefly explained her report to the Board.

Rutland City Planning Commission Appointment (Patrick Griffin)

President Allaire announced the results as 10 yes 1 no. Mr. Griffin's appointment was approved.

Superintendent Wight; Sale of City Property

Ms. Wight said there are 2 cash registers, 1 water cooler, 4 phones, 1 kid bingo, 1 practice golf kit and a lot of chairs. Alderman Davis moved to suspend the rules. Alderman Notte seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Davis moved to authorize the Recreation and Parks Department to dispose of city property as listed. Alderman Notte seconded and the motion passed.

Brennan Duffy; RRA Director, Request for Referral for Tax Stabilization Incentive

Mr. Duffy explained his environmental technology and energy innovation fields' request to the Board and asked for a referral to the appropriate committee. Alderman Larson moved to the Community and Economic Development Committee. Alderman DePoy seconded and the motion passed.

Attorney Romeo; Request for Executive Session, Pending Civil Action

President Allaire moved this item to the end of the meeting. There were no objections.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Tom DePoy; Chair, Public Works; Fluoride

Alderman DePoy reported the committee met on February 4, 2015 to discuss Fluoride in the city's water and stated Kathleen Krevetski, Rutland City resident, had requested the city not add or fund Fluoride to the City's water. Alderman DePoy stated under the City's Charter, the Public Works Commissioner has the sole authority whether or not to add Fluoride to the City's water. Alderman DePoy read his committee report for information only. The following Rutland City residents spoke outside the rail on the issue:

Kathleen Krevetski, Roberts Avenue, read a statement outside the rail in opposition of additives to the city's water.

Kam Johnston spoke outside the rail suggesting the city do a study of adding Fluoride in the city's water every other year.

Natalie Forte, Edgerton Street, read a statement outside the rail in opposition of Fluoride to the city's water.

Alderman Larson voiced his concern regarding Ms. Krevetski's request for the board writing a letter to Commissioner Harry Chen. Alderman Brodowski spoke in favor of Fluoride.

Ed Larson; Chair, Public Safety; Improving Pedestrian Crossings in the Downtown Business Districts

Alderman Larson reported the committee met on February 10, 2015 to discuss improving pedestrian crossings in the downtown area and read his committee report and wants his report to be forwarded to the C.A.I.R. Committee. There was brief discussion on the matter. Kam Johnston spoke outside the rail in support of Alderman Larson's report.

Chris Siliski; Chair, Finance Committee; Unassigned Fund Balance

Alderman Siliski reported the committee met on February 12, 2015 to discuss Unassigned Fund Balance and due to time, the issue of Financial Statement Review was postponed. Alderman Siliski read his committee report for information only.

Sharon Davis; Chair, Community & Economic Dev.; Downtown Transportation Grant and Brennan Duffy Supporting Resolution for Transportation Grant

Alderman Davis reported the committee met on February 11, 2015 to discuss the \$100,000.00 Downtown Transportation Grant regarding DPW's request for Streetscape improvement along parts of Merchants Row and Strongs Avenue. Alderman Davis read her committee report explaining the project and said the proposed budget for the project is \$300,000, of which \$275,000.00 available between the \$100,000 from the Downtown Transportation Grant, \$175,000 leveraged from the Killington Avenue Project and \$25,000.00 donation from Rutland Blooms. Alderman Davis said the motion in committee was to approve the expenditure of \$175,000 from the allocated reserve in support of the Downtown Gateway Project and to circulate the resolution for signature, in which she so moved with Alderman Brodowski seconding. Brennan Duffy of the RRA and Commissioner Wennberg spoke outside the rail on the issue explaining the work and funding of the project and provided a map outlining the project areas. Treasurer Wilton spoke outside the rail explaining the money needed is already allocated in the General Fund. After discussion, President Allaire said the motion on the floor is to approve and circulate the resolution for signature. The motion passed.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Board President Allaire; HR Committee; Section 8 Leave of Absences

President Allaire said the committee met on February 3, 2015 to discuss leave of absences and military leave and he read his committee report for information only.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There was none

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

Abatement Request; Joe Giancola, 103 Library Avenue for 7/1/2015 through 6/30/2016

Alderman Larson questioned how the board can abate taxes that haven't been paid yet. City Attorney Romeo said it is up to the board and any decision of the board needs to be in writing. Alderman Brodowski recommended sending this to the Board of Civil Authority or Mr. Giancola can do so. Alderman Larson also stated the tax rate hasn't been set yet. Alderman Davis questioned whether to refer to the Assessor or Mr. Giancola to refer to the Assessor. City Attorney Romeo stated since the request was to the Board of Tax Abatement, then the Board of Tax Abatement would need to respond to Mr. Giancola's request. Alderman Davis would like to set a Board of Tax Abatement hearing before the next Board of Aldermen meeting. President Allaire stated a motion in order would be to set a Board of Tax Abatement hearing for Monday March 2, 2015 at 6:45 PM, in which Alderman Davis so moved with Alderman Notte seconding. Alderman Donahue questioned why go through an abatement process. City Attorney Romeo clarified since the request was made to the Board of Tax Abatement, state statute requires a written decision granting or denying an abatement request, the Board of Tax Abatement would need to respond to Mr. Giancola's request.

Kam Johnston wanted to speak outside the rail on the issue. President Allaire asked whether or not his comments were directed to the issue of setting the date and time of the abatement. Mr. Johnston said he is in favor of the issue, he interjected his opinions. Alderman Davis disagreed with Mr. Johnston's comments and moved the question. Alderman Larson seconded and the motion passed. President Allaire said the motion on the floor is to set a Board of Tax Abatement hearing for March 2, 2015 at 6:45 PM. The motion then passed with Aldermen Donahue and Siliski opposing.

S.E.P. Request, VFW, Loyalty Day Parade Sunday May 3, 2015 12:00PM – 2:00PM

Alderman Davis moved to suspend the rules. Alderman Notte seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Davis moved for the approval for the Special Events Permit for the VFW Loyalty Day Parade. Alderman Larson seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Siliski mentioned there isn't a signature or certificate of insurance. Alderman Davis amended the motion to approve pending review of the City Attorney. The motion then passed.

S.E.P. Request, RAVE Car Show July 11-12, 2015 Vermont State Fairgrounds

Alderman Davis moved to suspend the rules. Alderman DePoy seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Davis moved for the approval of the RAVE Car Show. Alderman Larson seconded. Alderman Brodowski questioned the City official sign off page. Alderman Davis stated this is on private property and therefore the city didn't need to sign off and aren't requesting any city services. City Attorney Romeo said he would follow up on this issue. The motion then passed.

S.E.P. Request, Meals on Wheels Coin Drop May 2, 2015 10:00AM – 2:00PM

Alderman Davis moved to suspend the rules. Alderman Notte seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Davis moved to approve the Meals on Wheels special events permit coin drop. Alderman Notte seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Donahue opposed.

Regional Ambulance Service Request; Board of Director Appointment; Samuel Gorruso

President Allaire said once the incoming Board of Aldermen members meet on the second meeting in March the appointment will be taken up at that time. President Allaire recommended moving to receive and file at this time. Alderman Larson so moved with Alderman Davis seconding and the motion passed.

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

There was none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Bloomer stated the resolution for the Downtown Transportation Grant is needed to be circulated for signature. The Clerk circulated the resolution for signatures.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

There was none

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Allaire said executive session was requested by the City Attorney and two motions are needed. City Attorney Romeo said the first motion is to find the premature release of information regarding probable litigation which would place the city at a substantial disadvantage. Alderman Davis so moved with Alderman Brodowski seconding and the motion passed. President Allaire said the second motion is to move into executive session to discuss probable civil action. Alderman Davis so moved with Alderman Larson seconding and the motion passed. The meeting went into executive session at 8:55 PM. Alderman Siliski moved to go out of executive session at 9:10 PM. Alderman Davis seconded and the motion passed. City Attorney Romeo said a motion to suspend the rules would be in order. Alderman Siliski so moved with Alderman Davis seconding and the motion passed. City Attorney Romeo said the motion is to authorize the filing of the complaint regarding the Moonbrook TMDL against the Environmental Protection Agency. Alderman Siliski so moved with Alderman DePoy seconding and the motion passed. Alderman Davis moved to adjourn with Alderman DePoy seconding and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Susan A. Clark
Deputy City Clerk