Board of Aldermen Committee Minutes

Date: July 9, 2014 **Chair:** William Notte **Convened:** 5:32 **Adjourned:** 6:06

Committee: Charter & Ordinance

Committee Members Present: Sharon Davis, William Notte, David Allaire

Others Present: Melinda Humphrey, Christopher Louras, Charles Romeo, Chief Baker, Lt. Geno

Motions/Discussion: The Charter & Ordinance Committee met to discuss enacting a "Taxi Ordinance." This issue was sent to committee at the request of the mayor and at the start of the meeting he explained that he felt Rutland would benefit from such an ordinance to prevent the "intersection between taxi cabs and other undesirable activities in the city." He also noted recent incidents of people with suspended driver's licenses continuing to drive taxis and felt the proposed ordinance would help ensure that riders in taxis in Rutland City are safe.

Chief Baker also spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance and stated that in addition to public safety, tourists who come to Rutland via the train or airport could have a negative experience in an unregulated taxi that sours them on Rutland in general.

President Allaire also spoke in favor of the ordinance stating that he was "really pleased" that it was being brought forward.

City Attorney Romeo walked the committee through the ordinance, which was created from a draft template that incorporated portions of similar Burlington and Middlebury ordinances. During the review of the draft two requests for changes were made: 1) to include the need to produce proof of jitney insurance during licensing and 2) the requirement for a driver to notify both his employer and the city if his license is suspended. It was also noted that the cost of the associated fees still needed to be added to the draft.

A motion was made to approve the adoption of the "Taxi Ordinance" with the City Attorney to modify the draft before it is brought before the full Board of Aldermen to include the two above requests and with the committee chair to discuss the fee amounts with the City Clerk and have exact amounts added to the draft before it is brought before the full board.

This motion passed unanimously.