

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

Members Present: President Notte, Aldermen Allaire, Skates, Etori, Siliski, Donahue, Larson, Bloomer, DePoy, Davis, City Attorney Romeo and Deputy City Clerk Clark

BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

President Notte called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM

Public Hearing; Neighborhood Strategy Grant

President Notte called the public hearing to order at 7:40 PM. Barbara Spaulding of the RRA spoke outside the rail explaining the city was awarded a \$30,000 planning grant from VCVF with a \$7,500 match from the City and stated information is available online and stated the hearing is a requirement. Alderman Davis moved to close the public hearing. Alderman Allaire seconded and the motion passed. The public hearing ended at 7:41 PM.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (October 19, 2015)

Alderman Davis moved to approve the minutes. Alderman Larson seconded and the motion passed.

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Kathleen Krevetski, Roberts Avenue, spoke outside the rail on the Fluoride issue and provided a hand out to the board from the CDC regarding effects of Fluoridated water with infant formula and had asked the city to put a warning on water bills and requested the city pull the budget line item for Fluoride. Commissioner Wennberg spoke outside the rail stating there is a link on everyone's water bill and the city website.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Fiscal Year 2017 Budget:

Mayor Louras presented the Fiscal Year 2017 budget and provided a full copy of the budget to the board, including the water and sewer budgets and stated a rate study will be done at the end of the week. Mayor Louras stated the budget is up by less than one half of one percent and stated there will be two new positions for a Safety Compliance Officer and an Assistant Forester and discussed various highlights of the budget to the board and stated he would like the final budget meeting to be done before Christmas.

Collaboration 133 (city website redesign):

Mayor Louras recommended sending the issue to committee for the award of the request for proposals of professional services to Collaboration 133 and said the money is available in the current budget. Alderman Davis moved to refer the issue to the General Committee. Alderman DePoy seconded and the motion passed.

Additional Budget Highlights:

Mayor Louras stated there is a \$16,000 Government Buildings expense line item for the training for city department heads and leaders, following the Police Department training for addressing bias, race, gender and socioeconomic status. Mayor Louras also spoke briefly of department head compensation study. Alderman Davis moved to send the department head compensation study to the General Committee. Alderman Allaire seconded and the motion passed.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA *(President Notte stated there are two items):*

- 1) Board of Control Commissioners for Center Street Saloon
- 2) Executive Session to discuss civil action

President Notte asked for a motion to add these two items to the agenda in which Alderman Allaire so moved and Alderman Larson seconded. The motion passed.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

City Attorney Romeo; GMP Solar Bench License

City Attorney Romeo stated this was drafted pursuant by the board's direction at the previous meeting for a solar bench to be placed on the city sidewalk in front of the Energy and Innovation Center and said the document has been reviewed by GMP and if the board so chose to suspend the rules and take up the issue. Alderman Allaire moved to suspend the rules and take up the issue. Alderman Davis seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Allaire moved to approve the license granting GMP permission to place a solar powered bench on a city sidewalk and authorize the Mayor to sign. Alderman Davis seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Bloomer recused himself. The motion passed.

Superintendent Wight; Whites Pool Memo re: Professional Services

Bob Peterson was present outside the rail and after brief discussion, Alderman Donahue recommended the board refer the issue to the Recreation committee. Alderman Larson seconded. Alderman Etori spoke

against referring the issue to committee and was in favor of taking the issue up. The motion to send the issue to the Recreation committee then passed with Alderman Etori and Siliski opposing.

Superintendent Wight; Rotary Park Pavilion and Restroom

Bob Peterson was present outside the rail and after brief discussion, Alderman Siliski moved to send the issue to the Recreation Committee. Alderman Bloomer seconded and the motion passed.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Donahue; General Committee; Start Up Portal for Online Permitting

Alderman Donahue read his committee report from the October 28, 2015 meeting and stated there are two motions that came from committee:

Authorize the Mayor to send out a RFP for the development for the startup portal retroactively, in which he so moved. Alderman Bloomer seconded and after City Attorney Romeo explaining the process for the RFP, the motion passed. Alderman Donahue said the committee also made a motion to confirm the Mayor's selection of Collaboration 133 to design a startup portal for the City of Rutland, in which he so moved. Alderman Davis seconded and after brief explanation from Alderman Bloomer the motion passed.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Alderman Allaire; Pension Deficit Committee; History & Makeup of Municipal Pension

Alderman Allaire read his committee report from the October 26, 2015 meeting. This was for information only.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were none

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

There were none

Alderman Davis moved to go into the Board of Tax Abatement. Alderman Etori seconded and the motion passed.

BOARD OF TAX ABATEMENT

President Notte; Procedures & meeting time of the Board of Tax Abatement

President Notte briefly stated his is to discuss separating the Board of Tax Abatement from the Board of Aldermen. Alderman Siliski stated after reviewing the Secretary of States' information on Board of Tax Abatements he has three motions for discussion.

BOARD OF TAX ABATEMENT (con'd)

The first motion is to remove the Board of Tax Abatement meeting and proceeding from inclusion on the regular Board of Aldermen agenda and have the Board of Tax Abatement meet quarterly on the second Monday of each month starting February 2016 prior to the due date for tax payments, i.e. August, November, February and May, with this in mind the Board can establish additional meeting if a request is deemed urgent and it may table issues to a date certain to allow for relevant follow up, in which he so moved and Alderman Davis seconded. After brief discussion of clarification meeting on the second Monday of the month in which tax payments are due, the motion passed.

Alderman Siliski said the second motion is to establish a time limit of fifteen minutes per person requesting an abatement(s), the Board of Aldermen may vote to extend the time each requestor has based on considerations; such as efficient use of time, need, interruptions by Board of Tax Abatement members seeking clarification and more, in which he so moved and Aldermen Davis seconded. Alderman Larson asked to amend the motion to include "pursuant to the provision of Title 1 V.S.A. section 310-314" under the open meeting law. City Attorney Romeo recommended having a reorganizational meeting to adopt full rules of procedure. Alderman Siliski withdrew his second motion and did not present his third motion until the organizational meeting in mid to late January 2016. Alderman Allaire moved to go out of the Board of Tax Abatement. Alderman Davis seconded and the motion passed.

Alderman Davis moved to go into the Board of Control Commissioners. Alderman Allaire seconded and the motion passed.

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

Center Street Saloon First Class Liquor License

Alderman Davis moved to circulate the First Class liquor license for Center Street Saloon for signature. Alderman Allaire seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Davis moved to go out of the Board of Control Commissioners. Alderman Allaire seconded and the motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were none

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

MPension Deficit Committee Meeting

Treasurer Wilton reminded the board of the Pension Deficit Committee meeting that will be held at Longfellow School at 6:00 PM tomorrow night.

Tractor Trailer Traffic on Residential Streets

Alderman Donahue expressed concerns from Forest Street residents regarding tractor trailer traffic in their area and other city streets and moved to send the issue to the Public Safety Committee. Alderman Davis seconded and stated there are defined truck routes in the city and after further discussion, the motion passed.

Executive Session

President Notte asked City Attorney Romeo for assistance with the necessary motions that need to be made. City Attorney Romeo said there are two required motions:

- 1) For a finding that premature general public knowledge of a pending civil litigation would clearly place the city at a substantial disadvantage, in which alderman Allaire so moved and Alderman Davis seconded and the motion passed.
- 2) Enter into executive session for the discussion of pending litigation to which the city is a party, in which Alderman Allaire so moved and Alderman Davis seconded and the motion passed.

Executive Session (con'd)

The meeting went into executive session at 8:55 PM. Alderman Allaire moved to go out of executive session at 9:45 PM. Alderman Davis seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Allaire moved to adjourn at 9:45 PM. Alderman Davis seconded and the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan A. Clark
Deputy City Clerk