

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, October 19, 2015

Members present; President Notte, Aldermen Allaire, Humphrey, Skates, Etori, Siliski, Donahue, Larson, Bloomer, *DePoy, and Davis. Also present, Attorney Romeo and City Clerk Heck. Alderman DePoy arrived at 7:06 PM

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (October 5th, 2015)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Kathleen Krevetski asked the Board to stop the recommendation of the Board of Finance in regards to their recent approval of purchasing 3000 gallons of fluorosilicic acid. Ms. Krevetski noted that voters may decide to not have fluoride placed in the water and if 3000 gallons were purchased the cost to dispose of would be very costly. Ms. Krevetski also spoke about the concern of baby formula and fluoridated water and babies drinking fluoridated water. Commissioner Wennberg spoke on the issue and gave the viewers and public the city website to find information about fluoride and its use within the City water system. Commissioner Wennberg handed out 30 pages of supporting documents about chemicals used within the water system. There was a fair amount of Q & A with Commissioner Wennberg.

Kam Johnston spoke on two previously discussed concerns of his, street lights and fluoride. Mr. Johnston also spoke on the great job DPW did with fixing the tree branch issues on Pine St. near the bus stop.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Louras; Payroll System Recommendation

President Notte introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Larson) to refer the request found on pages 1-3 on their packet to the General Committee. **Motion passed.**

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

President Notte noted several additions. Brennan Duffy, RRA web portal vender. Alderman Siliski: Finance Committee report, and Attorney Romeo request for Executive Session. All three were so moved (Allaire) and seconded (Siliski). **Motion passed.**

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Barbara Spaulding; RRA, Request to Set Public Hearing

President Notte introduced the request. 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 public hearing for the grant closing of the Hickory St. Community Center for November 11, 2015 at 6:45 PM. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer's Report Qtr.1

Treasurer Wilton gave a very brief update on the first quarter of the FY. The Treasurer noted most lines were within budget. The sewer fund was short because of the Northwest Sewer Separation Project. The report was for information only.

City Engineer Rotondo, Authorization to Contract for Professional Services

City Engineer Rotondo sought authorization from the Board asking the Mayor to sign the contract for professional services with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) in regards to the Downtown Pedestrian and Gateway Improvement Project. Engineer Rotondo reviewed the RFP and noted both bidders were capable, but VHB was low bidder and had hands on experience with the project. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Etori) 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 contract for professional services related to the Downtown Pedestrian & Gateway Improvement Project with VHB. **Motion passed.**

Brennan Duffy; Executive Director RRA, Web Portal Vender

Brennan Duffy introduced the request and updated the Board on the Small Business Administration's award for building a website with the intent of providing information and applications to build a business in a day. Mr. Duffy noted Collaboration 133 as the vendor of choice and outlined some guidelines associated with the bid. A motion was made and seconded (Bloomer, Larson) to refer the issue to the General Committee. There was some debate. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Sharon Davis; Chair, Community & Economic Development, Community Block Grant

Alderman Davis read her report from Thursday's meeting in regards to the Community Block Grant – Implementation Grant, from BROCC and The Parent Child Center. Both organizations presented the RRA with a list of needs and actions they would follow if approved. Only one application could be chosen. The RRA supported the Rutland County Parent Child Center goals, economic development, grandlist growth and remediation of blighted property. Alderman Davis noted the criteria and city involvement. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Donahue) to approve the proposal and grant application request in the amount of \$250,000 for the Rutland County Parent Child Center. No debate. **Motion passed.** Alderman Davis noted a second motion as per the grants guidelines of setting a public hearing and asked for Monday, November 16, 2015 at 6:30 PM to be that time. Alderman Allaire seconded. **Motion passed.**

Chris Siliski; Chair, Finance Committee

Alderman Siliski read his Finance Committee report and asked for several motions out of committee. The first request was to eliminate the FY 16' budgeted intra-fund transfer, line 100-7-30-20-888.001, from Streets to DPW admin., in the amount of \$314,864. Alderman Davis Seconded. **Motion passed.** Alderman Siliski continued and moved to create a "Business Incentive Fund" expense line in the GF in the amount of \$30,600 related to the recently approved economic development program. Alderman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.** Alderman Siliski continued his report with information only items related to the FY 2015 pre-audit report.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no select committee reports

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no representative reports

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

There were no Petitions, Letters, or Miscellaneous Communications to come before the Board.

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

BOARD OF TAX ABATEMENT

M. Johnston; 50 Pine St. Shed Assessment Error

Mr. Johnston introduced his request and sought the recognition of Assessor error and compensation in the amount of \$7.38 and interest for a shed that should have not been taxed. A motion was made and seconded (Ettori, Skates) to abate in the amount of \$7.38 plus interest for the shed listed in error. There was a fair amount of debate from how much interest, time line, and tax abatement criteria for hearings. **Motion failed.** Mr. Johnston argued the result asking for a confirmed vote not just a voice vote. President Notte noted the request and stated he could determine the voice vote. Attorney Romeo noted there should be reasons as to the outcome to comply with law. President Notte listed several options for the Board to continue. There was debate as to the direction the Board would take. A motion was made and seconded (Ettori, Larson) to move into deliberative session.

At 8:07 PM the Board moved into deliberative session.

At 8:28 PM a motion was made and seconded (Ettori, Allaire) to come out of deliberative session.

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

Motion passed.

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

President Notte; Permission to use Sidewalk for Solar Bench

President Notte introduced a request from Green Mountain Power asking to replace their bike rack with a solar bench. There was brief debate on ADA requirements as well as the legality of use and who would sign off on the bench. 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, DePoy) approving the use of a solar bench on city sidewalk, pending licensing and other requirements determined by the City Attorney. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Allaire noted he helped with Home Depots Cashier Appreciation Day and was given two twenty-five dollars gift cards and offered to donate them to the Wonder Feet Museum.

Alderman Etori a representative of the Museum thanked Alderman Allaire and noted a new train exhibit at the museum and stated it was really amazing. Alderman Etori also wanted to refer the issue of tax abatement process to the General Committee. Attorney Romeo stated any discussion on Tax Abatements should take place in the Board of Tax Abatement. No other action was taken and the President moved on.

Attorney Romeo; Executive Session

It was noted an executive session was requested. Attorney Romeo noted two motions were needed for the executive session. A motion finding of premature or general knowledge could place the BOA at a disadvantage was so moved and seconded (Allaire, DePoy). **Motion passed.** The seconded motion needed to enter executive session was for the purpose of discussion for the providing of legal services. The request was so moved and seconded (Allaire, DePoy). **Motion passed.**

At 8:44 PM the Board moved into executive session.

At 9:33 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Allaire) to come out of executive session. Motion passed.

President Notte moved to adjourn the meeting. The Board so moved.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk