

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, April 20, 2015

Members present; Board president Notte, Aldermen Allaire, Humphrey, Etori, Siliski, Donahue, Larson, Bloomer, and Davis. Also present Mayor Louras, Attorney Romeo and City Clerk Heck. Aldermen DePoy and Skates were absent.

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (April 6 , 2015)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Gail Johnson; Historic S.W. Rutland Community Update. Ms. Johnson briefed the Board on the current happenings in the S. W. Rutland Community. Ms. Johnson had a handout and business card for the Board.

Larry Jensen; Chair of the Police Commission gave the Board a brief update on the Chief search and helped introduce new police recruits. Acting Police Chief, David Covell briefed the Board on police actions specific to the hiring of new candidates and future applicants. Three new officers were present and introduce themselves to the Board.

Susan Schribeman and Kim Griffin spoke on Complete Streets, a law passed in 2011 for the needs of all users of Vermont's transportation systems. A motion was made and seconded (Etori, Davis) to refer to the Public Works Committee the Complete Streets implementation for current Rutland City projects. **Motion passed.**

Jack Crowther of 29 Giorgetti Blvd. spoke on the issue of fluoridation in the City water. Mr. Crowther had a handout for the Board, entitled "10 Facts About Fluoride" as well as contact information.

Brennan Duffy, Director of the RRA, spoke about an upcoming presentation on Gateway Planning for Downtown Rutland.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Louras introduced James Miles, Deputy Chief from the Fire Department as his appointment for Fire Chief and asked for this appointment to be tabled until the Boards next meeting. There was brief debate on a request for an executive session.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Alderman Etori moved to add an executive session to discuss the appointment of James Miles as Fire Chief. This request was seconded by Alderman Davis. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Treasurer Wilton; Treasurer's Report 3rd QTR

Treasurer Wilton introduced her 3rd Qtr. Report and noted the Boards prior desire to review these reports in the Finance Committee. There was brief discussion on the request and Alderman Siliski, Chair of the Finance Committee noted the standing referral of this issue to his committee. There was brief mention of that warned meeting and some of the issues to be discussed. Alderman Siliski did note a concern on the Transit Center and moved to refer the issue (Transit Center & Related Financial Issues) to the Finance Committee. This request was seconded by Alderman Donahue. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Sharon Davis; Chair, Community & Economic Development, Downtown Designation Renewal/CSJ

Alderman Davis noted that her committee met on April 9th to discuss two (2) issues. The first report was for the Downtown Designation Renewal. Alderman Davis noted the benefits of having a designated downtown and reviewed associated projects to date that have benefited and future projects that will. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Allaire) to approve the Designated Capital Improvement Program/Budget.

Motion passed. Alderman Davis also noted that a public hearing needed to be set for the Adoption of Designated Downtown Capital Plan and Budget. Alderman Davis noted May 18, 2015 at 6:15 PM here in City Hall. The Request was so moved and seconded (Allaire, Larson). **Motion passed.**

Alderman Davis then read her report on the Water and Waste Water Rate Reduction Incentive Policy request from the College of St. Joseph. It was noted that the College was expanding and building new facilities and increasing staff thus meeting the criteria for their request. Alderman Davis presented supporting documents associated with the request and moved to approve the Water and Waste Water Rate Reduction Incentive Application for the College of St. Joseph and the waiver of the allocation fee and standard offer. The motion was seconded by Alderman Allaire. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

Sharon Davis; Chair, Community & Economic Development, Solar Incentive

Alderman Davis noted her committee met on April 16th to discuss the Solar Revenue Incentive Fund Proposal. Alderman Davis noted a request from the Mayor to discuss the proposal of creating the Solar Revenue Business Incentive Fund. Alderman Davis spoke on the outline of the Business Incentive Fund detailing its use and benefited tax relief to City tax payers. Alderman Davis noted that the RRA would be utilized for marketing and had Brennan Duffy speak on the issue. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Allaire) to circulate a resolution in support of the Business Incentive Fund Proposal and Proposed use of Funds. The report noted the committee still needed to work on several issues and the issue is to remain in committee. **Motion passed.**

Gary Donahue; Chair, General Committee

Alderman Donahue read his report from April 15th on the request from the Mayor to go out for RFP's on Traffic Signal Maintenance and Waste Water Treatment Plant for electrical work. Alderman Donahue noted on the traffic signal maintenance RFP a potential conflict of interest from one vendor was discussed. Based on the City Attorney's written opinion, a motion was made and seconded (Donahue, Davis) approving the Mayor's request to seek an RFP for Traffic Signal Maintenance and related equipment. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Donahue continued with his report asking for a motion approving the Mayor's request for and RFP (Request for Proposal) for professional services at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. This motion was seconded by Alderman Davis. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no Select Committee Reports

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no Representative Reports

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

S.E.P. Request Girls on the Run 5K Run/Walk May 30, 2015, 10-11AM

Board President Notte read the request from Girls on the Run. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) approving the request for Girls on the Run 5K Run/Walk on May 30, 2015 from 10 – 11AM. **Motion passed.**

S.E.P. Request Coin Drop, Vt. Volunteer Services for Animals Sept.5, 2015, 10-2PM

Board President Notte read the request. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) approving the request of Vermont Volunteer Services for Animals on September 5th of Bridgewater

VT. There was a good deal of debate on the issue. The Board moved to table the issue after final debate (Ettori, Davis). **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF TAX ABATEMENT

There were no issues to come before the board of Tax Abatement.

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

There were no issues to come before the Board of Control Commissioners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no issues to come under Unfinished Business.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Board President Notte - Aldermanic Voice Mail

Board President Notte explained that at the Board of Finance a new phone system was approved and sought Board input on utilizing new voice mail options available to the Board. A motion was so moved and seconded (Davis, Ettori) to refer the issue of Aldermanic Voice Mail to the General Committee. There was a fair amount of debate, with several options to resolve suggested. A motion to table was made and seconded (??????, Allaire). **Motion passed.**

Alderman Ettori noted the Grand opening of the Wonder Feet Museum this week.

Alderman Allaire noted his first meeting as representative to the MVRTD Board.

Board President Notte noted an executive session request, and sought a request to enter executive session to discuss the appointment of the acting fire chief. The request was so moved and seconded (Ettori, Bloomer). **Motion passed.**

At 8:33 PM the Board moved into executive session.

At 9:17 PM a motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Ettori) to come out of executive session. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Ettori, Donahue) to suspend the rules and take the issue of tabling the Mayor's appointment for Fire Chief. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Ettori, Donahue) to table the nomination of James Miles as Rutland City Fire Chief. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and Seconded (Bloomer, Davis) to refer the issue of section 4-52 of the City Ordinances to Public Safety. There was debate on the committee referred. The question of the Charter and Ordinance Committee as a better referral was discussed. A motion to amend was offered by Alderman Bloomer. He wanted to send 4-53 paragraph 10 (City Ordinance) to the Charter and Ordinance Committee. The amendment was seconded by Alderman Davis. Board President Notte asked Alderman Bloomer if he wanted to withdraw his original motion, Alderman Bloomer did withdraw his original motion. Debate continued until President Notte called the motion. **Motion passed.**

A motion to adjourn was passed.

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk