

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Tuesday, September 2, 2014

Members present; President Allaire, Aldermen *Kiernan, Humphrey, Notte, Donahue, Siliski, Brodowski, Larson, DePoy and Davis. Also present, Mayor Louras, Attorney Romeo, and City Clerk Heck.
Alderman Kiernan Arrived at 7:07 PM

President Allaire called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (August 18, 2014)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Kam Johnston brought three issues before the Board as FYI's.

Els Van Woert with Sun Common (Solar) introduced her company to the Board.

Edith Ley of 55 Chaffee Avenue spoke on the current lack of signage on her street and the fact that it was changed from Avenue to Street. Ms. Ley also noted her displeasure with the new lighting and noted an ordinance on a city lot needing to be cleaned out by August 1st.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Untable Mayoral Appointments: Matt Bloomer

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Larson) to untable the nomination of Matt Bloomer for Alderman. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Notte) to circulate the ballot box. **Motion passed.**
President Allaire asked the City Clerk to pass the ballot box. Clerk Heck presented Attorney Romeo with the collected votes.

The President then asked Mayor Louras to introduce his next request.

Multi-Model Transit Center (MMTC) Automatic Door

Mayor Louras introduced his next item and asked for a motion to refer. A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Davis) to refer the request to the General Committee. **Motion passed.**

President Allaire then read the results of the votes, 10 YES 0 NO. Matt Bloomer is elected to the Board of Aldermen. Mayor Louras swore in Mr. Bloomer. Alderman Bloomer took his seat.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

James Baker; Chief of Police, Police Update

Chief Baker presented a detailed update on the first half of the calendar year for the Police Department. The Chief also noted the 15 page, 2014 annual report from his department and explained some of the shifts in trends heading into 2014. The Chief noted marketed decreases in crime and stated the City was on the right course. The Chief also discussed the recent drug related arrest and spoke of several individuals who were offered directly to drug court for rehab. The Chief noted those individuals will be monitored extensively and progress reported. Chief noted the retirement of Jamie

Tarbell, a 30 year employee and thanked him for his dedicated service. The Chief briefly touched on staffing levels and updated everyone on Project Vision.

Mike Coppinger; Alteration to terms of Revolving Loan Fund for 24 Wales Street Association

President Allaire noted the request from Mike Coppinger and asked Mike to explain his request to the Board. Mr. Coppinger noted a previously approved loan to the 24 Wales Street Condo Association and asked the Board to amend their previous agreement. Mr. Coppinger stated because of the Boards' prior condition of the City, being a first guarantee, and the structure of the association an amendment was needed to comply with the Boards' previous condition. Attorney Romeo explained that amendment and associated reasons for the request. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Larson) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made to approve the motion. (Davis). President Allaire helped to clarify, that the motion was to amend the prior agreement and to add that the unit owners provide personal guarantees (Promissory Notes). **Motion passed.**

Cindi Wight; Request to amend Contract, Rotary Park Project

Superintendent Wight asked permission to amend the contract with Otter Creek Engineering for the Rotary Park project. Superintendent Wight noted that Otter Creek provided conceptual plans for the park, engineering services for mapping, final design/construction specifications, permitting assistance, and bid phase services. She was proposing to amend the contract with Otter Creek to include Construction Phase Services, with cost ranging from \$4,000 - \$7,000. Otter Creek will bill hourly so the final amount will be dependent on how smoothly the project runs. The project consists of athletic field improvements including demolition of an existing building, drainage improvements and field re-grading. Superintendent Wight noted she will utilize the Field Maintenance Fund for the first phase. A motion was made and seconded (Notte, DePoy) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Notte, DePoy) to amend the contract with Otter Creek Engineering to include Construction Phase Services in the Rotary Park Project with cost in the \$4,000 - \$7,000 range and funds to come from the Recreation Department Field Maintenance Fund. **Motion passed.**

Barbara Spaulding; RRA, Grant Resolution

Brennan Duffy Director of the RRA was present to explain the request of the Board supporting a grant resolution. Mr. Duffy noted that there was a grant opportunity through VTRANS and the Agency of Commerce for transportation and land use planning. Mr. Duffy noted its strategic planning opportunity and explained the 10% match to which the RRA would give \$4,000 and was asking the City to support the resolution and pay for the other \$4,000 match. Mr. Duffy read the opening paragraph of the resolution. A motion was made and seconded (Notte, DePoy) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Notte, Davis) to circulate the resolution for signatures. There was some debate as to the funding of the associated match (\$4,000). A motion to amend the previous motion to include that up to \$4,000 be used from the Zamias Fund. **Motion to amend passed. Motion to approve the original motion passed.**

Treasurer Wilton; Treasurer's Report July 1, Period 1

Treasurer Wilton updated the Board on the FY end 2014 balance sheet. The Treasurer recapped the balance sheet and explained individual funds. As the Treasurer moved through her report, she noted a unfunded Transit Center Fund and felt that a discussion was needed. A motion was made and seconded (Siliski, Davis) to refer the issue of unbudgeted Transit Center Fund to the Finance Committee. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

William Notte; Chair, Charter & Ordinance, Zoning Issue at Old Dana School

Alderman Notte read his report of his committee's third meeting on the issue of rezoning the Dana School Building property. Throughout his report and debate from within and outside the rail it was clear that the issue was well visited and a great amount of time and energy went into the request.

Alderman Notte was praised for his thorough venting of the issue. Upon their completion of exiting executive session, the Chair then noted that the committee wished to respect and maintain the integrity of the existing regulatory process and moved to recommend to this full Board to "take no action". Alderman Notte also noted that the Board hoped the Development Review Board process could be expedient in dealing with the request. **A motion was then made and seconded (Notte, Davis) to take no action to rezone the Dana property.** Debate followed at length. Alderman Siliski read a prepared statement in support of the project. Joe Giancola and Phelippa Hurley spoke on the issue; several neighbors from the area were also present. Discussions, on what the YES and NO votes meant to the vote were briefly discussed. A motion was made and seconded (Larson, Davis) to call the question. **Motion passed.** President Allaire called for a voice vote. **Motion passed to "take no action".** Alderman Notte noted that he considers this issue settled and no longer resides in his committee of Charter and Ordinance.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Sharon Davis; Intermunicipal Committee

Alderman Davis read her committee report on the City and Rutland Towns discussion on Sewer Contract, Water Contract and the issue plaguing both parties in stormwater runoff. There was also brief debate on the solar issue both face. Alderman Davis noted her report was for information only.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no representative reports

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

Pole & Wire Request ; GMP, Curtis Ave

President Allaire introduced the request from Green Mountain Power. A motion was made and seconded (Larson, Brodowski) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Larson, Donahue) to approve the request with the seven standard conditions. **Motion passed.**

Abatement Request; Kam Johnston, 110 Maple Street, FY 2011 & FY 2012 Tax Years

President Allaire introduced the issue and noted there was no signoff from the owner Marge Johnston. The Board debated the request for some time. President Allaire decided to request the committee of Aldermen DePoy, Davis and Allaire to hear the request and to report back on October 10th at 6:45 PM. There was no recognition of the motion from anyone on the Board, the president moved on with the agenda.

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Davis spoke very briefly on the Edith Ley issues and moved to send the Chaffee Avenue sign and city lot issue to the DPW committee. This motion was seconded by Alderman Larson. **Motion passed.**

At 8:53 PM a motion was made and seconded (Bloomer, Larson) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk

