

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, August 17, 2020

Members present; President Whitcomb, Aldermen Gorruso, Humphrey, Ryan, Etori, Talbott, Mattis, Gillam, Clifford, DePoy and Davis. Also present; Mayor Allaire, Attorney Bloomer and City Clerk Heck

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (August 3, 2020)

A motion was made and seconded (Gorruso, Davis) approving the minutes of the previous meeting.

Motion passed.

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

No one spoke.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Allaire was very happy to be back from his surgery and thanked everyone for their support and well wishes. Mayor Allaire addressed several issues including the New Fire Chief search, Police Chief contract and the ongoing fire department labor contract. Mayor Allaire noted great news from Congressman Welch and that the City was in receipt of a \$350,000 Northern Borders Grant for the CSJ Gym.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

HR Committee report was added to the agenda, (Davis, Etori) so moved and seconded. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Barbara Spaulding; Request to set Public Hearing

President Whitcomb introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gorruso) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gorruso) setting a public hearing for the IHM funding for September 8, 2020 at 6:45 PM. **Motion passed.**

Recreation Superintendent Peters; Recreation and Parks Update:

Recreation Superintendent Peters was present to update the Board on requests from RRMC and the City public schools for 8 weeks of childcare. CSC students would work and get credit for working those camps. The Halloween Parade event at the Fair Grounds, as well as updates on fall programs. Superintendent Peters thanked Nicole Densmore who recently left to become a teacher in Poultney. Most of the discussion revolved around the Halloween Parade. No action was sought or requested. The report was for information only.

Attorney Bloomer; Executive Session, For the Negotiation of a Settlement Agreement with BAI Rutland, LLC.

The request was noted and moved to the end of the meeting.

Treasurer Markowski;

Request for BOA approval and signature on the loan documents for RF1 – 237 – Northwest Neighborhood Phase1A Sewer Project

Treasurer Markowski was present to introduce her request. Treasurer Markowski noted that these projects were voter approved in March 2019 and needed BOA approval and signatures on the loan documents. A motion was made and seconded (Gorruso, Davis) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Gorruso, Davis) authorizing the BOA President to sign the loan documents in the amount of \$2,353,358 on behalf of the BOA. **Motion passed.**

Request for BOA approval and signature on the loan documents for RF1 – 236 – Sewer Force Main Project

President Whitcomb introduced. A motion was made and seconded (Gorruso, Davis) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Gorruso, Davis) authorizing the BOA President to sign the loan documents on behalf of the BOA in the amount of \$1,430,000. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

There were no standing committee reports.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Alderman Ryan read her report from August 5, 2020 noting her committee met to discuss the two major recommendations from the Implicit BIAS workshop held for City employees. The report noted the interaction within City Hall should be welcoming and inviting. The Committee talked about funding future Implicit BIAS training and possibly making it a policy. A motion was made and seconded (Ryan, Humphrey) to request the HR Director to include a line for Implicit BIAS Training as a budget item and to include said language, drafted by the City Attorney, in the HR Policy Manual. Lengthy debate followed for approximately 25 minutes. The Board debated the mandate of training and how it would be funded. As the debate continued the discussion turned to the need for more debate and to have the issue remain in committee. A motion was made calling the question (Clifford, Gorruso) **Motion passed.**

President Whitcomb then assumed that a roll call vote would be needed and asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Alderman Gorruso	NO
Alderman Humphrey	YES
Alderman Ryan	YES
Alderman Etori	YES
Alderman Talbott	YES
Alderman Mattis	NO
Alderman Gillam	NO
Alderman Clifford	NO
Alderman DePoy	NO
Alderman Davis	NO

Six (6) NO and four (4) YES **Motion failed.**

There was brief debate on the re-referral of the issue of Implicit BIAS training to the HR Committee. A motion was made and seconded (Clifford, Ryan) to refer the issue of Implicit BIAS Training to the HR Committee. The voice vote was taken, with a single no vote the President asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Alderman Gorruso	YES
Alderman Humphrey	YES
Alderman Ryan	YES
Alderman Etori	YES
Alderman Talbott	YES
Alderman Mattis	YES
Alderman Gillam	YES
Alderman Clifford	YES
Alderman DePoy	NO
Alderman Davis	YES

Nine YES (9) and One (1) NO, **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no representative reports.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

SEP Request; Art in the Park, Oct. 10 & 11, Main St. Park

President Whitcomb introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Clifford) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) approving the request for Art in the Park, October 10 & 11, 2020 in Main Street Park, with all COVID guidelines to continue to be followed. **Motion passed.**

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 Depoy asked to add the ice rink and CSJ Gym to the agenda of the Recreation Committee. Alderman Etori seconded. **Motion passed.**

With no further business to come before the Board, President Whitcomb asked Attorney Bloomer for executive session language.

Attorney Bloomer noted a motion finding that premature general public knowledge regarding the negotiation of a contract would clearly place the City at a substantial disadvantage because the discussion will divulge the Board's position on the contract provisions to be negotiated. That Language was so moved and seconded (Mattis, Davis). **Motion passed.**

Attorney Bloomer then sought language to enter into executive session (with the inclusion of the Mayor, Treasurer and City Attorney) to discuss the negotiation of a contract as allowed under Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A). That language was so moved and seconded, (Mattis, Davis). **Motion passed.**

President Whitcomb noted emailed login information and moved into executive session.

At 8:25 PM the Board moved into executive session.

At 8:57 PM a motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Davis) to come out of executive session, **Motion passed.**

Attorney Bloomer noted language, authorizing the Mayor to sign the settlement agreement with BAI, LLC, in substantially the form as presented. **Motion passed.**

There was a second motion to return funds to the Zamius Fund (Etori, Gorruso). **Motion passed.**

At 9:05 PM a motion was made to adjourn, (Gorruso, Gillam). **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A Heck
Rutland City Clerk

You can dial in using your phone.

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Access Code: 842-385-197