

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, December 19, 2016

Members present; President Notte, Aldermen Allaire, Humphrey, Robertson, Etori, Tommola, Donahue, Larson, Gides, DePoy, and Davis. Also present, Mayor Louras, Attorney Rome and City Clerk Heck.

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (December 5, 2016)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

There was no one who spoke outside the rail.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Authorize Extension of Parking Garage Lease

Attorney Romeo explained the request from the Mayor to extend the parking garage lease with the State. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Larson) to suspend the rules and take the request up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Larson) authorizing the Mayor to send written notice to the State of Vermont to extend the lease for the parking garage for an additional two (2) years. Debate. There was some brief discussion on the request. **Motion passed.**

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

President Notte noted he would entertain a motion to add from the RRA regarding Evelyn Street Redevelopment Project and to delete from the City Attorney, purchase and sales agreement Pierpoint Ave., water garage. The request was so moved and seconded (Allaire, Davis). **Motion passed.**

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Brennan Duffy; Executive Director RRA, Request for Referral, Center Street Marketplace

President Notte introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Allaire) to refer the request to the Community and Economic Development Committee. **Motion passed.**

Barbara Spaulding; RRA, Evelyn Street Redevelopment Project

Brennan Duffy spoke on the issue noting that the RRA was the grant administrator for the City. Mr. Duffy also noted that with new requirements, a resolution was needed from the Board prior to the grant agreement being signed by the State of Vermont. Mr. Duffy then asked the Board to take action on the resolution provided. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Etori) to suspend the rules and take action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Etori) to circulate the resolution for signatures. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Wilton was next and asked the Board to take the Bond Allocation request up first. President Notte noted the request and agreed.

Bill Roberts, VEDA, City of Rutland Annual Bond Allocation, Rutland Mental Health

Treasurer Wilton introduced the request and sought permission from the Board to allocate some of the City's bond allocation from the State of Vermont to Rutland Mental Health. Bill Roberts of VEDA spoke briefly and outlined the bond request from Rutland Mental Health. 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) authorizing the Treasurer to sign the bond allocation agreement with Rutland Mental Health. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Wilton; November Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Wilton reviewed the November's Treasurers Report. No action was requested or taken.

NEMRC Cloud Platform

Treasurer Wilton asked the Board to refer the issue of NEMRC cloud platform to the Finance Committee to discuss the potential of utilizing that technology to increase the speed and efficiency of their NEMRC software. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Etori) to refer the request to the Finance Committee. **Motion passed.**

Responses to RFP for Pension Board Attorney

Treasurer Wilton updated the Board on the RFP request for a pension attorney and stated that she will be interviewing attorneys in the next week and would like to discuss her findings with the Finance Committee. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) to refer the request of discussing Pension Attorneys to the Finance Committee. There was a fair amount of debate. **Motion passed.**

Attorney Romeo; Request for Executive Session; Attorney, Client Communication

Per past practice, President Notte moved the request to the end of the meeting.

Authorize Mayor to Sign Purchase and Sale Agreement, Pierpoint Ave. Water Garage

This request was deleted from the agenda.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Davis; Community & Economic Development, 42 Cleveland Ave

Alderman Davis read her committee report from December 15, 2016. The report noted a plan for the City to give the parcel of land at 42 Cleveland Avenue to Habitat for Humanity to build a single family home. Alderman Davis outlined the plans for Habitat for Humanity and moved to authorize the Mayor and City Attorney to execute the transfer of 42 Cleveland Avenue to Habitat for Humanity of Rutland County for the purpose of constructing a owner occupied single family residence to be sold to a quality home owner and returned to the City Tax roll. Alderwoman Robertson seconded the motion, debate. Dave Pearson of Habitat for Humanity gave the Board a review of the plan and outlined what Habitat for Humanity was all about. **Motion passed.**

Alderman DePoy Recreation Committee, Pool Update

Alderman DePoy read his report from December 15, 2016, noting the committee met to have a quick meeting on continued pool discussions. Alderman DePoy stated the committee passed along suggestions to Superintendent Wight about keeping the building cost down to \$250,000 range and use the saving to improve on the pool dynamics, keeping the slide and diving well. Alderman DePoy noted that this issue is still in committee and looks forward to having Superintendent Wight getting back to them with building alternatives.

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.

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

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

President Notte noted two (2) items placed under Unfinished Business and noted the BOA wanted to discuss these items prior to their FY 18 Budget meeting being held tomorrow.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Auto Allowance

Alderman Davis spoke first on the issue stating she did not expect a financial adjustment to auto allowance for this budget, but she did expect a new policy requesting that anyone with a current auto allowance will, moving forward submit an actual mileage report and get paid for actual mileage. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to refer the issue of Auto Allowance to the General Committee. **Motion passed.**

Non-Union COLA

Alderman Davis immediately moved to set all non-union COLA compensation at 3%. Alderman Allaire seconded. There was brief debate. Alderman Davis wanted to note that her motion also included all associated /related areas related to the 3%, including FICA, Pension, Works Comp...ect. **Motion passed.**

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Gides; Motion to refer, New ordinance to prohibit red light avoidance

Alderman Gides shared an experience at the Stewarts Gas Station near the high school, where cars were using the parking lot to avoid the red light. Alderman Gides read a proposed ordinance to add to the City Ordinances and moved to refer the issue to the Charter & Ordinance Committee. Alderman Davis seconded debate. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Larson asked the Board President to allow the Board to present their ugly sweater so folks at home could vote for the Aldermen with the ugliest sweater. President Notte accommodated the Board.

President Notte then asked the City Attorney to present language to enter into executive session.

Attorney Romeo stated there would be two (2) motions needed. The first, where premature or general knowledge would place the City at a substantial disadvantage. The request was so moved and seconded by (Allaire, Davis). **Motion passed.** The seconded motion was so moved and seconded (Allaire, Davis) to move into executive session for the purpose of attorney/client communications. **Motion passed.**

At 7:52 PM the Board moved into executive session.

At 8:59 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Allaire) to come out of executive session. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gides) requesting the Chair, on behalf of the Board of Aldermen, draft a letter to Mayor Louras regarding the fire budget, encouraging him to consider the option of transferring money from the OT line item to the Salaried line item in the FY 18 budget to meet staffing requirements and base the 2019 budget on pay from binding arbitration. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gides) to refer the issue of charter change language dealing with how the City develops the time frame when the City develops its FY budget. **Motion passed.**

President Notte then requested a motion to adjourn to Tuesday, December 20th at 5:30 PM in the Aldermen Chambers. This request was so moved and seconded, (Allaire, Davis). **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk