

**CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT**  
**Board of Aldermen Minutes**  
**Monday, June 15, 2015**

**Members Present: President Notte, Aldermen Allaire, Humphrey, Skates, Etori, Siliski, Donahue, Larson, Bloomer, Davis and Deputy City Clerk Clark.**

President Notte called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting (June 1, 2015)**

Alderman Allaire moved for the approval with Alderman Skates seconding and the motion passed.

**OUTSIDE THE RAIL:**

**Joe Giancola; Rutland City; 103 Library Avenue, Northwest Neighborhood Project & Road Issues in the City**

Mr. Giancola provided a packet to the board indicating he has an apartment house on 103 Library Avenue stating several issues regarding the road is too high, curbs were put in across his driveway, catch basins and also expressed his frustration with the City Commissioner and road conditions within the city. Alderman Allaire moved to refer Mr. Giancola's issue to the Public Works Committee. After further discussion, the motion then passed.

**Nick Santoro; 132 Maple Street; Revitalization of City Roads & Outside Contributions**

Mr. Santoro spoke of road issues within Rutland City and made a suggestion that people be able to contribute to our roads or setting up a fund and asked the board to send the issue to committee. Alderman Etori moved to refer Mr. Santoro's issue to the Community & Economic Development Committee. Alderman Bloomer seconded. After discussion, Alderman Larson suggested advising the Rutland Redevelopment Authority in addition. The motion to refer then passed.

**Matt Hart & Charles Greeno; Consumer Grade Fireworks**

Mr. Hart, attorney for Mr. Greeno, asked the board on Mr. Greeno's behalf for permission to sell consumer grade fireworks and stated he has been in contact with the ATF and explained Mr. Greeno's plans to the board, after which Alderman Donahue moved to refer the issue to the Public Safety Committee. Alderman Davis seconded. Alderman Allaire asked if the sale would be at a different location other than his current business location.

Mr. Greeno said it would be a separate operation at a different location. The motion to refer then passed.

**Kam Johnston; Rutland City; BCA Hearings**

Mr. Johnston stated the Board of Civil Authority hearings will take place Monday June 29, 2015 at 6:30 PM in Aldermen's Chambers.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:**

There were none.

**ADDITIONS & DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

**GMP Pole & Wire Permit (Solar Farm)**

President Notte stated the City Clerk sent an email indicating this issue did not make the agenda deadline and looked for a motion if the board wanted to add this item to the agenda. Alderman Allaire so moved with Alderman Davis seconded. President Notte said this issue will be taken up under "Petitions, Letters & Miscellaneous Communication". The motion then passed.

**REPORTS & LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS & OFFICIALS:**

**Barbara Spaulding, RRA; Request to Set Public Hearing on 7/6/2015; VTrans Bicycle & Pedestrian Program**

Susan Schreibman, Rutland Regional Planning Commission, spoke outside the rail saying they have been working on Segment 4 and this request is for authorization for the city to apply for supplemental funds to cover the additional engineering and appraisal for construction.

Alderman Davis moved to suspend the rules with Alderman Etori seconding and the motion passed. Alderman Davis moved to set the public hearing on Monday July 6, 2015 at 6:45 PM. Alderman Etori seconded and the motion passed.

**Treasurer Wilton; May 2015 Treasurer's Report**

President Notte stated Treasurer Wilton could not be at tonight's meeting and looked for a motion to receive and file the report. Alderman Larson so moved with Alderman Davis seconding and the motion passed. Alderman Siliski said Treasurer Wilton wants this sent to the Finance Committee and made a motion to refer. Alderman Davis seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Larson opposed.

**Attorney Romeo; Request to Authorize Mayor to Sign Center Street Market Place Leases**

Attorney Romeo said this is to wrap up the final phase of the Center Street Market Place and have been approved by VTrans and signed by property owners. Alderman Allaire moved to suspend the rules and take up the issue. Alderman Etori seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Allaire moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the lease agreements. Alderman Donahue seconded and the motion passed.

**Police Chief Covell; Request for FY 2015 Interfund Transfer**

Chief Covell spoke outside the rail saying the request in the amount of \$25,710.00 from the General Fund (money generated from the \$15.00 per hour usage fee the Police charge for outside contractors for outside detail) to the Equipment Replacement Fund is to help with the re-occurring cost of lease payments for Police cruisers. Alderman Allaire moved to suspend the rules and take up the issue. Alderman Larson seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Allaire moved to authorize the transfer of \$25,710.00 which reflects the income earned from vehicle use fee to the Police Equipment Replacement Fund. After brief discussion, the motion passed.

**Recreation Superintendent Wight; Request for Proposal White's Pool**

Superintendent Wight spoke outside the rail regarding how much the scope of work will cost for the replacement of White's Pool, bath house and pump room. She stated there has been several community meetings, which resulted in having a sense of what people want in a community pool. After discussion, Alderman Allaire moved to suspend the rules and take the issue up tonight. Alderman Etori seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Allaire moved to authorize the request for proposal for scope of work to determine final cost for construction at White's Park for a community pool and associated buildings. Alderman Etori seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Donohue opposed.

**Recreation Superintendent Wight; Purchase of Ice Edger**

Superintendent Wight spoke outside the rail regarding the purchase of a new electric or propane edger using funds from Giorgetti Trust Fund with the intention of selling the current one. Alderman Larson moved to suspend the rules and take up the issue. Alderman Bloomer seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Larson moved to authorize Parks and Recreation department be allowed to use the Giorgetti Trust Fund to cover the expense for the purchase of an electric or propane edger for the Ice Rink in the amount of \$6,500.00. Alderman Siliski seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Larson amended his motion to include a cap of \$7,000.00. Alderman Siliski seconded and the motion passed.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**Finance Committee; Alderman Siliski; Financial Status Parking Garage/Transit Center**

Alderman Siliski read his June 4, 2015 committee report regarding financial status of parking garage/transit, which included Treasurer Wilton's indication the parking center was losing money, given the need for follow-up, this issue will remain in committee. Alderman Etori voiced his concerns regarding Treasurer Wilton's indication the parking deck was losing money without her having all the financial information in hand and hoped she would have been at tonight's meeting. Alderman Larson spoke in support of Alderman Siliski's report. Alderman Allaire briefly spoke in favor of further discussions regarding the parking center and Alderman Humphrey expressed concern of the parking pit being closed and what the timeframe is. City Attorney Romeo spoke briefly of the schematics of the parking center.

**Charter & Ordinance; Alderman Allaire; Code of Ethics Ordinance (Section 453, Sub #10 Conflict of Interest)**

Alderman Allaire read his June 9, 2015 committee report regarding the Code of Ethics Ordinance and stated the motion in committee was to refer the entire Code of Ethics Chapter 4 for review, tighten up the language and bring the ordinance up to existing 2015 practices, in which he so moved with Alderman Davis seconding.

Alderman Donahue stated he would like to see the ordinance simplified. Attorney Romeo stated the four page opinion is available in the City Clerk's office. The motion then passed.

**REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES:**

**Human Resources Committee; Alderman Bloomer; Employee Policies**

Alderman Bloomer read his June 8, 2015 committee report regarding computer use, drug-free work place, sexual harassment, parental and family leave and workplace violence. This was information only.

**PETITIONS, LETTERS & MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Special Events Permit; Walk to End Alzheimer's September 12, 2015 8am-Noon @Main Street Park**

Alderman Davis moved to suspend the rules. Alderman Allaire seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Allaire moved to approve the special event permit. Alderman Davis seconded and the motion passed.

**Special Events Permit; Walk for Children September 19, 2015 7am-Noon @Howe Center**

Alderman Bloomer point of order asked to suspend the rules for the remaining five special events permits and requests. Attorney Romeo stated it is up to the board but all need approval. Alderman Bloomer moved to suspend the rules for the remaining special event permits and letters. Alderman Davis seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Davis then moved for the approval. Alderman Allaire seconded. Alderman Larson asked for the City Clerk to add the year on the face sheet of the special event permit.

**Special Events Permit; Friday Nights Downtown; July 10, 17 & 24, 2015 6:00 pm-10:00 pm @Center Street**

Alderman Etori indicated point of information he is on the board for the Downtown Partnership. Alderman Davis moved for the approval. Alderman Siliski seconded. Alderman Larson asked for the City Clerk to add the year on the face sheet of the special event permit. The motion then passed.

**Special Events Permit; Sidewalk Sales & Circus August 4, 2015**

Alderman Davis moved for the approval. Alderman Skates seconded. Alderman Larson asked for the City Clerk to add the year on the face sheet of the special event permit. The motion then passed.

**Special Events Permit; Hops on Top Craft Brew Fest 8/25/2015 5:30pm-8:30pm**

Alderman Davis moved for the approval. Alderman Larson seconded and the motion passed.

**Special Events Permit; Killington Motorcycle Classic 8/28/2015 6:00-10:00pm @Downtown Rutland**

Alderman Davis moved for the approval. Alderman Donahue seconded and the motion passed.

**Pole & Wire Permit; Green Mountain Power (Charter Hill Solar Project)**

Alderman Allaire moved to approve the pole and wire permit with the seven standard conditions. Alderman Donahue seconded. Alderman Siliski indicated a sketch was not included and no representation from Green Mountain Power. After discussion, Alderman Siliski moved to table the request to the next meeting. Alderman Bloomer seconded. Alderman Humphrey recused herself from the vote. The motion passed with Donahue and Etori opposing.

***President Notte indicated a motion to go into the Board of Tax Abatement would be order. Alderman Davis so moved with Alderman Allaire seconding and the motion passed.***

**BOARD OF TAX ABATEMENT:**

**Tax Abatement Request: Lorentz, Lorentz & Harnett c/o Louise Bianchi 67-71 Wales Street**

Alderman Allaire clarified the abatement is for real estate and water & sewer taxes and stated the board cannot abate water and sewer taxes. After discussion of protocol, President Notte suggested moving the abatement to Monday July 6, 2015 at 6:30 PM. Alderman Donahue so moved with Alderman Davis seconding. Alderman Allaire spoke of consistency on how the board deals with tax abatement requests and after discussion the motion passed. President Notte indicated a motion to go out of the Board of Tax Abatement is in order. Alderman Davis so moved with Alderman Donahue seconding and the motion passed.

***Alderman Davis moved to go into the Board of Control Commissioners. Alderman Allaire seconded and the motion passed***

**BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS:**

**Outside Consumption Permit; Downtown Bar & Grill July 10, 17, 24, 31 & Aug 1, 2015**

Alderman Davis moved to authorize the City Clerk to sign. Alderman Etori seconded and the motion passed.

**Outside Consumption Permit; Center Street Saloon July 10, 17, 24, 31 & Aug 1, 2015**

Alderman Davis moved to authorize the City Clerk to sign. Alderman Allaire seconded and the motion passed.

***President Notte said a motion to go out of the Board of Control Commissioners is in order. Alderman Allaire so moved with Alderman Davis seconding and the motion passed.***

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Downtown Hotel:**

Alderman Etori asked what the status is on the proposed Downtown Hotel and parking. President Notte said this is in the hands of Rutland Redevelopment Authority. Alderman Bloomer said as the representative from this board to the RRA he will bring it up at their next meeting.

**Blighted Property**

Alderman Davis spoke of her disappointment for the lack of communication to the Board of Aldermen not being informed regarding blighted properties and her repeated requests for the Board of Highway Commissioners to do a site visit to the areas of Park, Baxter, Cleveland Avenues areas where there aren't any street lights and was just recently informed the Mayor had done a site visit a while ago and didn't

share it with the board. Alderman Davis made a motion to refer the issue back to the Board of Highway Commissioners to do a site visit within the deemed area of Project Vision. Alderman Allaire seconded and after discussion, the motion passed.

**Crosswalk at Bardwell House**

Alderman Larson requested additional enforcement of the "No Turn on Red" by the Bardwell House and as Chair of the Public Safety Committee will send an email to the Chief of Police on behalf of the Board of Aldermen.

**MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS & NEW BUSINESS:**

**Street Issues:**

Alderman Allaire spoke of three streets seeking remediation and a response: State Street by Foley Distributing, Pine Street by Green Screen Graphics and Grove Street by the bridge over Tenney Brook and would like an update from the Public Works department on the status of these areas. Alderman Davis would like to include the strip of the new road on Crescent Street near the intersection of Crescent & Baxter Streets. Alderman Larson said he sent an email to Commissioner Wennberg regarding the area of State Street outside of Foley Distributing and received a response that nothing would happen before this July due to lack of funding.

**Request for Extension of Sidewalk; Plain Street to Gibson Avenue**

Alderman Donahue spoke of his request to Commissioner Wennberg to extend the sidewalk on Plain Street to Gibson Avenue due to safety issues.

**Traffic Light at intersection of Park Street & South Main Street**

Alderman Donahue spoke of citizens' concerns of getting in and out of "The Gut", particularly the light at the intersection of Park Street and South Main Streets and made a motion to refer the issue to the Traffic Safety Committee. Alderman Davis seconded and the motion passed.

Alderman Siliski commended Alderman Allaire for bringing up the street issues and asked Alderman Bloomer to bring the issue of Pine Street to West Street to the RRA.

Alderman Allaire moved to adjourn. Alderman Etori seconded and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan A. Clark  
Deputy City Clerk