

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, December 15, 2014

Members present; President Allaire, Aldermen Kiernan, Humphrey, Notte, Donahue, Siliski, Brodowski, Larson, Bloomer, DePoy and Davis. Also present Mayor Louras, Attorney Romeo and City Clerk Heck.

President Allaire call the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (December 1 , 2014)

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

Motion passed.

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Kam Johnston spoke on FY 2016 budgeted issues including the White's Pool issue. Mr. Johnston stated that he did support the \$30,000 budgeted for alternative pool source funding.

Mike Moran spoke on the White's Pool issue as well as a need for kids to have opportunities to play ball. Mr. Moran stated that there is nothing for kids to do and something has to be done.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Property Tax Relief

Mayor Louras asked the Board to participate in a task to determine property tax relief on the municipal tax. The Mayor explained his request to a mixed review from the Board. After several minutes of debate a motion was made and seconded (Notte, Davis) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Siliski) to proceed with the request from the Mayor to proceed with his request. Debate followed until the Board moved to vote on the motion. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Siliski, Davis) to circulate the ballot box. **Motion passed.**

Mayor Louras presented the Board with the findings of the information collected and noted that a \$38 a month savings to tax payers would equate to a \$3.6 million in reductions to the FY 16 budget.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions added.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Commissioner Wennberg; Request to Authorize to Sign Sub-Grant Agreement

Commissioner Wennberg and Assistant Engineer, Nate Stansberry presented information for a request on a subgrant application. A motion was made and seconded (Siliski, DePoy) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** The President then asked for a motion authorizing the Commissioner to sign. The request was so moved and seconded (Siliski, DePoy). There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

Attorney Romeo; "Request for Executive Session for confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services"

Per the Board's past practice the President moved Attorney Romeo's request to the end of the meeting.

Treasurer Wilton; November's Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Wilton gave a very in depth review of the City's financial situation as of November 2014. There were no questions from the Board.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance Committee; Request to refer City's Fund Balance Policy for Review/Discussion

Alderman Siliski noted a request from Alderman Davis at their prior Finance Committee meeting to refer the issue of a discussion/review of the City's Fund Balance Policy to the Finance Committee. Alderman Siliski further stated that the request would include any relevant year-end surplus. Alderman Siliski so moved, it was seconded by Alderman Davis. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Larson: Chair, Public Safety, NW Neighborhood Lighting Issues

Alderman Larson read his committee report from December 9th on the issues of NW Neighborhood Street lighting concerns. Alderman Larson's committee reviewed the Board of Highway Commissioners Protocol regarding street lights in Rutland City, dated 01/09/2012. The protocol stated that any person requesting the installation, adjustment or removal of a street light located within the limits of any accepted street in the City of Rutland shall forward such request, in writing, to the Board of Highway Commissioners. Alderman Larson then explained the details further so all had insight to the process.

The Committee discussed additional solar lighting and the process involved for additional or relocated street lighting. Alderman Larson noted a motion from Alderman Davis that the Board of Alderman request that the Board of Highway Commissioners conduct a p.m. (evening) visit to the Northwest Neighborhood, to evaluate street lighting and report their recommendations back to the Board of Alderman and he so moved. The motion was seconded by Alderman Davis. Alderman Notte requested that the BOA be notified when the BOHC does their sight visit. Alderman Davis also asked that the visit does not happen until after the holidays as additional Christmas lighting is adding to the additional brightness in the requested area. There was debate until the question was called by Alderman Larson and seconded by Alderman Davis. President Allaire noted the question had been called and seconded. **Motion passed on calling the question.** President Allaire restated the original motion and called for a vote. **Motion passed.**

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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ratify Zoning Change Spruce and N. Main

President Allaire noted the earlier Public Hearing on the re-zoning of Spruce Street and N. Main Street and sought action from the Board as all requirements had been met. President Allaire asked for a rules suspension. The request was so moved and seconded (Davis, Notte). **Motion passed.** The President then noted a motion to approve the aforementioned zoning changes for Spruce Street and North Main Street. This request was so moved and seconded (Davis, Notte). **Motion passed.**

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Bloomer noted his request on salary compensation for Department Heads and subordinates had been received from the Mayor and offered copies to other members of the Board.

President Allaire then noted Attorney Romeo's executive session request and asked to move into executive session where premature or general knowledge could place the City at a substantial disadvantage. This request was so moved and seconded (Donahue, Notte). **Motion passed.**

President Allaire then sought a request to enter executive session for confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing legal services. This request was so moved and seconded (Notte, DePoy). **Motion passed.**

At 8:32 PM the Board moved into executive session.

At 8 :34 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Notte) to move out of executive session. **Motion passed.**

At 8:35 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Notte) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk