

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, March 17, 2014

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

Clerk Heck called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM

Swearing in of City Officials

Mayor Louras proceeded to swear in all newly elected Aldermen. Clerk Heck stated the next order of business would be to elect a Board president. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Larson) to nominate David Allaire as Board President. Clerk Heck asked if there were any other nominations. Seeing none, a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Larson) to close the nominations. **Motion passed.** The Clerk then called the vote for David Allaire as Board president. **Motion passed,** Alderman Allaire was elected unanimously.

President Allaire noted a full agenda, and room, and moved right into the agenda. The Mayor then proceeded to thank all the ward workers for their exceptional and tireless job that they performed. He then swore in all elected ward officials present.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (March 3rd, 2014)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

City Auditor Randall Northrup; City Audit Presentation, Treasurer Wilton introduced Randall who noted a third year of an unqualified opinion and congratulated the City. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Larson) to refer the audit to the Finance Committee.

Susan Schribeman noted a meeting on segment five (5) for the bike path on April 3rd at 5:15 at the Clement Building at the College of St. Joe.

Chief Baker announced a public meeting to go over data technology and mapping. They will discuss crime stats and how they plan to reduce crime. The meeting will be held on March 27th at 6PM at the Methodist Church. The Chief then spoke on Project Vision and updated everyone on the next steps all working on Project Vision are looking to take. Larry Jensen spoke very briefly on the issue.

President Allaire then noted that he and Kam Johnston spoke about Mr. Johnston's being denied the opportunity to speak outside the rail portion at Board of Aldermen meetings. Mr. Johnston then thanked President Allaire for an opportunity to present issue at this portion of the meeting and looked forward to addressing the Board on concerning issues.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Louras asked the Board to review and refer a resolution that he presented to the Board on an earlier Public Hearing of a VCDP Grant application discussed at that hearing. The Mayor expressed his request and looked forward to working with the Board. Joe Krause spoke on and detailed how partners of Project Vision will work as one entity for the benefit of the City. Luddie Bill of Neighborworks also spoke on the revitalization project in the Northwest section of the City and her organizations process in this plan. The Mayor then recited several lines from his resolution noting his request for action from the Board over the next several weeks. Brennan Duffy, Director of the RRA and Commissioner Wennberg both spoke of the importance of this project. A motion was made and

seconded (Davis, Larson) to refer the request of the Mayors referral to the Community and Economic Development Committee. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Barbara Spaulding; RRA, Requests the Board to sign Neighborhood & Housing Revitalization Resolution
The President read the request of Barbara Spaulding. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Notte) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Notte) to circulate the resolution on Neighborhood & Housing Revitalization. **Motion passed.**

Chief Schlachter; Fire Department Request to allow Sick Leave Donations

Chief Schlachter explained his request for approving sick leave donated by fellow fighters. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Notte) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Notte) to approve the fire department request to allow the sick leave donations. There was brief discussion on tracking of the time. **Motion passed.**

Brad LaFaso; Deputy Fire Chief, Permission to sell Engine #2

Chief Schlachter explained the request of Deputy Chief LaFaso for selling engine #2. 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, Cassarino) to approve the sale on engine #2. There was brief debate as to repairs versus value. **Motion passed.**

Resolution for Rutland City School warning

President Allaire noted the request and asked Attorney Romeo to explain the details to the Board. Attorney Romeo stated school article 3, a bond article, which was passed by voters had a statutory requirement not met. To fix that issue a resolution needed to be approved by the Board. Bond counsel requested the Board of Aldermen approve the proposed resolution. 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 (Notte, Davis) to approve the validation of the bond. There was some debate on the motion, language specific. Attorney Romeo asked for a motion to approve the resolution validating the bond vote on school article #3. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

William Notte; Chair, Charter & Ordinance: City Master Plan

Alderman Notte read his committee report on the master plan. Alderman Notte noted that the master plan is a living document and needed to be reviewed every five (5) years. There were a lot of question and answers throughout the meeting. The master plan needs to be adopted by July 20, 2014. The Board President will need to schedule two (2) public hearing on the plan revisions and once this has happened the Charter and Ordinance Committee will meet again to discuss any issues that may arise from those hearings. Alderman Notte noted no action was taken and his report was for information only.

Sharon Davis; Chair, Community & Economic Development; Tax Stabilization

Alderman Davis read her committee report on tax stabilization for The Graphic Edge. They are taking over for Keith's II as of 2-1-2014 and the committee met to discuss the reaffirmation agreement for personal property. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Cassarino) to authorize the Mayor to sign the transfer of personal property tax stabilization agreement with Graphic Edge. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no select committee reports

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no representative reports.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

Judith Dark: Rutland County Farmers' Market Renewal Application

President Allaire read the request for the permit. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Wallstrom) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Larson) to approve the license of the 2014 downtown market season in Depot Park set at \$500 consistent with last years fee. There was brief discussion on the fee amount. An amendment was made to require a sign off from Chief Baker. A motion was made and seconded (Kiernan, Donahue) to refer to the Community and Economic Development Committee the fee amount requested. Debate continued until the question was called (Cassarino, Davis) Motion **failed to refer.** With no further debate, the original motion was called to approve the request with the set fee. **Motion passed.**

Ron Hemenway; Cross Walk concern on Woodstock Ave

A letter was presented to the Board from Mr. Ron Hemenway on his concerns of the crosswalk by Beauchamp and O'Rourke. There was brief debate from the Board and Mr. Hemenway. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Wallstrom) to refer the letter and issue to the Traffic Committee. **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman DePoy brought the issue of a study to be proposed changing the traffic patterns on Woodstock Avenue. Those changes consist of changing four (4) traffic lanes to two (2) with a middle turning lane and bikes paths. This issue brought lengthy debate from the Board. A motion was made and seconded (Donahue, DePoy) to have the City Attorney draft a resolution, stating the Board of Aldermen does not support the trial period associated with the restriping on Woodstock Ave. Lengthy debate followed. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Wallstrom, Davis) to refer the bike lane issue to the Public Safety. **Motion passed.**

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer Wilton asked for several audit issues to be discussed. The Treasurer spoke on renaming funds and asked for a referral to finance to discuss this request. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Larson) to refer the request of converting funds to be renamed to the Finance Committee. **Motion passed.** Treasurer Wilton then noted a request for an RFP for the next three years of City Audits had been received and she asked that they be referred to the Finance Committee. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Larson) to refer the RFP's to the Finance Committee. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Kiernan brought the issue of the use of Zamias Funds before the Board. Alderman Kiernan noted the recent history of the uses for the Zamias Funds and proposed setting criteria as the Board moved forward with the use of the fund. A motion was made and seconded (Kiernan, Wallstrom) to refer the Zamias Fund use to the Community and Economic Development Committee. There was debate. **Motion passed.**

President Allaire noted his re-election as Board President and thanked the Board for their support.

At 9:35 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Cassarino) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk