

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, September 21, 2015

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

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (September 8, 2015)

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

Motion passed.

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Roland McNeil, President of the Rutland Agricultural Society, spoke on getting approval from the City to build a helipad on a piece of their property located behind the Hobby Lobby Store. Mr. McNeil also stated a desire to move forward with his association and the City to better serve each other.

Mike Messier of 10 Hill Pond Rd. spoke on the Combination Pond issue. Mr. Messier was very concerned about resent survey work with no notification from the City or the surveyor. Mr. Messier also spoke on specific issues related to Combination Pond.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Approve Professional Services Contract for Compensation Survey for Department Heads

Mayor Louras read his request to award a contract to Gallagher, Flynn & Company to perform a comprehensive survey of City of Rutland Department Head compensation. A motion was made and seconded (Larson, Donahue) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Larson, Donahue) to award a contract to Gallagher, Flynn & Company to perform a comprehensive survey of City of Rutland Department Head compensation, with the associated cost to perform the outlined survey at \$7,500. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

President Notte noted the earlier abatement request for Bassett that was postponed. President Notte asked for this abatement be added to the agenda under the Tax Abatement section. This request was so moved and seconded (Larson, Allaire). **Motion passed.**

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Henry Heck; City Clerk, Request 37.5 Hours of Vacation Carryover

President Notte read the request. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Larson) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Larson) approving the carryover of up to 37.5 hours of vacation time.

Treasurer Wilton; August Treasurer's Report

A motion was made and seconded (Larson, DePoy) to receive and file. **Motion passed.**

President Notte introduced the next several items from the Treasurer and asked Alderman Siliski if he had any further input. Alderman Siliski did have input and started with the Pre-Audit FY 2015 request.

Pre-Audit FY 2015 Financial Report, Referral Requested

This request already sits in the Finance Committee and will be revisited.

Bridge Bond Request

Alderman Siliski reviewed the request and moved to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. Alderman Allaire seconded. **Motion passed.** Alderman Siliski then moved to authorize the Board of Aldermen to sign the certificate of Completion for Bridge Bond Series 2012-1. This request was seconded by Alderman Allaire.

Alderman Siliski then sought a motion to authorize the City Treasurer, Wendy Wilton be the authorized Representative for the Bridge Bond 2015, Series 2 and to have the City Clerk validate her signature.

Alderman Siliski moved to suspend the rules and take action that evening. Alderman Allaire seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Siliski then re-read his previous request, authorizing the City Treasurer, Wendy Wilton be the authorized Representative for the Bridge Bond 2015, Series 2 and to have the City Clerk validate her signature. Alderman Allaire seconded. **Motion passed.**

Budget Adjustments for Minor Revenues, Expenses, Referral Requested

Alderman Siliski introduced the request and sought a referral to the Finance Committee; this request was seconded by Alderman Allaire. **Motion passed.**

Chief Covell; Requesting Authorization Licensed Clinician Services for the Rutland City Police Dept.

Acting Chief Covell introduced his request noting the clinician previously used by the PD has retired and the Chief sought and received approval to seek a new clinician. Chief Covell asked the Board to approve his request to contract with Lori P. Gurney, M.S. A motion was made and seconded (Donahue, Skaters) to approve the request of clinician services for the Rutland City Police Department. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

Larry Jensen; Chair, Police Commission, New Police Chief Contract

Larry Jensen, Chair of the Police Commission sought the Boards approval of the new police chief contract. There was a fair amount of debate on the request. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Donahue) to refer the issue to the Public Safety Committee. The Board then debated their role in the process of the new hire. Mayor Louras and Chair Jensen spent a good deal of time detailing the process, including the Police Chief Selection Committee's role as well as the Board of Aldermen's role. **Motion passed.**

Brennan Duffy; Director RRA, Request for Referral

President Notte read the request from RRA Director Brennan Duffy. It was noted that the Director has received an application for a Water/Wastewater Rate Reduction Incentive from Stonehedge Indoor Golf. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Donahue) to refer the request to the Community & Economic Development Committee. **Motion passed.**

Cindi Wight; Recreation Superintendent, Public Meeting Request for TAP Application

Superintendent Wight spoke on the request noting the Recreation Department was working with the Planning Commission on the Center St. Marketplace. The request was to set a public hearing as part of the requirement for a Transportation Alternative Grant the City was preparing to apply for. A motion was made and seconded (Ettori, Larson) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Ettori, Larson) to set the public hearing for the Transportation Alternative Grant from the Agency of Transportation on Monday, October 5, 2015 at 6:45 PM. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Sharon Davis; Chair, Community & Economic Development-Evelyn Street

President Notte introduced the report and asked Alderman Siliski to report out as Alderman Davis was absent. Alderman Siliski read Alderman Davis's report on the Evelyn Street Project-Pedestrian Mall. Alderman Siliski noted that this project had been in the works and this was an opportunity for the Board to be updated on the project. The report included designs and stake holder participants. The next step will be to determine cost and feasibility of the project. The report was for information only and no action was requested.

David Allaire; Chair, Pension Deficit Committee

Alderman Allaire read his committee report on the first meeting of the Pension Deficit Committee. It was noted that this was the committees' first meeting. The committee discussed setting criteria as well as goals and guidelines. The committee did discuss the actuary report and the Mayor's belief that the information contained was not accurate. The committee will continue to develop a plan and this report was for information only.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no select committee reports

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Chris Siliski; City Planning Commission

Alderman Siliski read his committee report from the City Planning Commission. The report was to update the BOA on what was happening within this commission. Alderman Siliski looked to refer two issues to committees per the Commission's request. A motion was made and seconded (Siliski, Larson) to send to the Charter & Ordinance Committee the issue of a Planning Commission proposal to apply for a Municipal Grant in order to amend City zoning to better concur with State Statue. **Motion passed.** Alderman Siliski then stated he moved to concurrently have at that meeting a discussion on the scope of work of the Planning Commissioners as they seek direction for what the City hopes it to achieve. There was no seconded to the request. The Board seemed confused by the request as members noted that the Planning Commission worked under the guidelines of the Master Plan and City zoning ordinances, as well as State Statue and not the City's direction. After lengthy debate, Alderman Siliski withdrew his second motion.

David Allaire; Rutland Regional Planning Commission

Alderman Allaire read his committee report from the Regional Planning Commission that dealt mainly with the State wide expansion of broad band services in Vermont. Alderman Allaire noted two other issues including the Killington town plan approval and his election to the Executive Finance Planning Committee. Alderman Allaire noted that his report was for information only.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

There were no petitions, letters, or miscellaneous communications to come before the Board.

A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Etori) to move into the Board of Tax Abatement. **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF TAX ABATEMENT

Kam Johnston; Reconsideration Request of 9-8-2015 Abatement Hearing

Mr. Johnston requested that the Board fix the mistakes that they made at the last abatement. First he stated that there was a listor error and it is documented. He asked what criteria set by the Board did he not meet. He noted that the reason for denial had to be in writing with reasons, just saying no was not a reason. When Mr. Johnston finished, the President sought Board action. There was no response from any member. The President then asked the City Attorney to speak on the issue. Attorney Romeo noted that there were guidelines set by Statue and Mr. Johnston was correct about recent case law in regards to what needs to be included in a written decision. Attorney Romeo suggested the board could do one of three things: issue an amended decision, grant a new hearing, or deny the request.

There was no action from the Board. Mr. Johnston reiterated his case and noted the Board was not following procedure. Attorney Romeo spoke once again and stated a request had been made. If the Board chose no action, they should move to deny the request for reconsideration. The Board stood silent. The President moved on.

Robert Paul; 13 Pine St., Abatement Request

President Notte introduced the request and sought a motion to hear the request of Robert Paul on 13 Pine Street and to have the Board of Tax abatement meet on October 19th at 6:30 PM in City Hall. The request was so moved and seconded (Allaire, Larson). There was brief debate from Mr. Johnston.

Motion passed.

President Notte then noted the added request earlier in the meeting and sought to reschedule the Bassett abatement to Monday, September 28th at 6:45PM. The request was so moved and seconded (Allaire, Donahue). **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Siliski, Larson) to come out of the Board of Tax Abatement.

Motion passed.

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business came before the Board.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

President Notte sent out a big congratulation to Jim Davidson, of the Historical Society for receiving a national award in Kentucky.

Alderman Etori spoke on packet materials not being available until the night of the meeting. The Alderman noted a similar request to have all Board request in the packet prior to the meeting. A motion was made and seconded (Etori, Donahue) to have the Board President draft a letter requesting all material be made available in the BOA packet, and not that night at the meeting. Email is not an acceptable form of delivery. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Larson asked the issue of the Poor Farm Solar lease be referred to the Community and Economic Development Committee with the issue of terminating that lease. The request was seconded by Alderman Donahue. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Allaire asked to have the Committee of the Whole hear the issue of the City & the fair (Rutland Agricultural Society) and how they can work together to better inform and help one another to succeed. The request was seconded by Alderman DePoy. **Motion passed.**

At 8:55 PM a motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Larson) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk