

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Special Board of Aldermen Minutes
Thursday, March 26, 2020

President Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.

President Whitcomb noted that the meeting was being held by teleconference because of the new COVID-19 criteria.

President Whitcomb asked the Clerk to call a roll call vote. Clerk Heck called the roll and all were present, including, President Whitcomb, Aldermen Gorruso, Humphrey, Ryan, Etori, Talbott, Mattis, Gillam, Clifford, DePoy and Davis. Also available by teleconference were Mayor Allaire, Attorney Bloomer and City Clerk Heck.

President Whitcomb noted some ground rules with regards to using their microphones and agenda.

COVID ISSUES:

Mayor Allaire then spoke on COVID – 19 issues and noting a request from the Treasurer to delay penalty and interest on upcoming water payments for a month. There was an issue requested by RRA Director for a BIAP Program for small business and loans for those hurt by the COVID – 19 shutdowns. Mayor Allaire noted how the City has been opening EOC operations and conforming to Governors Scotts new mandate to Stay at Home.

AMEND WATER & SEWER ORDINANCE:

Treasurer Markowski spoke on her request to delay penalties and interest for the next Water & Sewer payment.

Alderman DePoy moved to approve the request. Alderman Clifford seconded. Debate. It was noted by Alderman Davis that there was difficulties with hearing all members by teleconference. Alderman Davis asked the Treasurer to move the water & sewer due date out even further. There was debate on that request. Alderman Gorruso moved to table the request. Motion failed for no seconded. Alderman Davis moved a request to amend the motion, moving out the due date and still extending the penalty and interest period. Alderman Gillam seconded. Debate followed, including Commissioner Wennberg noting that the bills were already in progress. Alderman Depoy moved to withdraw his original motion.

Attorney Bloomer introduced new language to amend section 5325 of the City Ordinances, by adding subsection F which shall read, notwithstanding or forgoing bills due on May 1, 2020 shall not accrue interest or penalties until June 1, 2020. Here with the City Treasurer by approval of the Board of Aldermen may defer or waive interest and or penalties in advance of the accrual and to further amend section 3407? By adding the following text to the last section. "Shall be subject to the same provided effective by section 5 subsection F" Aldermen Davis and Ryan so moved and seconded. Alderwoman Davis then moved to amend the motion and to have the Board of Aldermen prior to the June 1, 2020 date revisit the issue of deferring penalties and interest. Alderman Etori seconded. There was brief debate. President Whitcomb called on a vote for the amendment. **Motion passed. (Unanimously)** Alderwoman Davis then moved the motion as amended. Alderman Clifford seconded. President Whitcomb called for a vote. **Motion passed. (Unanimously).**

MAYORAL SUCCESSION VOTE:

President Whitcomb then moved on in the meeting asking Attorney Bloomer to speak on the Mayoral Succession plan. Attorney Bloomer noted that the Board voted the following order, after the Board of Aldermen President (Whitcomb), Alderwoman Davis would succeed, then Alderman Etori and then Alderwoman Humphrey. A motion was made and seconded (Etori, Gorruso) to approve the outcome of Attorney Bloomer's Succession vote. **Motion passed.**

EMERGENCY BIAP REQUEST

President Whitcomb then moved on to the request from RRA Director Brennan Duffy on the BIAP emergency Loan request. President Whitcomb noted the request was to set aside \$100,000 for COVID relief to small businesses. Director Duffy was on the teleconference to brief the BOA on his request and noted he was looking to get a vote at the April 6, 2020 BOA meeting. A motion was made and seconded (Ryan, Humphrey) to refer the Emergency BIAP request to the Community and Economic Development Committee. **Motion passed.**

CSJ LEASE

President Whitcomb asked Attorney Bloomer to introduce the request. Attorney Bloomer noted an agreement for an extension between the City and Heritage Credit Union the owner of the gym. Attorney Bloomer provided details of the agreement and noted the Board would need to authorize the Mayor to sign. A motion was made and seconded (Mattis, Etori) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Mattis, Gorruso) authorizing the Mayor to sign the agreement with Heritage. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

At 5:55 PM a motion was made and seconded

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A Heck
Rutland City Clerk