

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Agenda
Monday, May 18, 2020

Members Present; President Whitcomb, Aldermen Gorruso, Humphrey, Ryan, Etori, Talbott, Mattis, Gillam, Clifford, DePoy and Davis. Also present, Mayor Allaire, Attorney Bloomer and City Clerk Heck

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

President Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, and noted that the BOA was again meeting via teleconference and asked Clerk Heck to take a roll call vote of the Board. Clerk Heck verified all were present.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (May 4, 2020)

A motion was made and seconded (Mattis, Davis) approving the minutes of the previous meeting. **Motion passed.** Alderwoman Davis asked President Whitcomb to verify all callers on line.

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

No one requested to speak.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Allaire spoke on two (2) items. The first being the extension to paying property tax. Mayor Allaire noted that the BOA approved the Ten (10) day extension with no penalties or fees, but was waiting on the Governor to sign into law. It was signed into law and Mayor Allaire noted that tax payers had until the 25th to pay their taxes without penalties or interest.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were two (2) requests for additions. Steve Peters Downtown Partnership asked to address the Board. The request was so moved and seconded (DePoy, Ryan). **Motion passed.**

An Executive Session request, CSJ Gym. That request was so moved and seconded (Davis, DePoy). **Motion passed.**

President Whitcomb noted some housekeeping action and sought to move Brennan Duffy's BIAP request after Alderwoman Ryan's committee report on the same issue. There were no objections.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Treasurer Markowski, April Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Markowski noted her April Treasurer's Report and noted cash balances as good. Treasurer Markowski spoke on delinquencies and the unassigned fund balance. Treasurer Markowski noted that expenses were on track for April, but shared her concern for May with related COVID items and the lack of revenue. Treasurer Markowski ended her report sharing her concerns about the setting of the upcoming tax rate.

DPW Commissioner Wennberg; Moon Brook Modification Project

Commissioner Wennberg was on line to introduce his request. Commissioner Wennberg noted the Moon Brook Pond Modification Project and described how Combination & Piedmont Ponds would be modified to reduce water temperature to restore water quality and habitat in Moon Brook and its tributaries. Commissioner Wennberg sought to have the BOA authorize the Mayor to sign the WISPr Water Infrastructure Sponsorship Program Application and sign on the Board's behalf the resolution in support. A motion was made and seconded (Gorruso, Humphrey) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Gorruso, Mattis) to authorize the Mayor to sign the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation WASPr application on the City's behalf. **Motion passed.**

Brennan Duffy; BIAP Recommendations, Downtown Hotel Update

Brennan Duffy, RRA Director was on line to address the Board and update them on the Downtown Hotel project noting that with the economic down fall with COVID 19 issues the developers will not be perusing that project. After some debate, a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gorruso) to refer the issue to the Community and Economic Development Committee. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Ryan; Community and Economic Development

Review of Business Proposals

Alderman Ryan was on line and read her committee report from May 7, 2020 to discuss the opening of some downtown restaurants and how it would look with the current COVID related issues.

Alderman Ryan noted that her committee met to discuss a business proposal presented by Donald Billings and to discuss and plan street/sidewalk expansion as related to the proposal. Steve Peters of the Downtown Partnership was on line and expanded on the issue even though he was on the agenda later in the meeting. Mr. Peters noted that he had worked on designating specific parking spots for pick up services for businesses downtown. Mr. Peters shared a map and temporary signage for the proposal. A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Gorruso) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Gorruso) approving the eight (8) ten minute designated spots for Curbside Pickup including signage. There was debate on the time limit. A motion was made to amend to a specific time limit of ten (10) minutes. Debate followed on the number of designated spots. **Motion passed.** Alderman Ryan moved on to her next report.

BIAP Review and Emergency Loan Provision

Alderman Ryan read her committee report from May 12, 2020 to review the BIAP and Emergency Loan Provision. As Alderman Ryan read her report there were various motions made, passed and so moved out of committee. President Whitcomb asked that each motion so moved out of committee be addressed first before moving on to the next motion. Alderman Ryan complied and it was noted that the first motion was to continue the BIAP as it currently exists and to revisit it prior to the end of FY21. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.** President Whitcomb noted Alderman Ryan's second motion out of committee was for the City to continue the BIAP Revolving Loan Fund Agreement with Heritage Family Credit Union. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.** Alderman Ryan continued with her report noting during the third round of the ELP there was not enough funds for the applicant requests. The committee discussed recommendations from the RRA to fund the two (2) remaining applicants. A motion was made in committee to approve funding the Emergency Loan Provision (ELP) with an additional \$10,000 from the BIAP and she so moved. Alderman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

This is where President Whitcomb asked to segue into the request from RRA Director Duffy.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Brennan Duffy; BIAP Recommendations,

RRA Director Duffy noted that the RRA Board recommended that the BOA approve the BIAP – Micro Business Emergency Loan Provision for TASO, \$5,000 and The Sandwich Shoppe for \$5,000 even though they requested \$10,000 as this was what was available at the time in the BIAP Fund. Mr. Duffy then asked that the Board based on earlier approvals still approve TASO for \$5,000, but increase The Sandwich Shoppe to their original request of \$10,000 and include a third applicant, Phoenix Books for \$5,000. There was some discussion prior to a motion (Gorruso, Ryan) moving all three requests including the increase to the Sandwich Shoppe. Alderman Mattis recused herself as she is employed by Phoenix Books. There was debate on the request from Phoenix Books. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no reports of select Committees.

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 for the Board of Control Commissioners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Gorruso had a question about liquor licenses and how things were being handled with the COVID situation. Clerk Heck noted that DLC had extended the deadline for renewals and that his office and DLC were working closely on getting everyone ready for the re-opening of bars, clubs and restaurants.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Clifford sought information on a request from CJ Abatiell and his bar for expanding his outside consumption area. Clerk Heck noted that he had been in contact with Mr. Abatiell.

Alderman DePoy shared his concerns for public safety at the Killington Avenue and Stratton Rd. intersection. Alderman Depoy noted several accidents and asked to refer the issue to the Traffic Committee. Alderwoman Davis seconded. Alderwoman Mattis noted that she, as representative to that committee would add it to their agenda. **Motion passed.**

With no further items for the Board, President Whitcomb asked Attorney Bloomer for language to move into executive session.

Attorney Bloomer noted a motion to find, with respect to a discussion of the negotiation of the contract, that premature general public knowledge regarding the negotiation of a contract would clearly place the City at a substantial disadvantage because the discussion will divulge the Board's position on the contract provisions to be negotiated. That language was so moved and seconded (Mattis, Davis). **Motion passed.**

Attorney Bloomer then sought language to enter into executive session (Including the Mayor Rec Superintendent, Treasurer and City Attorney) to discuss the negotiation of a real-estate purchase and regarding the negotiation of a contract as allowed under Title 1, Section 313 (a) (2) and Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A), respectively. This language was so moved and seconded (Mattis, DePoy). **Motion passed.**

At 8:30 PM the Board moved/signed into executive session.

At 9:24 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Mattis) to move out of executive session and to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A Heck
Rutland City Clerk