

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Tuesday, January 18, 2022

Members present; President Whitcomb, Aldermen Gorruso, Franco, Savage, Neary, Talbott, Doenges, 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.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (January 3, 2022)

A motion was made and seconded (Gorruso, Savage) approving the minutes of the previous meeting.
Motion passed.

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Director of Finance; Ted Plemenos, FY 23 School Budget Update

Ted Plemenos spoke at length about the FY 23 School Budget. Mr. Plemenos presented an extensive handout and spent approximately 40 minutes reviewing it and answering questions from the BOA. A motion was made and seconded (Davis Gillam) asking Attorney Bloomer to draft a letter in conjunction with school officials to write a letter of support of the UVM weighted pupil system. **Motion passed.**

Chief Lovett came to ask the Board to approve his requests for Casella Construction Co. to remove the contaminated soil on the side of the fire station. Chief Lovett noted the earlier RFP request with no bids and had reached out to all respondents and noted Casella was willing to recycle the soil at their site in the amount of \$17,207.65, Mayor Allaire spoke on the request and noted he would use contingency funds to pay for the removal. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) approving the request to authorize Casella Construction to remove the contaminated soil at the fire station with a not to exceed amount of \$17,207.65. Debate. **Motion passed.**

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Untable Nomination, Cal Josselyn Jr. RRA Board

Mayor Allaire noted the nomination of Cal Josselyn Jr. to be removed from the table. The request was so moved and seconded (Davis, Gorruso). **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gorruso) to circulate the ballot box. **Motion passed.** Clerk Heck circulated the box and presented the ballots to Attorney Bloomer for verification.

Mayor Allaire moved on with his communications and noted Tom Calcagni was retiring from the Police Commission and thanked him for his dedicated service throughout the years. Mayor Allaire then noted the nomination of Peg Flory to the Police Commission and asked the Board to table this nomination. This request was so moved and seconded, (Davis, Gillam) Motion **passed.** This concluded Mayor Allaire's report.

President Whitcomb then read the results of the RRA Board nomination of Cal Josselyn Jr., noting he had been approved 11 YES and 0 NO and welcomed him to the RRA Board.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Barbara Spaulding; RRA, BROG Grant

President Whitcomb introduced the request noting a Public Hearing be set for Monday February 7, 2022 at 6:45 PM. The request was so moved and seconded (Davis, Gillam). **Motion passed.**

P & ZA Strniste; City Owned Property Committee Recommendations

Planning & Zoning Administrator Strniste was present to present the three (3) recommendations of the City Owned Property Board. ZA Strniste noted the recommendation of 19 East Washington Street to Thomas Mullan for \$70,000, 158 South Street to Phillip Frassica & Tharon Malay for \$22,000 and 200 Columbian Avenue to the Housing Trust for \$25,000. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) approving the recommendations as presented. Debate. ZA Strniste spent several minutes answering questions and presenting an overview of all recommendations.
Motion passed.

DPW Commissioner Rotondo; Request to Sell City Owned Property

President Whitcomb noted the request from Commissioner Rotondo. Alderman Clifford moved to suspend the rules. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.** Alderman Clifford noted the items listed to be sold had been around since he was working in DPW in 1998 and sought a motion approving the sale of all obsolete items listed. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Markowski; December 31, 2021 Treasurers Report

Treasurer Markowski was present to review her Treasurers report and noted that she would like to refer her report to the Finance Committee for further review. Alderwoman Davis and Alderman Talbott so moved and seconded the request. **Motion passed.** Treasurer Markowski spoke briefly about the audit and how time consuming it is. Treasurer Markowski then updated the Board on water & sewer rates and when rate payers would see these new rates.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderwoman Davis, Finance Committee, ARPA Update

Alderwoman Davis noted her committee met January 12, 2022 to further discuss ARPA funds for use from public safety officials and DPW. Alderwoman Davis noted she would be meeting with other department heads and her committee will use a matrix to track data and funds requested. The issue is to remain in committee and her report was for information only.

Alderman Doenges, Public Works, LTCP Update

Alderman Doenges, vice-chair of Public Works Committee read the report from January 11, 2022 noting the public hearing for a presentation on the Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) and reviewed the events of that hearing. Alderman Doenges noted Shane Mullin of Weston and Sampson provided a presentation for the LTCP and there was a Q & A on the issue. There was debate from the Board on items reported from the hearing. Alderman DePoy shared his concern about the Railway culvert causing the immense flooding on Clover Street and stated that this issue should be addressed.

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.

A motion was made and seconded (Talbot, Davis) to move into the Board of Control Commissioners. **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

Little Haveli 1st Class Liquor Request

President Whitcomb introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Gorruo, Davis) to circulate the application for signatures. **Motion passed.**

Authorize Clerk to Sign all 1st, 2nd & 3rd Class Liquor Renewals

President Whitcomb noted the request from Clerk Heck to authorize him to sign all 1st, 2nd & 3rd Class renewals. The request was so moved and seconded (Davis, Talbott). **Motion passed.**

Authorize Clerk to Sign all Outside Consumption Renewals

President Whitcomb noted the request for the Clerk to sign all outside consumption renewals. This request was so moved and seconded (Doenges, Talbott). **Motion passed.**

Authorize Clerk to Sign all Entertainment Renewals

President Whitcomb noted the request to authorize the Clerk to sign. The request was so moved and seconded (Talbot, Gillam). **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to come out of the Board of Control Commissioners. **Motion passed.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman DePoy revisited the mascot issue that was just revisited by the Rutland City School Commissioners and reversed back to Raiders. Alderman DePoy sought a charter amendment/vote to officially make the Raiders (mascot) of Rutland High School, Alderman Gorruo seconded. Alderman DePoy noted how the process would work and was seeking to relieve the issue from the Charter and Ordinance Committee. Alderman DePoy read what he wanted to present for language to be placed on the ballot. Debate followed at length for both sides of the request.

With debate seemingly over, President Whitcomb asked Clerk Heck to call the roll as requested by Alderman DePoy. There was brief debate as to what the vote was regarding and if it failed or passed what was next. Clerk Heck called the roll

Alderman Gorruso	YES	
Alderman Franco	YES	
Alderwoman Savage	YES	
Alderman Neary	YES	
Alderman Talbott		NO
Alderman Doenges	YES	
Alderman Gillam	YES	
Alderman Clifford	YES	
Alderman DePoy	YES	
Alderwoman Davis	YES	

Clerk Heck reported nine (9) YES and one (1) NO, **motion passed removing the mascot issue from committee.**

Alderman DePoy asked for a motion suspending the rules and taking action on placing mascot language on the ballot. Alderman Gorruso seconded. Debate. There was brief debate on the majority needed (Yes Votes) to pass a rules suspension. Alderman DePoy noted that the issue that has been removed needed action whether tonight or the next meeting. Several Aldermen and Attorney Bloomer voiced their opinions. Following debate, President Whitcomb noted a roll call vote had been requested for suspending the rules vote and asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Alderman Gorruso	YES	
Alderman Franco		NO
Alderwoman Savage		NO
Alderman Neary	YES	
Alderman Talbott		NO
Alderman Doenges		NO
Alderman Gillam	YES	
Alderman Clifford	YES	
Alderman DePoy	YES	
Alderwoman Davis	YES	

Clerk Heck reported six (6) YES and four (4) NO, **motion failed for lack of ¾ majority (8) YES Votes.**

President Whitcomb sought clarification for the next meeting from Attorney Bloomer on the status of the issue being removed from committee.

Alderwoman Davis sought a motion to adjourn.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

President Whitcomb noted they had not taken up Miscellaneous Motions, Resolution or New Business and asked if there were any.

Seeing none, President Whitcomb sought the motion from Alderwoman Davis.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A Heck
Rutland City Clerk