

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, February 7, 2022

Members present; President Whitcomb, Aldermen Gorruso, Neary, Talbott, Doenges, Gillam, Clifford, DePoy and Davis. Also present, Mayor Allaire and City Clerk Heck. Aldermen Franco and Savage were absent. Attorney Bloomer was absent.

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (January 18, 2022)

A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Davis) approving the minutes of the previous meeting.

Motion passed.

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Mary Beth Polli & Shelley Lutz; Velomont Trail Update

Mary Beth Polli spoke on the Velomont Trail system and briefed the Board on biking and running trail updates. It was noted that the Velomont Trail was used to connect communities and is being developed to connect the entire State from North to South. Ms. Polli spoke about the trail coming through Rutland and the benefits it would create. A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Talbott) to refer the issue to the Community and Economic Development Committee. **Motion passed.**

Ms. Laroe, owner of 191 Granger Street spoke about continuing issues with the LED lighting/pollution by her home and felt that she was not receiving the help she requested. Ms. Laroe suggested moving the LED Lamp to the other pole near the bridge and sought help with the issue.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Allaire noted two (2) issue he would request from the Board and started with asking for the name of Peg Flory to be removed from the table. That request was so moved and seconded (Talbott, Gillam). **Motion passed.**

Remove from the Table, Police Commission Nomination, Peg Flory

President Whitcomb asked Clerk Heck to circulate the ballot box and confirm the vote, as Attorney Bloomer was absent. Clerk Heck collected all votes as President Whitcomb asked the Mayor to continue.

Request to Table Nomination of Brian Budrow, RRA Board

Mayor Allaire then asked the Board to table the name of Brian Budrow for the RRA Board and gave a brief history of Mr. Budrow and why mayor Allaire felt he would be a good fit for the Board.

Mayor Allaire then addressed the winter storm over the weekend and the lack of sidewalk maintenance. Mayor Allaire noted the time, length and severity of the event caused the delay.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

President Whitcomb noted two (2) requests to add items to the agenda and stated a 1st Class Liquor Request and the BCA letter of support for the Apportionment Board. Both of those requests were so moved and seconded (Davis, DePoy). **Motion passed.**

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Andrew Strniste; Disposition of City Owned Property

Zoning Administrator (ZA) Strniste was present to ask the Board to approve the recommendation of the City-Owned Property Committee to sell 156 South Street to Doug Walker for the amount of \$15,000. ZA Strniste briefed the Board on the process and recommendation from his committee. A motion was

made and seconded (Talbot, Sharon) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Talbot, Gorruso) authorizing the sale of 156 South Street to Doug Walker for the purchase price of \$15,000.00 pursuant to section 6.2 of the Rutland City Charter and to further authorize the Mayor to sign all purchase and sale related documents. **Motion passed.**

President Whitcomb noted the next request. Alderwoman Davis noted that this issue and Superintendent Peters request for an RFP were in her committee report coming up shortly.

Chief Lovett; Request RFP Base Radios Fire House

Chief Lovett noted his request for an RFP for the base radios at the fire house and gave a very brief review for this item and the use of ARPA funds to pay for it. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Clifford) approving the request for the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the base radios at the fire house. Alderwoman Davis noted there was a request from Chief Lovett to not exceed \$250,000. **Motion passed.**

Chief Lovett; Request to Dispose Obsolete Equipment

Chief Lovett noted equipment that has passed its expiration and was requesting to dispose/donate. A motion was made and seconded (Clifford, Davis) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Clifford, Davis) authorizing the Chief to dispose of the turnout gear according to rules and regulations. **Motion passed.**

Chief Lovett asked to dispose of three radio receivers that are worthless. The request was so moved and seconded (Davis, Clifford) to dispose of them. **Motion passed.**

Kim Peters; Request for RFP Main Street Park Project

Superintendent Peters and Tyler Dahlin, Parks & Facility Director were present to speak on several issues. Mr. Dahlin requested approval from the BOA to go out for an RFP for the Main Street Park gazebo replacement. 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) to approve the request for an RFP for the Main Street Park Project. **Motion passed.**

Kim Peters; Updates & Announcement

Superintendent Peters was present to review a two (2) page handout. Superintendent Peters started with the recognition and thanks to Slade Postemski: Gatorade Player of the year fall 2022. Superintendent Peters noted this was a huge accomplishment for Rutland High School and that Mr. Postemski was awarded \$1,000 to donate to youth fitness. Mr. Postemski donated those funds to the Rutland Recreation Department and Superintendent Peters thanked Slade who was present and acknowledged.

Superintendent Peters then moved on to review various facilities and program directors and thanked them for their dedication and development of programs and their facilities. Superintendent Peters then briefed the Board on upcoming spring and summer program and events. Superintendent Peters spoke on summer help and the 80 high school and college students that will be working for the recreation department.

President Whitcomb noted an application for Masala Restaurant under the Board of Control Commissioner and that they were present and asked the Board if they would take up the request now. Seeing no objection, President Whitcomb asked for a motion to move into the Board of Control Commissioners. This request was so moved and seconded. (Davis, Gillam) **Motion passed.** Clerk Heck briefed the Board on the request. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to circulate the application for signatures. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to come out of the Board of Control Commissioners. **Motion passed.** The Applicants who were present spoke of their excitement for this project.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Davis; Finance Committee

Alderman Davis reported out on three (3) Finance Committee meetings. Alderman Davis noted this was a continuation of ARPA funding and requests from various players. The committee has received upwards of \$7 million dollars of funding requests. Alderman Davis noted two requests for RFP's to start the process and determine associated cost.

A motion out of committee was to authorize the department of recreation to seek proposals for the Main Street Park Pavilion following all guidelines and Attorney approval and Alderman Davis so moved. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.** Alderman Davis noted the request from Chief Lovett and noted a motion from committee to authorize the Chief to seek proposals for radio system upgrades with same conditions as recreation and she so moved. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Davis finished her report and thanked Alderman Doenges for his help with the matrix and noted her committee will continue their work, seeking the best results for ARPA funds.

Alderman Davis; Public Safety

Alderman Davis read her committee report from January 25, 2022 noting the topic of Alarm boxes. Alderman Davis stated the issue had been forwarded by Chief Lovett prior to COVID with the concern that the City was not billing all box holders and needed to budget for maintenance. The committee discussed budgeting to cover cost and sought a fee of \$150.00 per fire box. For a lack of quorum there was no motion from committee, but Alderman Davis moved to suspend the rules and taken action on the request. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Davis noted a motion to bill all users an amount of \$150.00 yearly with revenue to post to the Fire Equipment Replacement Fund. Billing date to be August 2022. Alderman DePoy seconded. Debate. Alderman Doenges sought to increase the amount to \$250.00 and so moved. Alderman Davis seconded for debate. Debate followed. Alderman Gorruso noted he would like to have more indepth conversation on the potential increase and moved to refer the issue of Fire Box fees to the Public Safety Committee. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.**

President Whitcomb noted the original motion was on the table. There was brief debate to the original motion, the motion to increase the fee and Alderman Gorruso's motion to refer the fee increase back to Public Safety. With everyone on the same page, President Whitcomb called for a vote on the original motion from Alderman Davis. **Motion passed.** This concluded Alderman Davis committee report.

Alderman Gillam; Charter & Ordinance

Alderman Gillam read his committee report and motion coming out of committee. He then moved to table the request until their next meeting, February 22, 2022, allowing adequate time for merchants to respond to the new shopping cart ordinances and he so moved. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.**

President Whitcomb read the results of the Peg Flory nomination to the Police Commission and noted a nine (9) YES and zero (0) NO. **Nomination Passed,** with two (2) members of the BOA absent.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Alderman Neary; Parking Committee

Alderman Neary read his Parking Committee report from January 20, 2022 noting this was the first meeting of this ad hoc committee. Alderman Neary began with an overview of needs, general focus and parking conditions in Rutland. The committee had spirited discussion on challenges, kiosk, rates, allotted time, signage and public opinion. It was noted that there is much to be done and the

committee is committed to gathering information and data to be presented at their next meeting. The committee has committed to meeting monthly and no action was requested.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no representative reports.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

RAVE Car Show Announcement

President Whitcomb introduced the request. 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 request. Alderman Gorruso noted this was the 42nd year of the RAVE Car Show. **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

The item added earlier was taken up and approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Robert's Rules and the Disposition of the Raider Charter Amendment Item

President Whitcomb read notes from Attorney Bloomer who was not present. President Whitcomb brief the Board on the term discharged from committee. Attorney Bloomer basically set options for the Board to continue with their debate/vote.

Alderman DePoy asked to table the request so Attorney Bloomer could be present for debate. Alderwoman Davis seconded. Debate was brief. **Motion passed.**

BCA letter of support for the Apportionment Board

President Whitcomb noted the request and sought input from the Board. Alderwoman Davis sought to have all Aldermen Present sign the document. A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Gorruso) to circulate the document for signatures. There was brief debate and then President Whitcomb read the letter aloud for the audience at home. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A Heck
Rutland City Clerk