

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, March 21, 2022

Members present; Alderman Etori, Franco, Savage, Neary, Talbott, Doenges, Tadio, Whitcomb, Gillam, DePoy and Davis. Also present; Clerk Heck, Attorney Bloomer worked from his office, (COVID) and Mayor Allaire was absent (COVID).

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

Clerk Heck called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Clerk Heck noted this was their first meeting after the election and noted requirements before the meeting would resume. Clerk Heck noted that Mayor Allaire was out with COVID and that Clerk Heck would swear in all newly elected Aldermen and asked for them to come forward.

Clerk Heck administered the Oath of Office and everyone took their seats. Clerk Heck then noted the opportunity to nominate their new Board President. A motion was made and seconded (Whitcomb, Davis) nominating Alderman Michael Doenges as BOA President. Clerk Heck asked if there were any other nominations. A motion was made and seconded (Whitcomb, Gillam) closing the nominations. **Motion passed.** Clerk Heck then called for the vote of BOA President Mike Doenges. **Motion passed.**

President Doenges took his seat as President and present the Board with his vision and expectation as the new President. President Doenges then continued with the agenda.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (March 7, 2022)

A motion was made and seconded (Whitcomb, Davis) approving the minutes of the previous meeting. **Motion passed.**

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Beth Berra of 129 Church Street spoke on her concerns related to the Transit Center and the locked doors on the Center Street side. Ms. Berra noted that she uses the bus terminal and was very disappointed that the doors were locked. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Whitcomb) to refer the issue to the Parking Committee. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

House Representative Notte was present to update the Board on the latest reapportionment/redistricting news from the State.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

There were no communications from the Mayor.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Treasurer Markowski; Treasurer's Report for February 28, 2022

Treasurer Markowski presented her Treasurer's Report for February 28, 2022. Treasurer Markowski reviewed her financial updates sheet noting several highlighted areas including, cash balances, delinquencies, pooled cash and general fund balances. Treasurer Markowski noted the latest on ARPA Fund requirements and sought any questions. There were no questions from the Board.

President Doenges thanked Treasurer Markowski and moved to the next request.

Chief Lovett; Request for Executive Session, Creation Sick Bank

Chief Lovett was not available, but Deputy Chief Mangan noted he and Mike Roy were present. President Doenges noted he felt the request could be heard in open session and if needed they could always move into executive session.

Deputy Chief Mangan noted they were present to ask the Board to establish a sick bank to which a fireman who was injured off duty could use to help with a recent serious injury. Debate. A motion was made and seconded (Talbot, Davis) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Talbot, Neary) to approve the creation of the sick bank. Debate. There were various questions and recommendations. Alderwoman Davis noted there should be a specific requestor to be granted time and Alderman DePoy requested information relating to the hours donated, noting in the past the Board had approved a specific numbers of hours/time donated. **Motion passed.**

Chief Lovett; Request for Executive Session, Emergency Management Funds

Deputy Mangan noted Chief Lovett was going to be present for this request, but had just contracted COVID, so the request will need to be heard from Chief Lovett.

Attorney Bloomer; 1. Donation Agreement with Suburban Propane

Susan Schreibman was present to help explain the request as Attorney Bloomer was not in the room. Ms. Schreibman noted that Suburban Propane LLC. was looking to donate property to the City to help with the third segment of the Creek Path. Ms. Schreibman noted that the City needed to accept both parcels (290 & 295 West Street) and present language if the Board agreed. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, DePoy) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** The motion was so moved and seconded as presented by Ms. Schreibman; (To Accept the donation of 290 West Street and 295 West Street, and to authorize the Mayor to sign the Donation Agreement with Suburban Propane, in substantially the form presented). Debate. **Motion passed.**

Ms. Schreibman then gave an update on the project itself, noting donations from Wilks paving and the construction time frame. Ms. Schreibman noted a failed grant application and asked the Board to grant her permission to apply for the Price Chopper tree grant and sought cost information from the arborist. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, DePoy) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Savage) approving the request of the committee to apply for the Tree Grant from Price Chopper. Debate. A request was made to amend the motion and to have the BOA President speak to Commissioner Rotondo on the cost estimate figures. **Motion passed.**

Executive session related to labor relations agreement

This request was removed from the agenda as Attorney Bloomer was absent.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

There were no standing committee reports. Alderman DePoy noted information related to the Main Street Park project.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no select committee reports.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Alderman Gillam gave an update from the RCSWD meeting and asked to refer to the Mayor the need for a citizen representative to the RCSWD Board. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

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

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Whitcomb; PILOT Program Development

Alderman Whitcomb asked to refer this item to the Finance Committee. Alderwoman Davis seconded. Debate. Alderman Whitcomb noted what PILOT stood for and what his request was about. **Motion passed.**

Alderwoman Davis asked to refer the item of the Capitol Plan Funding mechanism to the Finance Committee. Alderwoman Davis also sought to refer the City Owned Property as well. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Talbott asked to refer the issue of retail cannabis to the Charter & Ordinance Committee. Alderwoman Davis seconded. Debate. **Motion passed.**

At 7:58 PM a motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Etori) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A Heck
Rutland City Clerk