

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

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

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

Alderman Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (February 22, 2022)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Newly elected School Commissioner Karen Bossi spoke of the recent election and recount and thanked the BCA, Clerk and his staff for all of their hard work. Mrs. Bossi shared concerns with a couple alderman on what she felt was a conflict of interest.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Allaire spoke on the recent election and congratulated all who had participated and won and looks forward to working with all. Mayor Allaire also noted two Aldermen, Sam Gorruso for his years of service on the Board and a very special thanks to Paul Clifford. Mayor Allaire noted Paul's service as an Aldermen, DPW Commissioner and his longtime friend and wished him well in his retirement. Mayor Allaire also noted with the passing of the recent city budget, that he and his staff will be looking at filling approved personnel as budgeted.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Andrew Strniste; Disposition of City Owned Property

Zoning Administrator (ZA) Strniste was present and reported out recommendations from the City-Owned Property Committee. ZA Strniste noted the committee met on March 4, 2022 to review all bids submitted. ZA Strniste then noted one by one the recommendations for the disposition of each property. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) suspending the rules for each of the recommendations. **Motion passed.**

ZA Strniste introduced the recommendation for 24 Division Street. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) authorizing the sale of 24 Division Street to Rob Petrini for the purchase price of \$10,800 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.**

ZA Strniste introduced the recommendation for 120 Maple Street. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Clifford) authorizing the sale of 120 Maple Street to Rutland Housing Initiative I, LLC for the purchase price of \$25,856.79 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.**

ZA Strniste noted of the next recommendation for 33 Summer Street and sought additional language to the motion as the deposit had not been presented. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Davis) authorizing the sale of 33 Summer Street to Randy Bishop for the purchase price of \$62,363.88 pursuant to section 6.2 of the Rutland City Charter and to further authorize the Mayor to sign all purchase and sale related documents, pending the receipt of the deposit. **Motion passed.**

ZA Strniste noted the final recommendation was for 157 State Street. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Clifford) authorizing the sale of 157 State Street to Jesse Bilodeau & Steven Bilodeau for the purchase price of \$54,000 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.**

ZA Strniste noted the benefit of this program and thanked everyone.

Treasurer Markowski; Bond – Post Issuance Compliance

Treasurer Markowski was present to ask the Board to sign off on all Project Completion Certificates and noted it was a requirement as bond compliance procedures with the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gorruso) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to circulate for

signatures the Bridge Bond, Municipal Bond, Rutland Recreation Community Center Bond, Streets / Sidewalks and Structures / Culverts Bonds. Clerk Heck noted that he would be sending five (5) documents for signatures on each. **Motion passed.** Treasurer Markowski thanked the Board.

Clerk Heck Elections Report

Clerk Heck stated that he wanted to report to the public and specifically to voters, on issues during the recent election. Clerk Heck noted that he ran short on some ballots and some voters needed copies of the ballot in order to vote. Additionally these photo copy ballots needed to be hand counted creating extra work for his staff and election officials, for this he apologized. Clerk Heck then noted the night of the election he committed an input error. He became aware of this error the following day and after making adjustments to those numbers noted that the School Commissioners race was very close. Clerk Heck spoke of a request for a recount and how that recount was conducted and the results. Clerk Heck then noted a staff member within his office being questioned about their ability to hold a fair and unbiased work environment. Clerk Heck sought to assure the public and voters that his office held the highest standards and integrity when it came to elections and all concerns shared with him were taken very seriously. Clerk Heck noted there would be new policies and procedures to make sure all information shared was accurate and he and his staff are committed to holding a professional work environment.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Davis; Finance Committee

Alderman Davis read her committee report from February 23, 2022 noting they met for the continued discussion of ARPA Funds. Alderman Davis noted several presentations requesting ARPA Funds from her committee. After hearing from Brennan Duffy, director of the RRA on using ARPA funds to develop new businesses and to create a revolving loan fund for market rate housing, two (2) motions were presented from committee. The first motion was to approve the request of \$125,000 for the Business Plan Competition with the RRA to lead the plan with the Boards Community and Economic Development committee to follow the progress and she so moved. Alderman Gorruso seconded. Brief Debate. **Motion passed.** Alderman Davis then spoke on the housing initiative and noted a motion out of committee, approving the request to establish the revolving loan fund with seed money totaling \$400,000 with the RRA to act as the lead in partnership with Neighborhood works or other entity and the Community and Economic Development Committee to follow and she so moved. Alderman Gillam seconded. There was brief debate. Alderman Talbott requested a language amendment of Neighbor Works or entity. Alderman Davis agreed. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no select committee reports.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no representative reports.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

S.E.P. Request; VFW Post 648 Loyalty Day Parade

President Whitcomb introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Gorruso, Gillam) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. A motion was made and seconded (Gorruso, Davis) approving the request of the VFW Post 648 Loyalty Day Parade. Alderman Gorruso gave a brief report on the Parades history and was excited it was back, as well as Alderman Gillam and Mayor Allaire. **Motion passed.**

Pole and Wire Request; GMP

President Whitcomb introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Clifford) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Clifford, Davis) approving the request with the seven standard conditions, **Motion passed.**

Ted Barnett; 16 Chaplin Ave ADA Ramp Request

President Whitcomb introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Clifford, Gillam) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** Alderman Clifford noted a motion approving the request subject to the items described in a letter from Ted Gillen, Associate Engineer, City of Rutland. Alderman Gillam seconded. Alderman Clifford noted that Ted Barnett working on this project was present and he presented the Board with an overview of the request. Debate. **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

There were no items to come before the Board of Control Commissioners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Neary thanked Alderman Gorruso and Clifford for their service and noted how difficult the job actually was and thanked everyone for being committed to the job.

Alderman Davis thanked both Alderman Clifford and Gorruso for their service to the City and thanked them.

Alderman Gillam dittoed Alderwoman Davis's comments and thanked each member. Alderman DePoy noted both Alderman and stated the job can be difficult. Alderman DePoy also thanked the Raider boys' basketball team for their recent victory and best of luck at the State Championship game Thursday.

Alderman Clifford presented the Board with his farewell speech as he was retiring from the BOA that evening. His speech was heartfelt, emotional and honorable. Alderman Clifford asked the Board to respect each other and to continue to serve the citizens of this City. He will be missed. The Board acknowledged Alderman Clifford's service with a standing ovation. President Whitcomb thanked Alderman Clifford for his service and hoped he would see him more on the golf course.

President Whitcomb then noted Alderman Gorruso. Alderman Gorruso noted the election did not turn out as he planned and he was sorry to be leaving the Board, but thanked everyone for their help. Alderman Gorruso thanked the Mayor and department heads, but mostly thanked his fellow Alderman throughout the years and the citizens for allowing him to serve. He asked Alderman Clifford to second his motion to adjourn. The Board stood and acknowledged Alderman Gorruso. President Whitcomb thanked Sam for his service and stated a motion to adjourn would be in order. Alderman Gorruso so moved and Alderman Clifford seconded.

At 8:03 PM the Board of Aldermen adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A Heck
Rutland City Clerk