

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, April 18, 2022

Members present; President Doenges, Aldermen Etori, Franco, Savage, Neary, Talbott, Tadio, Whitcomb, Gillam and Davis. Also present Mayor Allaire and Clerk Heck. Absent, Attorney Bloomer and Alderman DePoy.

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (April 4, 2022)

President Doenges noted a motion approving the minutes. Alderman Talbott so moved, Alderman Whitcomb seconded. No changes or corrections were requested. **Motion passed.**

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

No one spoke from outside the rail.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Allaire had two (2) informational items for the Board. Mayor Allaire spoke briefly on the CERD event at the Community Center and the fantastic job Superintendent Peters and her staff did. Mayor Allaire then noted Senator Leahy was in town to present a check for \$500,000 for the revitalization of the Richardson Building/Paramount Theater on Center Street.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Brennan Duffy; RRA Director, Recommendation to Release Zamias Funds

RRA Director Brennan Duffy was present to brief Board members on releasing Zamias Funds related to the proposed VFFC planning study. Elizabeth Kulas was present to review the proposal and answer any questions. President Doenges noted a motion to suspend the rules would be in order. Alderwoman Davis so moved and Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Talbott) authorizing to disburse \$32,500 from the Zamias Fund. **Motion passed.**

Brennan Duffy; RRA Director, Authorize the Mayor to Sign PCF

Brennan Duffy introduced the next request noting the City was successful in inquiring a \$300k VTAP Grant (VTrans Alternatives Program) for the train station revitalization project. Director Duffy was looking for the Board to authorize the Mayor to sign the Project Commitment Form (PCF). Alderman Neary recused himself on the item as he has a work related conflict. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Gillam) to suspend the rules and take action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Davis) authorizing the Mayor to sign the PCF and any documents necessary for the revitalization project on behalf of the City. **Motion passed.**

Chief Lovett; Authorize Mayor to sign LEMP (Local Emergency Management Plan)

President Doenges noted the next request. Chief Lovett noted this was an annual request and noted he was looking for the Board to authorize the Mayor to sign the Local Emergency Management Plan. A motion was made and seconded (Whitcomb, Davis) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) authorizing the Mayor to sign the Local Emergency Management Plan.

Superintendent Peters; Request Authorization to Sell City Owned Property

Tyler Dahlin was present to ask the Board for authorization to sell City owned property. Parks Supervisor Dahlin noted each piece of equipment. There was a question to where the revenue would go. It was noted that it would go into the Recreation Equipment Replacement line. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Whitcomb) suspending the rules and taking action on the request.

Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Whitcomb) authorizing the sale of the items listed on the list presented and for the proceeds to be placed in the Rec. Equipment Replacement line.

Treasurer Markowski; Treasurer's Report Ending March 31, 2022

Treasurer Markowski was present to review her March 31, third quarter report as summarized on her handout. Treasurer Markowski gave a brief review of the highlights and sought a referral to the Finance Committee for a more indepth review. That request was so moved and seconded (Davis, Gillam). **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Markowski; ARPA – Update and Election of Standard Allowance

Treasurer Markowski noted the new ARPA changes/requirements and reviewed what the City has committed for consideration, noting the amount of \$2.4 million dollars. Treasurer Markowski listed each potential request and their requested funding. Treasurer Markowski noted because of recent changes the City could place their \$4.5 Million Dollars under the revenue loss category, utilizing the General Government Services line. Treasurer Markowski was asking the Board to approve the election of that standard allowance. 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) for the Board of Aldermen and the City of Rutland to formally make the one-time irrevocable decision to elect the "Standard Allowance" approach for the City ARPA award in the amount of \$4,506,011.08 to spend on the provision of government services throughout the period of performance of the grant. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Whitcomb; Finance Committee

Alderman Whitcomb read his committee report from April 12, 2022 noting two (2) agenda items. Alderman Whitcomb stated a request for a VTrans grant match of \$75K would not be discussed because it had not formally been referred to the Finance Committee. Alderman Whitcomb then moved on to the next request from Mayor Allaire for grant matching seed money of \$400K. The motion out of committee was to authorize \$400,000 of the ARPA funds to be used to create a seed money for a grant matching fund, and Alderman Whitcomb so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. DEBATE, President Doenges noted a warning concern of the process, Attorney Bloomer provided guidance. **The motion presented failed.** A motion was made and seconded (Talbot, Gillam) to relieve from committee the request from the Mayor, \$400K from ARPA funds to establish a matching grant account. **Motion passed.** President Doenges then noted a motion would be in order to authorize \$400,000 of the ARPA funds to be used to create a seed money for a grant matching fund. This language was so moved and seconded (Whitcomb, Davis). **Motion passed.**

Alderman Neary; Charter & Ordinance Committee

Alderman Neary read his committee report from April 7, 2022 dealing with an update/rewrite to the City's Shopping Cart Ordinance. Alderman Neary noted the committee discussed the collaborative intent to work with businesses regarding identification, notification, planning and retrieval. Alderman Neary reviewed the fine schedule before moving to the full board a motion from his committee to approve the updated shopping cart ordinance in substantially the form presented and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. Debate. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Talbott; Community & Economic Development

Alderman Talbott read his committee report from April 6, 2022 noting two (2) items on their agenda. The first request was the Velomont Trail and associated VT Huts project. Shelly Lutz was present and briefed the committee on the project. Ms. Lutz noted a request to run the trail through the City's

watershed, which is creating concerns with DPW representatives. Most debate came from this concern. The item will remain in committee with future meetings to be held with both DPW and Velomont Trail representatives. This part of the report was for information only.

Alderman Talbott then moved on to item number two (2), R.A.I.S.E. grant application (approved by the BOA on April 4, 2022). Alderman Talbott noted that his committee was tasked with compiling a list of transit-oriented development projects in need of additional planning. The committee discussed some of these projects. There was no action requested and this report was for information only.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no reports of select committees

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no representative reports.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

Alderman Whitcomb; ARPA funds request - \$30,000.00 Forest Street, Burned Out Home

Alderman Whitcomb briefed the board on the burned out home on Forest Street and a request from Representative Mary Howard if ARPA funds can be used to remove the building. The Board was not sure if funds could be utilized and Attorney Bloomer was absent. Alderman Whitcomb sought a referral to the City Attorney. Alderwoman Davis seconded. Debate. There was a fair amount of debate on the issue. **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

There were no items for the Board of Control Commissioners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderwoman Davis noted the issue on ARPA request for the Paramount \$300K request for upgrades for the Richardson Building and sought a revisit as it was not clear if it was approved from committee. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Talbott) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Talbott) approving an ARPA request for \$300k to the revitalization project of the Richardson/Paramount building, with subsequent funds to be distributed as seen best by the Treasurer. (two (2) payments). **Motion passed.**

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Neary spoke about the latest Traffic Safety Committee meeting and their request that the issue of a traffic study and bike/ped grant application for rapid flashing beacons at the West Street mid-block crossing in front on the transit center be referred to the Public Works Committee. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

At 7:49 PM a motion was made and seconded (Whitcomb, Gillam to adjourn). **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A Heck
Rutland City Clerk