

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, May 16, 2022

Members present; President Doenges, Aldermen Neary, Whitcomb, Talbott, Gillam, Etori, Tadio, Franco, Savage and Davis. Also present, Mayor Allaire and Deputy City Clerk Kapusta. Alderman DePoy was absent.

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (May 02, 2022)

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

Motion passed.

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

A group of neighbors from Dana Avenue and Marble Avenue spoke about the conditions and problems they have been dealing with since the Econo Lodge and Quality Inn have been housing homeless people through the State's voucher program. One neighbor, Tim Severance, stated that their children can't even go outside without being approached by people who are living in the motels. In addition Ocean State Job Lots has become a meeting place for drug deals and suspicious activity that is carrying over into neighbor's yards because there is no fencing. Police Chief KilCullen informed the public that a forum has been scheduled for June 15th at Rutland Middle School at 6:30 PM, for residents and officials to get a chance to discuss the situation with the Commissioner of Health and Human Services.

Erica Wallstrom and Tim Wigmore from the RISE Board gave an update on the program.

School Board Commissioner Marybeth Lennox-Levins read three letters from area residents, Jeff Weld, Amy Allen and Kristin Denatis, whom all have concerns about the potential nomination for a replacement to the School Board by the Mayor.

Bridget Scott a Rutland resident and business owner told the BOA and Mayor her displeasure with the potential nomination to the School Board.

John Atwood a Rutland resident on East St. stated that prior appointments by the Mayor have been settled by going down the voter list. He encouraged the Mayor to a similar approach.

Marisa Kiefaber stated that she had spoken with the Mayor and would like for him to choose her for the vacant position on the School Board.

President Doenges read a letter from Amila Merdzanovic, Director U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI). USCRI is connecting with community health providers, economic services, schools, public safety, employers, landlords and community service providers to engage in the planning processes ahead of the arrival of newcomers to Rutland. USCRI proposes to welcome 75 refugees in FY23, 100 in FY24 and 150 in FY25.

Lyle Jepson from CEDRR invited the BOA to their legislative breakfast, May 23rd 7:30AM Southside Steakhouse.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Allaire announced that the Police Awards Ceremony and Memorial Service will be held, May 17th 6PM, Mission City Church, Cold River Road in Clarendon.

Mayor Allaire read School Commissioner Brittany Cavacas letter of resignation effective May 11th. Immediately after receiving the letter, he referred to the City's Charter. The City's Charter is State law and the nomination to the School Board is the Mayor's decision and is then voted on by the Board of Rutland School Commissioners. The person chosen will serve on the School Board until the March 2023 Election. If the person so chooses, they must run as a candidate on the March 2023 Ballot.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

President Doenges added Information Technology Committee Report to Reports of Standing Committees.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Barbara Spaulding; RRA, Request to Set Final Public Hearing, Lincoln Place

The City of Rutland was awarded a \$498,000 grant from VCDP on November 7, 2020. Funds along with other resources were used by HTRC to rehabilitate the former IHM School into 19 units of affordable housing. HTRC worked with Rutland Mental Health to provide on-site case management, clinical and substance misuse treatment services to residents. The construction is complete and the units have been leased. VCDP requires that the City hold a final public hearing as part of the closeout process for the grant. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to set a final public hearing as part of the closeout process for the grant for Lincoln Place on June 20, 2022 at 6:45 PM. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Markowski; April 2022 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Markowski submitted the April 2022 Treasurer's Report. This was for information only.

Attorney Bloomer; Executive Session Regarding Pending Litigation

Attorney Bloomer; Executive Session Regarding Labor Relations Agreement

Attorney Bloomer; Executive Session Regarding Labor Relations Agreement

Per the Board past practice, the executive sessions were moved to the end of the meeting.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Neary; Public Works

Alderman Neary read his Public Works Committee report from May 12, 2022. The first item on the agenda was the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Grant application for rectangular rapid flashing beacons at the West St. pedestrian crossing near the multimodal transit center. The committee reviewed the quote and agreed not to exceed \$20,000 with funding from the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Grant with a 50% match due June 8th. The committee voted unanimously on a motion to recommend the full board support a VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Grant application for the installation of rectangular rapid flashing beacon at the west St. crossing to the multimodal transit center not to exceed \$20,000. Alderman Neary so moved and Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

The second item was not on the warned agenda but was an intended item of the referral from the full board and included a request for a city-wide traffic study. This referral was also made following a unanimous vote from the Traffic Safety Committee, which has been discussing the need for a study for the past year. The estimated cost of the study, which was settled at \$75,000 would be funded by an 80/20 grant from the VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program and due June 8th. The committee voted

unanimously on a recommendation the full board support a VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Grant application for a city-wide traffic study not to exceed \$75,000. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Neary, Gillam) to recommend to the full Board to support a VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Program grant for a city-wide traffic Study not to exceed \$75,000. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Franco; information Technology Committee

Alderman Franco read his Information Technology Committee report from May 03, 2022. The scope of the new information technology committee is to develop a coordinated strategy for foundational IT infrastructure and build a data-informed and digital services based approach for all City business. The Committee concluded that several amendments should be made to the draft RFP, including:

- 1) Expanding the scope of work to include an initial evaluation;
- 2) Setting a detailed timeline based on input from potential vendors; and
- 3) Building in opportunities for vendors to present to the committee before bidding.

Administrator Strniste and Treasurer Markowski agreed to incorporate the requested amendments. 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

SEP Request; Parade of Heroes & Whoopee Pie Festival, Center St., August 27, 2022, 6AM-11PM

President Doenges introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Whitcomb) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Talbott) approving the request of the Parade of Heroes & Whoopee Pie Festival on August 27, 2022 from 6AM-11PM. **Motion passed.**

SEP Request; Stomping Out Stigma, Main St. Park, September 17, 2022, 10AM-2PM

President Doenges introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Talbott) approving the request of Stomping Out Stigma at Main St. Park on September 17, 2022 from 10-2PM. **Motion passed.**

SEP Request; Rutland County Out of The Darkness Walk, Main St. Park, September 10, 2022, 8AM-1PM

President Doenges introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Talbott) approving the request The Rutland County Out of the Darkness Walk, Main St. Park on September 10, 2022 from 8-1PM. **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

There was nothing 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 Whitcomb wants to refer to Human Resources the development of a Social Media Policy for Rutland City personnel and elected officials. Alderman Neary seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Whitcomb wants to refer to Charter and Ordinance a method to remove an elected official or appointed official. Alderwoman Tadio seconded for debate. Alderwoman Tadio asked if it was also for nominations. Alderman Whitcomb stated just for removal. Alderwoman Davis requested a roll call vote. Alderwoman Tadio made a motion to amend Alderman Whitcomb's motion to refer to Charter and Ordinance coming up with procedures for both nominating and also removing officials in the City. Alderman Franco seconded the amendment. President Doenges called for a vote on the amendment. **Motion failed.** President Doenges then called for a vote on the original motion.

Alderman Ettori	Yes
Alderman Franco	Yes
Alderwoman Savage	Yes
Alderman Neary	Yes
Alderman Talbott	Yes
Alderwoman Tadio	Yes
Alderman Whitcomb	Yes
Alderman Gillam	No
Alderwoman Davis	No

Motion passed 7-2.

Alderman Neary wants to refer to the Finance Committee determining the feasibility of exercising a 1% local option tax and determining what the benefits are. Alderman Whitcomb seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Talbott brought up an issue that was discussed a couple of years ago regarding back yard fire pits in Rutland and would like to refer to Charter and Ordinance the revisiting of back yard fire pits. Alderman Neary seconded. **Motion passed 7-2.**

Alderwoman Tadio brought up the current digital procurement process for contractors to submit bids for projects for the City is time consuming and could be stream lined. It doesn't currently allow for quick bids or electronic submissions. She would like to make a motion to the IT Committee to quickly convene a meeting to determine the bid submission method that we could hopefully use in the next 60 days. Alderman Talbott seconded. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to move into executive session. **Motion passed.** President Doenges read the motion.

Motion to find that premature general public knowledge regarding pending litigation, to which the City is a party, would clearly place the City at a substantial disadvantage because the discussion will divulge the City's strategy in such pending litigation and will include confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the City. So moved (Davis, Tadio). **Motion passed.**

President Doenges noted language to enter into executive session (with the inclusion of the Clerk, Mayor, Treasurer, PACIF representative and outside counsel) to discuss pending litigation, as allowed under Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(E) and Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(F). **Motion passed.**

At 8:37 PM the BOA moved into executive session.

At 8:51 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis Talbott) to come out of executive session.

A motion was made and seconded (Savage, Davis) to ratify the settlement agreement in Hull v. City of Rutland and to authorize the Mayor to execute any related documents, on behalf of the City. **Motion passed.**

President Doenges noted a motion to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the negotiation of a labor relations agreement would clearly place the City at a substantial disadvantage because the discussion will divulge the Board's position on the agreement provisions negotiated. This motion was so moved and seconded (Davis, Gillam). **Motion passed.**

President Doenges noted language to enter into executive session (with the inclusion of the Fire Chief, Mayor, Treasurer, Clerk) to discuss the labor relations agreement as allowed under Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(B). This language was so moved and seconded (Talbot, Davis). **Motion passed.**
At 8:53 PM the BOA moved into executive session.

At 8:57 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to come out of executive session. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Savage, Whitcomb) to authorize the Mayor, on behalf of the City, to enter into the MOU regarding Pay for Firefighter Barrett, in substantially the form presented. **Motion passed.**

President Doenges noted a motion to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the negotiation of a labor relations agreement would clearly place the City at a substantial disadvantage because the discussion will divulge the Board's position on the agreement provisions to be negotiated. This language was so moved and seconded (Savage, Davis). **Motion passed.**

President Doenges noted language to enter into executive session (with the inclusion of the Police Chief, Mayor, Treasurer, and Clerk) to discuss the labor relations agreement as allowed under Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(B). This language was so moved and seconded (Whitcomb, Gillam). **Motion passed.**

At 9:00 PM the BOA moved into executive session.

At 9:11 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Savage) to come out of executive session.

A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Whitcomb) to authorize the Mayor, on behalf of the City, to enter into the MOU regarding Additional Pay for Information Technology (IT) Duties, in substantially the form presented. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Franco) to authorize the Mayor, on behalf of the City, to enter into the MOU regarding New Non-Sworn Positions, in substantially the form presented. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made to adjourn at 9:15 PM, so moved and seconded (Talbot, Davis). **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy L. Kapusta
Deputy City Clerk