

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

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

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (July 5, 2022)

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

Motion passed.

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Paula McCann , Board of Trustees for Evergreen Cemetery spoke about the need for assistance as the cemetery can no longer be self-sustained. A motion was made and seconded (Etori, Talbott) to refer to the General Committee. **Motion passed.**

Ted Plemenos, Director of Finance for Rutland Public Schools spoke about the State Education Tax Rates. Mr. Plemenos will come back to the Board, before the holiday break at the end of the year, to update the Board on the rates.

Steven White from Rotary Club of Rutland informed the Board of a pickleball tournament scheduled for September 10th and 11th at Vermont Sports and Fitness. He is planning on at least 200 people to play pickleball. On top of the tournament, there will also be training sessions at Monsignor Connor Memorial Park.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Allaire stated with the resignation of Devon Neary from the Board of Aldermen, he is pleased to put forward the name of Matt Reveal and asked the Board to make a motion to table the nomination. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to table the nomination. **Motion passed.**

Mayor Allaire stated due to a vacancy on the Rutland Redevelopment Board, he is pleased to put forward the name of Ajay Shah for consideration and asked to Board to table the nomination. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) to table the nomination. **Motion passed.**

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Clerk Heck; Elections Update Presentation

Clerk Heck stated to the Board after a review of the City's Charter and Ordinances, redistricting will automatically change the ward boundaries unless the Board of Aldermen votes otherwise. There was no discussion among the Board to adjusting the ward boundaries to match the legislative ones. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, DePoy) to refer to Charter and Ordinance Committee. **Motion passed.**

Barbara Spaulding; RRA VCDP Application

Brennan Duffy, Executive Director of RRA, presented to the Board a VCDP pre-application for the rehabilitation of 120 Maple Street into 5 units of housing where 3 will serve low/moderate income people and 2 will be market-rate. Hale Resources who purchased the property through the City-Owned Property process are the applicants. The application is due September 13 with the VCDP Board meeting scheduled for November 10th. If the application is supported, a public hearing will need to be held prior to submission. This information will be made available in August.

After much discussion among the Board members, a motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) to suspend the rules and take action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to approve the City of Rutland apply for a VCDP Implementation Grant or the rehabilitation of 120 Maple Street, as well as, open the required Environmental Review in GEARS. A roll count vote was requested by Alderman Etori.

Alderman Etori – No
Alderman Franco – Yes
Alderwoman Savage – Yes
Alderman Talbott – Yes
Alderwoman Tadio – Yes
Alderman Whitcomb – Yes
Alderman Gillam – Yes
Alderman DePoy – Yes
Alderwoman Davis – Yes

Motion passed.

Brennan Duffy; RRA Director, Municipal Project Manager Recommendation

Brennan Duffy, Executive Director RRA, provided an update on the Transportation Alternatives grant, Rutland City TAP TA22 (6) Train Station Plaza. The grant award process has been complete and the City is now required to procure a Municipal Project Manager to oversee the project. The RRA recommends to the BOA that Stephanie Bourque, Planner, for Rutland Regional Planning Commission be selected to serve as the MPM for this project.

A motion was made and seconded (Talbot, Gillam) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Talbot, Davis) to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for Stephanie Bourque to serve as the Municipal Project Manager for the Transportation Alternatives grant, Rutland City TAP TA22 (6) Train station Plaza. **Motion passed.**

DPW Commissioner Rotondo; Request Design Engineer Approval for Meadow Street Stormwater Separation & Connor Park Combined Sewer Storage Projects

James Rotondo, Commissioner of Public Works put forth a recommendation for Wastewater/Stormwater Engineering Services Request for Qualifications (RFQ). This RFQ was necessary in order to meet the funding requirements set forth by the VTrans Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program, who awarded the City of Rutland a \$814,000 grant for the project. This resulted in an RFQ for the Meadow Street Stormwater Separation and Connor Park Combined Sewer Storage Project was issued on April 25, 2022. With the Board's approval, Commissioner Rotondo would like to begin contract negotiations with Wright-Pierce.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to authorize the DPW Commissioner to begin contract negotiations with Wright-Pierce for the Meadow Street Stormwater Separation and Connor Park Combined Sewer Storage project. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Markowski; Treasurers Report for June 30, 2022 – Preliminary

Treasurer Markowski asked that the Treasurers Report for June 30, 2022 be referred to the Finance Committee. A motion was made and seconded (Talbot, Gillam) to refer the Treasurers Report for June 30, 2022 to the Finance Committee. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Markowski; Fund Balance Change Request as of June 30, 2022

Treasurer Markowski asked that the general fund with a balance of \$837,607.20 be set aside to support the FY 23 tax rate. Treasurer Markowski is asking that a motion be made to remove that assignment and make that money available for FY 23 when setting the tax rate.

A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, DePoy) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A Motion was made and seconded (Gillam, DePoy) to remove the assignment fund in the amount of \$837,607.20.

Motion passed.

Treasurer Markowski stated that we're not normally in a situation where when you order something it is taking six months to receive it. The Fire Department's turn out gear and Police Department firearms and uniforms were planned and budgeted in FY 22 budget but they are not going to be received until FY 23. The orders will be expensed in FY 23, so Treasurer Markowski, who worked with our auditors, wants those funds assigned to FY 23 to cover those expenses in the amount of \$92,647.12.

A Motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Gillam) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A Motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Gillam) to make available the funds of \$92, 647.12 from FY 22 to be expensed in FY 23. **Motion passed.**

Zoning Administrator Strniste; Short-Term Rental Solution Software Contract

Zoning Administrator Strniste stated that during the previous budget season, he had proposed to get some software to help assist the department with short term rentals. ZA Strniste has been working with Attorney Bloomer on the contract with GovOS.

A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Gillam) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Savage) to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement with GovOs.

Motion passed.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Savage; Charter & Ordinance

Alderman Savage read her Charter and Ordinance report from July 7, 2022 regarding the City's noise ordinance. There was discussion about loud music played at all hours by a neighbor, cars that feature crackle pop and unreasonable neighbor noise was addressed. No action was needed as the noise ordinance issue will remain in committee while Attorney Bloomer gathers examples from other municipalities to share via email with the members before the next meeting.

Alderman Whitcomb; Finance Committee

Alderman Whitcomb read his Finance Committee report from July 12, 2022 regarding the Farmer's Food Center loan request. The committee took no action on the issue and it was opted to leave the matter open in the Finance Committee.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Alderman Franco; IT Committee

Alderman Franco read his report from the IT Committee Meeting on July 18, 2022 to discuss four proposals that were submitted in response to the City's RFP for an IT managed services provider.

A motion was made and seconded (Franco, Talbot) to recommend to the BOA to award an IT managed services provider contract to Tech Group for the RemoteCare Package, pending clarification regarding Google workspace Support. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no representative reports.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

SEP Request; Downtown Partnership, Friday Night Live Events

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, Gillam) approving the request of Friday Night Live for 7/22/22, 8/5/22, and 8/19/22 from 5-10PM. **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 DePoy brought up that he noticed he was charged from a vendor a 1% municipal tax. Rutland City does not have a municipal tax. Rutland Town has a municipal tax and Alderman DePoy wondered how many other people who reside in Rutland City and were being charged this tax in error.

A Motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Gillam) to refer the issue to the Finance Committee to find out how the municipal tax is distributed from the State. **Motion passed.** A Motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Whitcomb) to send the issue to the Inter Municipal Committee and Attorney Bloomer. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made to adjourn at 9:45 PM, so moved and seconded (DePoy, Gillam). **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy L. Kapusta
Deputy City Clerk