

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, October 19, 2020

Members present; President Whitcomb, Aldermen Gorruso, Humphrey, *Ryan, Etori, Talbott, Mattis, *Gillam, Clifford, DePoy and Davis. Also present; Mayor Allaire, Attorney Bloomer and City Clerk Heck. Alderwoman Ryan signed on at 7:03 PM. Alderman Gillam signed on at 7:05 PM.

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (September 21 & October 5, 2020)

A motion was made and seconded (Gorruso, Davis) approving the minutes of September 21st. **Motion passed.** President Whitcomb then noted the minutes of October 5, 2020. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gorruso) to approve. **Motion passed.**

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Lyle Jepson; Chamber/REDC merger and Marketing update.

Lyle Jepson was present and presented a slide show detailing the recent merger of the Chamber of Commerce and REDC. Mr. Jepson spent about 15 minutes outlining the new merger and the benefits of this merger. A motion was made and seconded (Etori, Gorruso) to refer the marketing initiative to the Marketing Committee. **Motion passed.**

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Untable Mayoral Appointment; RRA Board; Andy Paluch

President Whitcomb introduced the Mayor's first item. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gorruso) to untable the nomination of Andy Paluch for the RRA Board. **Motion passed.** Mayor Allaire then spoke on the budget and how it was proceeding. The vote for Andy Paluch to the RRA Board was 10 YES and 0 NO.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Attorney Bloomer asked to add an executive session to discuss a disciplinary action against an officer or employee. The request was so moved, seconded (Davis, DePoy). **Motion passed.**

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Brennan Duffy; RRA Direct, BIAP Request

RRA Director Duffy was present to present his request to the BOA to forgive the loans awarded to two recipients, G&G Associates, LLC and Cavacas Associates, LLC based on City's policy under the BIAP Forgivable Loan Agreement. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Mattis) to forgive the loans to G&G Associates, LLC and Cavacas Associates, LLC and to authorize the Mayor to notify the borrowers and Treasurer that the loans have been forgiven. **Motion passed.**

Attorney Bloomer; Health Insurance/HRA for Non-Union Employees in the PD

Attorney Bloomer introduced the request and briefed the Board on the administration's plan, in the near future, of a revised set of personnel policies for all employees. Attorney Bloomer noted that the request this evening dealt specifically with non-union employees in the police department and asked the BOA to set as of January 1, 2021 employee contributions. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Humphrey) suspending the rules and taking action on the request that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Humphrey) to set the employee contribution for monthly health insurance premiums at 18%, effective January 1, 2021, for non-union employees in the

Police Department. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to set the employee contribution for the health reimbursement account at 25%, with the City to pay the first 75%, effective January 1, 2021, for non-union employees in the Police Department. **Motion passed.**

President Whitcomb asked Attorney Bloomer to confirm the nomination of Andy Paluch to the RRA Board, noting there were only ten (10) votes. Attorney Bloomer did confirm that appointment, 10 YES and 0 NO.

Treasurer Markowski; September Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Markowski was on to report the findings of the September Treasurer's Report and noting the quarters end and the vast amount of documentation provided to the Board. A motion was made and seconded (Ettori, Humphrey) to refer the September and Quarterly report to the Finance Committee. **Motion passed.** Alderwoman Davis sought information on the Parking Meter account and the state of the account related to business downtown related to COVID.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Clifford; Public Works Committee

Alderman Clifford read his committee report from September 29, 2020 and noted his committee met to discuss two (2) items on his agenda. The first was a complaint about curbing recently installed on Lafayette Street. City Engineer Rotondo was present to explain the need for the curbing and the associated benefits. The second issue discussed was an update of the water meter issues from Commissioner Wennberg. The committee was briefed on how issues with the meters, billing and associated software were being handled. Alderman Clifford noted his report was for information only and sought no action from the Board.

Alderwoman Humphrey; General Committee

Alderwoman Humphrey read her committee report from October 8, 2020 to discuss resuming in person Board of Aldermen Meetings. Alderwoman Humphrey noted her committee discussed at length the parameters associated with meeting in public related to COVID and guidelines established by the Governor along with technological issues associated with in person meetings and the need to still offer the public a way to participate. There was no action sought from committee and the 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 RCHS Coin Drop

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 approving the request for the Rutland County Humane Society coin drop on October 24, 2020 from 10AM to 2PM on Merchants Row. There was brief debate from the Board and Clerk Heck. The motion was amended to include the necessary signoffs. **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderwoman Mattis gave a brief Traffic Committee Report on prior discussed issues with wrong way drivers on Terrill Street and issues with Stratton Rd and Killington Ave. intersections. Alderwoman Mattis also noted the traffic paint markings on the section of Route 7 in front of Burger King & Wendy's

Restaurants needs to be re-painted, the report was for information only. Alderwoman Humphrey spoke on other related traffic issues.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Gorruso moved to refer to Marketing Committee issues discussed earlier with Lyle Jepson and to have Steve Peters to participate at that meeting. Alderman Etori seconded upon getting clarification from Alderman Gorruso on the referral. **Motion passed.**

Alderman DePoy sought a Charter change related to City Employees and supporting people running for office and sought to send that issue to the Charter & Ordinance Committee for review. Alderwoman Davis seconded. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Gorruso asked if trick or treating was canceled. Mayor Allaire noted that it was not canceled.

President Whitcomb then asked Attorney Bloomer for language to enter into executive session.

Attorney Bloomer noted language to enter into executive session to discuss a disciplinary action against a public officer or employee pursuant to 1VSA 317 (a)(4) and to include the Police Chief, Police Commission Chair and the Mayor. The language was so moved and seconded (Mattis, DePoy). **Motion passed.**

At 8:24 PM the Board entered into executive session.

At 9:05 PM a motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Davis) to come out of executive session. **Motion passed.**

With no other business to come before the Board a Motion was made and seconded (DePoy Davis) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A Heck
Rutland City Clerk

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