

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, November 2, 2020

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

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (October 19, 2020)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

No one spoke from outside the rail.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Allaire spoke on the FY 22 budget and related increase of 22% to BCBS and the continuation of COVID-19 making it one of his most difficult budgets to date. Mayor Allaire noted the areas that were cut to help off-set increases and lost revenues due to COVID.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no deletions or additions to the agenda.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Superintendent Peters; Rec. Updates: COVID specific, RRCC, & Revenue Projections

Superintendent Peters was online to give a brief update on Parks & Recreation related to COVID. Superintendent Peters acknowledged Jeff Pratt of the maintenance department for his exceptional work ethic and noted the entire staff and their effort during the pandemic. Superintendent Peters reviewed revenues and how her department is moving forward during this difficult time.

Commissioner Wennberg; Contract Award Recommendation

Commissioner Wennberg was online to introduce his request to ask the Board to approve his contract recommendation. After a brief introduction from Commissioner Wennberg a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gorruso) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. There was brief debate on the significant variations in bid price. **Motion passed.** President Whitcomb read the requested language from Commissioner Wennberg, authorizing the Mayor to sign a contract for professional services to prepare a Site Investigation Work Plan and Conduct an initial site investigation for subsurface petroleum contamination at the Spruce Street Highway Garage for an amount not to exceed \$10,000. That language was so moved and seconded (Davis, Gillam). **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Etori; Finance Committee

Alderman Etori was online to read his committee report from October 28, 2020. Alderman Etori noted his committee met to review FY 20 year-end and the first quarter of FY 21. Alderman Etori noted income and expense and how pleased the Treasurer was with respect to both. Even with COVID 19 causing so many problems, financially the City did OK. The Committee then reviewed the first quarter of FY 21 noting that things again seemed within line of budgeted amounts. Alderman Etori noted his report was for information only and sought no action from the Board.

Alderwoman Mattis; Charter & Ordinance

Alderwoman Mattis was online to read her committee report from Charter and Ordinance. The committee met to discuss suggested amendments to the zoning bylaws. Zoning Administrator Kelly was online to brief the committee on proposed changes and answer questions. The report was lengthy and detailed with the creation of a new zoning district enhancing the development opportunities at the College of St. Joseph's. The committee reviewed fossil fuel pipeline right-of-way, terminal, or distribution facility, as well as home occupation.

Alderwoman Mattis noted that Zoning Administrator Kelly needed to finish discussing the Office Park District and then she could move to accept all changes as presented. Zoning Administrator Kelly presented her proposed changes. A motion was made and seconded (Mattis, Davis) to accept the proposed Zoning Bylaw Amendments as presented. Alderwoman Davis moved to amend one part of those changes noting that so moved to amend the cantered District Development in regards to G10 and to remove that language dealing with fossil fuel pipeline distribution and terminals. Alderman DePoy seconded. There was brief debate about the amendment. President Whitcomb noted the potential of a no vote and asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Alderman Gorruso	YES	
Alderwoman Humphrey		NO
Alderwoman Ryan		NO
Alderman Etori	YES	
Alderman Talbott		NO
Alderwoman Mattis		NO
Alderman Gillam	YES	
Alderman Clifford	YES	
Alderman DePoy	YES	
Alderwoman Davis	YES	

Six YES and four NO, **Motion passed.**

President Whitcomb then noted the original motion as amended was on the table. There was brief discussion. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Alderman Etori; Marketing Committee

Alderman Etori was online to present his committee report from October 27, 2020. The committee met to discuss two agenda items. The first item discussed was the Regional Marketing Campaign with Lyle Jepson leading the discussion. The committee heard from other stakeholders who shared how they support this initiative. Alderman Etori noted a motion out of committee, recommending the Board approve \$16,000 from the Zamius Fund, supporting the Regional Marketing Initiative and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Etori moved on to the next item on the agenda dealing with the Downtown Partnership. Alderman Etori noted a request from Alderman Gorruso to discuss downtown business programs and their relationships with the partnership. Steve Peters, Executive Director was online to provide details on how they deal with new business opportunities and the tools available to those new businesses. Alderman Etori noted that this report was for information only.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no reports of representatives.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

There were no petitions, letters or miscellaneous communications.

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 DePoy noted that the General Committee meeting will not be held live at the Community Center. The City does not have the technical capabilities to hold the meeting live and remote at the same time. Alderman DePoy noted how the meeting would run and wanted the public to be aware as it was originally warned to be live and in person.

With no other items to come before the Board a motion was made and seconded (Gorruso, Davis) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A Heck
Rutland City Clerk

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