

**CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT**  
**Board of Aldermen Minutes**  
**Monday, December 21, 2020**

Members present; President Whitcomb; Aldermen Gorruso, Humphrey, Ryan, Ettori, Talbott, Mattis, Gillam, Clifford, DePoy and Davis. Also present, Mayor Allaire, Attorney Bloomer and City Clerk Heck.

**7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING**

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

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (December 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020)**

A motion was made and seconded (Gorruso, DePoy) approving the minutes of both meetings. **Motion passed.**

**OUTSIDE THE RAIL**

Bill Carris spoke about donating art work of a steel train that was built on his property. Mayor Allaire spoke on the issue, acknowledging the train and the train station as a possible site to place the train (art). A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Gorruso) to refer the issue to the Community and Development Committee. **Motion passed.**

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

Mayor Allaire had no items for the Board, only to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

**ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Attorney Bloomer asked to add two items, One Executive session and one under Reports of Department Heads. The request was so moved and seconded (Davis, Gillam). **Motion passed.**

**REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS**

***Treasurer Markowski; Treasurer's Report***

Treasurer Markowski reviewed her November's Report noting total cash of 16.9 million dollars. Treasure Markowski noted delinquencies were down this month and that there were five (5) tax sales, with four of those properties being sold to out of state buyers. A motion was made and seconded (Ettori, Davis) to receive and file the report. **Motion passed.**

***Attorney Bloomer; Fire Service Protection Contract***

Attorney Bloomer noted that this fire service protection contract had originally been discussed in the summer and been extended, hoping all details could be worked out. At this time there are still some details needing to be ironed out and Attorney Bloomer was requesting the existing agreement be extended for another two months. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to suspend the rules and take action on the request. **Motion passed.** Alderwoman Davis asked Attorney Bloomer if there was specific language needed. Attorney Bloomer responded, a motion to authorize the Mayor to enter into a two month extension of the existing agreement with the State of Vermont, regarding the provisions of the Fire Protection Services at the airport. This language was so moved and seconded (Davis, Gillam). Debate. **Motion passed.**

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

***Alderwoman Mattis; Charter & Ordinance Committee***

Alderwoman Mattis read her committee report from December 17, 2020, noting her committee met to have a brief discussion on portable signs in City Right-A-Ways and the need for the City to be an additional insurer. The committee also discussed the use of portable signs in all districts and that permits were not necessary. The committee then moved on to discuss political activity by City employees. Alderwoman Mattis noted Charter requirements on this subject and noted reasons for not allowing political activity for City employees. There was a good deal of debate from the committee and those present on the conference call including Police Commission Chair Sean Sargeant. There were no motion made in committee and the issue is to remain to allow further discussion. The report was for information only.

**REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES**

There were no select committee reports.

**REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES**

There were no reports of representatives.

**PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION**

There were no petitions, letters, or miscellaneous communications to come before the Board.

## **BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS**

There were no items for the Board of Control Commissioners.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### ***Untable FY 22 Water & Sewer Rates***

A motion was made and seconded (Clifford, Davis) untableing the FY 22 water and sewer rates.

**Motion passed.** There was brief debate on the definition of untableing/to untable, prior to President Whitcomb looking for a motion to approve the water and sewer rates as presented by the Commissioner. That request was so moved and seconded (Clifford, Davis). Lengthy debate followed. Several Aldermen spoke on various issues related to cutting cost/expenses/rates and the effects of COVID-19 to the rates. **Motion passed.**

## **MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS**

Alderman Talbott sought guidance from the City Ordinances on the removal of snow from City sidewalks in front of homeowner with the recent 24+ inch snow storm. Commissioner Wennberg tried to shed light and reasons for the gargantuan efforts needed during these kind of snow events. There was a great deal of debate on this storm related issue.

With no further discussion, President Whitcomb sought language from Attorney Bloomer to enter into executive session.

Attorney Bloomer stated language noting, a motion to find that premature general public knowledge regarding pending litigation, to which the City would be a party, would clearly place the City at a substantial disadvantage because the discussion will divulge the City's strategy in such probable litigation and will include confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the City. This language was so moved and seconded (Davis, Gillam)

**Motion passed.**

Attorney Bloomer then noted a motion to enter into executive session (with the inclusion of the City Attorney, Assessor, Mayor and Treasurer) to discuss pending litigation, as allowed under Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(E) and Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(F). This language was so moved and seconded (Gillam, Mattis). **Motion passed.**

President Whitcomb noted executive sessions login information from Attorney Bloomer and logged out at 7:56 PM.

At 8:31 PM a motion was made and seconded (Mattis, Davis) to come out of executive session. **Motion passed.**

At 8:33 PM the Board signed back into the public meeting and a motion was made and seconded (Mattis, Gorruso) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A Heck  
Rutland City Clerk

**You can dial in using your phone.**

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**Access Code:** 842-385-197