

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, March 6, 2023

Members present; President Doenges, Aldermen Cupoli, Franco, Savage, Barbagallo, Talbott, Tadio, Gillam, DePoy and Davis. Also present, Mayor Allaire, Attorney Bloomer and City Clerk Heck.

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (February 21, 2023)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Chief Lovett: IamResponding, Subscription Agreement

Chief Lovett was present to brief the Board on his requests. Chief Lovett asked the Board to allow him to apply for a Homeland Security Grant and noted what he was going to use the grant for. Chief Lovett then noted a Walmart Grant allowing him to request more funds and he noted the upgrades he was planning to do to the ladder truck using those funds. Finally Chief Lovett noted a request to authorize him to contract with IamResponding and provided the Board with the details of the contract. Debate. A motion was made and seconded (Depoy, Gillam) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Cupoli) authorizing the Chief to sign the grant for enhancements if so awarded. **Motion passed.** 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, Gillam) authorizing the Chief to sign IamResponding contract.

Castleton Content Lab; Referral Request, Discuss Branding Redesign Rutland City

President Doenges noted the request and introduced students from Castleton State University who spoke on their idea of rebranding the Rutland City logo and asked for the rebranding item be referred to the Community & Economic Development Committee. Alderwoman Davis so moved the request for referral. Alderwoman Savage seconded. **Motion passed.**

Kiana McClure, Alderman Candidate spoke about the election and asked everyone to get out and vote.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Allaire had no specific items for the Board, but spoke briefly about the election and wished everyone best of luck tomorrow and looked forward to Rutland's future.

President Doenges asked to move Petition, Letters and Miscellaneous Communications up in the agenda. There were no objections.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

SEP Request; Prevention Day 2023, Merchants Row, June 3, 2023 6AM-5PM

President Doenges noted the Special Events Request for Prevention Day 2023 and asked if there was a representative present. Seeing none, a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded approving Prevention Day 2023 June 3, 2023, 6AM -5PM on Merchants Row. **Motion passed.**

SEP Request; VFW Post 648, Loyalty Day Parade; May 7, 2023, 2-4:30 PM

President Doenges introduced the request. Several members of the VFW were present and just thanked the Board for their support. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Talbott) approving the Special Events Permit for the Loyalty Day Parade, on May 7, 2023. **Motion passed.**

SEP Request; Rutland City Pride Celebration; June 17, 2023, 9-5:00 PM

President Doenges introduced the next request and asked if there were anyone present to speak on the request. Moonshine Shorey, Sam Davis Boyd and Marissa Arduca all spoke about the Rutland City Pride celebration and it being the first ever Pride Festival for Rutland. A motion was made and seconded (Franco, Savage) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Franco, Savage) for the approval of the Rutland County Pride Celebration on June 17, 2023 from 9AM to 5PM on Center Street between Merchants Row and Wales Street. **Motion passed.**

There was a brief discussion about getting all the required signatures on the Special Events Requests. Clerk Heck said that he would get all the missing signatures and bring back to the Board per request of Alderman DePoy.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Jim Rotondo; DPW Commissioner/Chief Engineer:

Connor Park Combined Sewer Storage – Phase I

Request to Approve Step I Engineering Services Agreement

Commissioner Rotondo introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) to suspend the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) to authorize the Mayor to sign the Step 1 Engineering Services Agreement (ESA) with Aldrich & Elliott for feasibility & planning services for the Connor Park Combined Sewer Storage – Phase 1 project, in the amount of \$86,600, with the final form of the ESA to be approved by the City Attorney. **Motion passed.**

Request to Approve Step I Loan Application

Commissioner Rotondo introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) to suspend the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Talbott) to approve and circulate for signatures the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Step 1 (Feasibility & Planning) Loan Application for the Connor Park Combined Sewer Storage – Phase 1 project in the amount of \$86,600. **Motion passed.**

Meadow Street Sewer Separation Project

Request to Approve Step I Engineering Services Agreement

Commissioner Rotondo introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, DePoy) to suspend the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Tadio) to authorize the Mayor to sign the Step I & II Engineering Services Agreement (ESA) with Aldrich & Elliott for feasibility, planning and engineering design services for the Meadow Street Sewer Separation project, in the amount of \$95,600, with the final form of the ESA to be approved by the City Attorney. **Motion passed.**

Request to Approve Step II Loan Application

Commissioner Rotondo introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, DePoy) to suspend the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) to approve and circulate for signatures the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Step II (Final Design) Loan Application for the Meadow Street Sewer Separation Project in the amount of \$103,100.00. **Motion passed.**

Request Authorization for Timber Harvest in Rutland City Watershed

Commissioner Rotondo introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, DePoy) to suspend the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) to authorize DPW to advertise a bid to selectively harvest timber on approximately 15 acres located in Compartment 5 of the Rutland City Forest in Mendon. **Motion passed.**

Request Referral to DPW Committee – Water System Service Line Inventory

Commissioner Rotondo introduced the request. New federal regulations (Lead and Copper Rule Revisions – 40 CFR Part 141 Subpart I, LCRR) require every public community water system in the country to prepare a service line (SL) inventory and lead service line replacement plan prior to October 2024. With over 6,200 service connections, this will be a massive undertaking. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Talbott) to refer the following item to the DPW Committee; Water System Service Line Inventory. **Motion passed.**

Barbara Spaulding; RRA, VCDP Planning Grant Application

Barbara Spaulding introduced the request. The RRA met on February 28 to hear a presentation from Elisabeth Kulas and Lyle Jepson for a VCDP Planning Grant for Lynda Lee property at 10 Cleveland Avenue. The application is requesting \$60,000 toward the \$67,500 budget to conduct a feasibility study for the property.

A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Savage) to suspend the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Savage) to approve the application for VCDP Planning Grant to conduct a feasibility study for the development of the Lynda Lee property at 10 Cleveland Avenue and to set the public hearing for April 3rd at 6:45 PM and refer a presentation of the project to the Community and Economic Development Committee. **Motion passed.**

Barbara Spaulding; RRA, VCPD Implementation Grant Application

Barbara Spaulding introduced the request. The RRA met on February 28 to hear a presentation from Andy Miller of Summit Properties for a VCDP Implementation Grant for Hospital Heights at 101 Mahoney Avenue. The application is requesting \$1,000,000 toward the \$8,000,000 budget for rehab of the property.

A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Gillam) to suspend the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Savage) to approve the VCDP Implementation grant for the rehabilitation of Hospital Heights and to set the required public hearing for April 3rd at 6:30 PM and refer a presentation of the project to the Community and Economic Development Committee. **Motion passed.**

Barbara Spaulding; RRA, BIAP Application

Barbara Spaulding introduced the request. The RRA met on February 28 to review the Business Incentive and Assistance Program (BIAP) application for Secret Linus LLC d/b/a Speakeasy Café. The applicant Bridget Scott is asking for a \$10,000 BIAP forgivable loan and referral to HFCU to assist in the relocation and expansion of the Café from 67 Center Street to 31 Center Street.

A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Savage) to suspend the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Davis) to approve the \$10,000 BIAP forgivable loan for Speakeasy Café and referral to the HFCU RLF program for a secured loan and relocation and expansion of the Café from 67 Center Street to 31 Center Street. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Markowski; Proposal for Audit Services for City and RRA for FY23 Audit

Treasurer Markowski introduced the request. The contract for audit services with Sullivan & Powers ended as of June 30, 2022. Treasurer Markowski intended to ask the Board's approval to go out for RFP for audit services for the next three years, however, Sullivan & Powers has offered to extend their contract for FY23 with no increase in price.

The contract extension was discussed by the Board of Finance (BOF) at the meeting on February 27, 2023 and the BOF recommended presenting the proposal to the full Board for approval.

A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Gillam) to suspend the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Gillam) to approve the contract with Sullivan & Powers, Inc. for City Audit services for FY23 and approval for the Board President to sign the contract. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Davis; Finance Committee

Alderman Davis read her Finance Committee report that met on February 27, 2023. Discussed first was the request from Habitat for Humanity for \$1,500. Rebecca Stephens spoke of the numerous properties in the city that had been rehabbed with the last being 5 Hickory Street. Ms. Stephens stated that they have added approximately \$12,000 in estimated revenue to the City through their projects. Other towns have included Habitat for Humanity on their ballots for funding. The committee discussed the request and agreed to the value of Habitat in our community. A motion to approve the \$1,500 one-time request with the money to come from the funds formerly known as ARPA and going forward to seek signatures to appear yearly on the Rutland City ballot. The motion passed 3-0 and I so move. The motion was seconded by Alderman Savage. **Motion passed.** Alderman Gillam recused himself as he has a conflict because he serves on the Board with Ms. Stephens.

Discussed second was the request from Mary Cohen from Housing Trust of Rutland, for the Columbian Avenue properties that will see significant rehab totaling 22 units when completed. The request was for \$50,000 to cover the acquisition costs. Total project is \$11.2 Million. Discussion of the committee felt this went along with the Board's desire to increase and improve housing opportunities in the community. The motion was to award the \$50,000 from the funds formerly known as ARPA, the motion passed 3-0 and I so move. The motion was seconded by Alderman Savage. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no reports of representatives.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no reports of select committees.

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

There was nothing to come before the Board of Control Commissioners.

BOARD OF CANNABIS COMMISSIONERS

Request from Sharp Family Farms, LLC

President Doenges introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Talbot, Cupoli) to move into the Board of Cannabis Commissioners. **Motion passed.** Dove from Sharp Family Farms, LLC spoke about the application. A motion was made and seconded (Talbot, Davis) to have the Board President and

City Clerk sign the application. **Motion passed.** A Motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Talbott).
Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Planning & ZA Strniste; Conditional Use Review Hearing and DRB Warning

This was for information only. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to receive and file.

Motion passed.

Alderman Franco thanked the residents of Rutland City for the incredible honor and privilege to have served on the Board and thanked his colleagues.

President Doenges thanked the Board for being the Board President for the past year and regardless of the outcome of the election, he will not be Board President at the next Board of Aldermen meeting.

Motion was made and second (Davis, Cupoli) to adjourn at 8:13 PM. **Motion passed.**

Respectively,

Tracy L. Kapusta
Deputy City Clerk