

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

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

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (January 17, 2023)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Mary Cohen; Executive Director, Housing Trust Rutland County

Mary Cohen, Executive Director of the Housing Trust came before the Board looking to request funds for a new project. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to refer the request to the Finance Committee. **Motion passed.**

Rebecca Stevens; Habitat for Humanity

Rebecca Stevens of Habitat for Humanity updated the Board on the current project, which was their fourth home within Rutland City being built and briefed the Board on there soon to be built fifth home. Ms. Stevens noted a request for \$1,500 from the City to help fund the current project. A motion was made and seconded, (DePoy, Gillam) referring the request to the Finance Committee. **Motion passed.**

Jack Crowther; Public Hearing Request, Fluoridation Discussion w/ DPW Commissioner

Jack Crowther was back to ask the Board for a reconsideration from their last meeting on the defeated request for a Public Hearing, attended by DPW Commissioner James Rotondo to answer questions on fluoridation being placed in the City water supply. There was debate within the Board. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Tadio) asking the Public Works Chair to hold a meeting including the DPW Commissioner to participate. Debate. A roll call vote was requested by Alderwoman Davis. President Doenges asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Clerk Heck called the roll.

Alderman Cupoli	NO
Alderman Franco	YES
Alderwoman Savage	YES
Alderman Talbott	YES
Alderwoman Tadio	YES
Alderman Gillam	NO
Alderman DePoy	NO
Alderwoman Davis	NO

Motion Failed. President Doenges thanked Mr. Crowther and asked if there was anyone else outside the rail that wanted to speak on a issue, not on the agenda.

John McCann of Rutland City spoke on his desire to run for the Board of Alderman and spoke briefly on the Fluoride issue just discussed and issues he supported within the City.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Allaire spoke about the Town gaining financial support from the hotel owners with the increased expense related to increased police presence. Mayor Allaire noted that he often speaks with hotel owners and recently asked why the City was never offered financial support for their increased support of the local hotels. Mayor Allaire then noted that since those conversations, owners of the hotels presented the Mayor with seven checks totaling over \$56,000. Mayor Allaire noted those funds are to go to the Police Department to help fund lines within their department for the increased overtime. There was debate from members of the Board on risk involvement related to obligations from accepting those funds. Attorney Bloomer presented his advice/answers to all questions presented.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Alderman Gillam asked to add his Special Liquor Committee report under Select Committee Reports. President Doenges noted the request and sought a motion to add. Alderwomen (Davis, Savage) so moved and seconded. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Barbara Spaulding: RRA; Better Connections Resolutions

Barbara Spaulding of the RRA was present and briefed the Board on her request asking the Board to sign the Better Connections Resolution in support of the grant. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Gillam) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Davis) to circulate the resolution for signatures. **Motion passed.**

Barbara Spaulding: RRA; BIAP Request-Taco Fresco

Barbara Spaulding introduced the recommendation from the RRA Board awarding a \$10,000 BIAP forgivable loan and referral to the Heritage Family Credit Union, Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program for a loan of up to \$50,000. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Davis) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** Mark Williams, an owner, briefed the Board on the plans for a Taco and Tequila restaurant on Center and Wales Street. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Davis) awarding a \$10,000 BIAP forgivable loan and referral to the Heritage Family Credit Union, Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program for a loan of up to \$50,000. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Michael Talbott; Community & Economic Development January 19th & 26th Reports

Alderman Talbott read his committee report from January 19, 2023 noting his committee met to determine the source of the \$74,830 matching funds committed for the VTrans grant received for the Rutland area train station pedestrian improvement project. At the time of application, the match was proposed to be provided by the following:

- \$5,000, Downtown Rutland Partnership
- \$35,000, 2020 paving bond
- \$7,900, Rutland Redevelopment Authority
- \$7,500, Zamias fund
- \$19,430, Mayor's contingency fund

Treasurer Markowski had made note that the paving bond may not be an appropriate source for the \$35,000, as that bond was specifically for sidewalk and street paving. After a brief discussion, Alderman Franco made a motion to draw the \$35,000 from the city's newly-created grant matching fund. Motion passed 3-0 and he so moved. Alderwoman Davis seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Gillam made a motion to draw the \$7,500 from the remaining Zamias funds as planned. Motion passed 3-0 and he so moved. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Talbott then reported out on his second Community & Economic Development committee report from January 26, 2023. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Better Connections grant

application creating a bicycle/pedestrian master plan for the city. Devon Neary, of the Planning Commission, explained that this proposal came out of the 2020 Downtown Strategic Plan, which called out the need for more bike/ped planning and amenities in downtown.

One half of the project would be a bicycle and pedestrian master plan that would identify connectivity issues for sidewalks and bikes, problematic intersections and crosswalks, provide bike route updates and identify need for bike lanes, and overall enhancements to the safety and walkability of the community. The second half to this project would involve creating a streetscape plan focused on downtown, which would include conceptual design for use by DPW in future work, and support the TIF district project by helping developers envision future projects. The \$75,000 planning grant requires a 10% city match. Applications are due February 17, with award decision by March 20; project completion is intended by December 2024. Mayor Allaire voiced his support for the project.

Barbara Spaulding explained that the RRA has already endorsed the project and that this meeting was intended to identify the matching funds. Alderwoman Davis made a motion to commit \$7,500 from the City's Grant-Matching Fund. Motion passed 4-0 and he so moved. Alderwoman Tadio seconded. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no reports of representatives.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There was a brief select committee reports from Alderman Gillam from Special Liquor Committee. Alderman Gillam noted the new online application process has presented some questions on procedure and that Clerk Heck filled the Board in on those new requirements. There was no action requested and the report was for information only.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

Chrispin White; C&ED, SEP Request, Whoopie Pie Festival

President Doenges introduced the request and asked Lyle Jepson to introduce the request. Mr. Jepson noted the prior Whoopie Pie Festival and its great success and sought to get approval from the Board on this years' Festival. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Davis) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Savage) approving the Special Events Permit request for the Parade of Heroes & Whoopie Pie Festival, September 16, 2023 from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM. There was brief debate on signatures required. **Motion passed.** Mr. Jepson thanked the Board for their support and then noted several upcoming events within the City.

Shannon Poole; SEP Request, Shiver Me Shamrocks 5K

President Doenges introduce the request. 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, DePoy) approving the Shiver Me Shamrocks 5K Fun Run/Walk on March 11, 2023 from 6AM to 3PM, sponsored by the HFCU and Come Alive Outside, at the bottom of Center Street. **Motion passed.**

Ryan Brady; RPD; Recommendation RFP Award

President Doenges introduced the request and asked Ryan Brady to present his recommendation. Mr. Brady noted a previous RFP and utilizing the same find of software by the recreation center asked the Board to approve, Temperature Controls of Vermont for HVAC temp controls. Debate. 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, Gillam) approving the Temperature Control Systems of Vermont, control systems upgrade, for the Rutland Police Department, for an amount not to exceed, \$70,500. **Motion passed.**

Nate McKay; RAVE Car Shoe, July 8 & 9 Rutland Fair Grounds

President Doenges introduced the request. 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, Savage) approving the request for the Rave Car Show to be held at the Fair Grounds. Debate. It was noted that there were no signatures for this application. Clerk Heck briefed the Board on this request, noting it was on private property and that signatures were not required. Debate. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to move into the Board of Control Commissioners. **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

2023 - 2024 1st 2nd 3rd & Outside Consumption Liquor License Renewals

2023 – 2024 Tobacco Renewals

President Doenges introduced the request and sought a brief overview from the Clerk. Clerk Heck noted that this request had come before the Board in past years and he was seeking authorization from them to sign all related renewal application requests. There was brief debate. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) authorizing the Clerk to sign all 2023-2024, 1st, 2nd 3rd, and outside consumption renewals. President Doenges asked if Tobacco should be included and the Clerk noted it should. An amendment was offered to include Tobacco the maker and seconded agreed. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to come out of the Board of Control Commissioners. **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF CANNABIS COMMISSIONERS

There were no items for the Board of Cannabis Commissioners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderwoman Davis noted complaints about the new Kentucky Fried Chicken and traffic. Nearby businesses were complaining that people were parking in there lots and walking to the restaurant. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Talbott) to refer the issue to the Development Review Board. Debate. **Motion passed.**

Clerk Heck addressed the Board about campaign sign placement and noted the State requirements for placement. Clerk Heck noted if signs were missing to look here at City Hall first as folks at Building & Zoning may have picked them up and delivered them to City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A Heck
Rutland City Clerk