

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Agenda
Tuesday, February 22, 2022

Members present; President Whitcomb, Aldermen Gorruso, Franco, Savage, Talbott, Doenges, Gillam, Clifford, DePoy and Davis. Also present; Mayor Allaire, Attorney Bloomer and City Clerk Heck. Alderman Neary was absent.

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (February 7, 2022)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

No one spoke from outside the rail.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Remove from the Table Nomination of Brian Budrow, RRA Board

Mayor Allaire was present with a couple items for the BOA and started by asking them to remove from the table the nomination of Brian Budrow. This request was so moved and seconded (Talbott, DePoy). **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Clifford) to circulate the ballot box. **Motion passed.** Clerk Heck gathered the votes and gave them to Attorney Bloomer to tabulate.

Mayor Allaire continued with his report noting the mask mandate in City Hall had been lifted and mask were no longer required to enter or work, but those that wanted to still wear a mask could. Mayor Allaire gave thanks to the Fire Department on their rescue of a woman trapped on a frozen river in Wallingford. This concluded communications from the Mayor.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Brennan Duffy; RRA Director, BIAP Recommendation

Brennan Duffy introduced the BIAP request from the RRA Committee and sought approval from the BOA. Director Duffy noted Arson Ltd. Co., DBA as Arson Skateshop & Clothing Store was expanding his business at 150 West Street. Bill Strecker owner, spoke on the BIAP request and briefed the Board on his business and the education programs he is looking to support at schools, municipalities, youth & rehab organizations. A motion was made and seconded (Gorruso, DePoy) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gorruso) approving the \$5,000 BIAP Grant to Arson Ltd, DBA Arson Skateshop & Clothing Store. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Markowski; Treasurer's Report January 31, 2022

Treasurer Markowski spoke on her latest Treasurer's Report, noting pool cash accounts having good balances. Treasurer Markowski did note delinquencies are high shared her concerns. Revenues and expenses are mostly within budget. There was brief debate. The report was for information only.

President Whitcomb noted Brian Budrow was approved 10-0 for the RRA Board.

Attorney Bloomer; Two (2) Requests Executive Session, Labor Relations

Per the Boards normal practice these requests were moved to the end of the meeting.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderwoman Davis; Finance Committee

Alderwoman Davis read multiply reports on ARPA funding requests and noted the committee continued hearing requests from department heads and stake holders for funding equipment and projects. This meeting had no action requested and the committee will continue to hear about ARPA funded projects.

The Finance Committee met with Zoning Administrator Strniste about managed IT request.

Alderwoman Davis noted that a request for an RFP was being requested. The committee heard about benefits for hiring an IT service from ZA Strniste. With many questions the committee moved to develop an ad-hoc committee to fully vet the proposal. A motion was made in committee to approve the request to seek an RFP for managed IT service contract. Alderwoman Davis so moved this request. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderwoman Davis then noted a request from committee approving \$20,000 to upgrade the Rutland City website and she so moved. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderwoman Davis noted another motion from committee, to authorize the Chair to establish an ad hoc committee to look at the IT needs of the City and to calculate cost and savings and she so moved. Alderman Talbott seconded. Alderman Doenges volunteered to run that committee. **Motion passed.**

Alderwoman Davis then moved to suspend the rules and take action on the CEDR Hub request. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) authorizing the Mayor to sign a letter of support for CEDR's requested proposal for \$400,000 in order to obtain grant funding. Alderman Franco abstained stating a conflict of interest. **Motion passed.** Lyle Jepson spoke on the opportunity to earn the \$400K and stated they needed to go get those grants to help build on established and new projects.

Alderman Gillam; Charter & Ordinance Committee-UNTABLE

President Whitcomb introduced the next item. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, DePoy) to remove from the table the request to upgrade the Shopping Cart Ordinance. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Talbott) to adopt the ordinance as presented. Debate. Attorney Bloomer updated the Board on business response to the letter he sent out, looking for input from them on the new ordinance recommendations. Mayor Allaire spoke briefly on the issue and wanted the Board to be aware of his stance and feedback from others on the issue.

Alderman DePoy stated that he wanted to propose an increase in the amount of the fine to the people taking the carts to \$250.00. Alderman DePoy noted he agreed with the time line of picking up the carts by businesses, but wanted to put more emphasis on the person taking the cart and he moved to amend the fine to \$250 for persons removing carts from businesses. Alderman Clifford seconded. Debate. The majority of debate was around fining people taking the carts. Debate continued for approximately fifty (50) minutes. Discussion followed on withdrawing the amended motion and retabling the motion. Alderman DePoy withdrew his motion and presented another motion that was seconded. Attorney Bloomer presented a "cleaner" worded equivalent, which was so moved and seconded. Debate. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to table the request. Debate followed on how to refer this issue back to committee. A motion was made to reconsider the question. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Davis) to refer back to committee the issue of shopping carts. Debate. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Clifford Public Work Committee

Alderman Clifford noted that he would be reporting out on his final committee report as he was retiring from public office. Alderman Clifford noted his committee met on February 8, 2022 to hold a public meeting for the long term control plan (LTCP). Commissioner Rotondo led the review for the next five (5) years of projects and implementation schedule. There were numerous questions from the committee. Upon the completion of the report a motion was made to endorse a resolution of support for the DPW committee's proposed Long Term Control Plan 5-year project implementation schedule and Alderman Clifford so moved and to circulate the resolution for signatures. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Clifford noted the next motion from committee was to grant the DPW Commissioner authorization to issue requests for proposal for engineering design services for all of the projects outlined in the DPW Committee's proposed LTCP 5-year project implementation project and he so moved. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Clifford noted a final motion from committee, to grant the DPW Commissioner authorization to issue a request for proposal or requests for qualification for engineering design services for the Meadow Street Sewer Separation project, previously approved by the votes as part of the 2019, \$7.4 million Wastewater Bond, and he so moved. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

This concluded Alderman Clifford's report, to which the Board applauded.

President Whitcomb sought to move on to Parking Meter Committee.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Alderman Neary; Parking Committee

Alderman Doenges was filling in for Alderman Neary and read their report from February 16, 2022. Alderman Doenges reported on information presented by Commissioner Rotondo with regards to meters, placement, staff and numbers of units and meter map. This committee is scheduled to meet the third Thursday of every month and no action was requested.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no representative reports.

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 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

Robert's Rules and the Disposition of the Raider Charter Amendment

President Whitcomb noted the tabled request. Alderman DePoy moved to remove from the Table the Raider Charter Amendment question. Alderman Gorruso seconded. **Motion passed.** Alderman DePoy briefed the Board on his motion to present the Raider Mascot question to the voters on the November Ballot if approved. President Whitcomb asked Alderman DePoy to read his motion aloud. Alderman DePoy noted his motion for the November General Election if approved, shall the voters amend the City of Rutland Charter to 1.) add the following as sub-chapter 37, Schools, Monikers, Nicknames, 9-77.1 (Name with strikethrough and underlined material)
Rutland City Schools shall use Raiders as the only moniker nickname for its athletic teams.
2.) Re-number subsequent chapters accordingly.

Alderman DePoy spoke briefly on the request. There was no further debate. President Whitcomb was calling for a vote when Alderman DePoy requested a roll call vote. President Whitcomb acknowledged the request and asked Clerk Heck to call the roll.

Alderman Gorruso	YES	
Alderman Franco		NO
Alderwoman Savage		NO
Alderman Neary	ABSENT	
Alderman Talbott		NO
Alderman Doenges		NO
Alderman Gillam	YES	
Alderman Clifford	YES	
Alderman DePoy	YES	
Alderwoman Davis	YES	

Clerk Heck noted the result five (5) YES and four (4) NO, **Motion failed.**

President Whitcomb repeated the results and moved on to the pupil weighting resolution.

Pupil Weighting Resolution

President Whitcomb introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to circulate the resolution for signatures. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Clifford congratulated and wanted to recognize Bob Protivansky the Wastewater Plant Manager on his recognition from his peers on being named operator of the year. Alderman Clifford noted it was a very prestigious award. Alderman Clifford offered his best to all candidates running on March 1, 2022.

President Whitcomb thanked Alderman Clifford and noted if there was nothing else for the Board, Attorney Bloomer had a couple executive session requests. Seeing no other requests, President Whitcomb sought language from Attorney Bloomer.

Attorney Bloomer noted a motion to find premature general public knowledge regarding the negotiation of a labor relations agreement would clearly place the City at a substantial disadvantage because the discussion will divulge the Board's position on the agreement provisions to be negotiated. This language was so moved and seconded (Davis, Savage). **Motion passed.**

Attorney Bloomer noted language to enter into executive session (including Mayor, DPW Commissioner Treasurer, Clerk and City Attorney) to discuss the labor relations agreement as allowed under Title 1, section 313(a)(1)(B). This language was so moved and seconded (Talbott, DePoy). **Motion passed.**

At 8:34 PM the BOA moved into executive session.

At 9:10 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to come out of executive session. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Doenges, Talbott) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A Heck
Rutland City Clerk