

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, December 5, 2022

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (November 21, 2022)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Whoopie Pie Request, Lyle Jepson, Chrispin White

Lyle Jepson and Chrispin White were present to discuss the 2023 Whoopie Pie festival to be held September 16, 2023 with the goal of building a 600lbs. Whoopie Pie.

Lyle Jepson then introduced Scott Graves the new program director for Start Up Rutland.

Jack Crowther spoke on the fluoridation issue and shared his displeasure from the previous meeting and how the issue was treated. Mr. Crowther asked for Charter Language eliminating fluoride from the city water system to be placed on the ballot. Debate. A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Talbott) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Talbott) placing Charter language eliminating fluoride in city water on the March ballot. Debate. **Motion failed.** President Doenges then noted to Mr. Crowther that the process was vetted correctly at the last meeting.

LMNOPI spoke on the fluoride issue and sought several show of hands for questions related to the city drinking water and noted fluoride is a drug and not regulated.

Newly elected House Representatives Paul Clifford and Eric McGuire came to the Board to offer support and they look forward to working with the Board and administration during their term.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Remove from the Table, Mayoral Appointments. BOA, RRA

Mayor Allaire noted several items to be removed from the table and sought the first request for Larry Cupoli, nominated for the Board of Aldermen. The request was so moved and seconded (Gillam, Davis). **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to circulate the ballot box. **Motion passed.** President Doenges then asked Clerk Heck to circulate the ballot box. Clerk Heck gathered all ballots and then presented them to Attorney Bloomer for verification.

Mayor Allaire continued with his report and noted a grant award of \$650,000 for the Maple Street project.

President Doenges asked Mayor Allaire to continue. Mayor Allaire then noted his next nomination for the RRA Board and sought Hillary Ward's name be removed from the table. That request was so moved and seconded (Davis, Gillam). **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to circulate the ballot box. **Motion passed.** President Doenges announced that Larry Cupoli was approved as Aldermen. Mayor Allaire and Mr. Cupoli met in the center of the room. While Clerk Heck gathered the ballots for the Ward nomination, Mayor Allaire proceeded to swear in Alderman Cupoli. Alderman Cupoli then took his seat. Clerk Heck presented Attorney Bloomer with the next round of ballots. Mayor Allaire then made a request to remove from the table the nomination of Christopher Etori for the RRA Board. Clerk Heck gathered all ballots and presented them to Attorney Bloomer for verification.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Attorney Bloomer asked to delete the Charter and Ordinance Committee reports as Charter Language was still being drafted.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Barbara Spaulding, RRA; Request for Referral, Rutland Station Area Improvement

Mrs. Spaulding was present to introduce the request, seeking referral of the Rutland Station Area Improvement matching funds to committee. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Whitcomb) referring the issue to the Community & Economic Development Committee. **Motion passed.**

President Doenges then read the appointment results for the RRA. Commissioner Ward 10 YES and 0 NO. Commissioner Etori 10 YES and 0 NO. Both nominations were approved. Commissioner Ward spoke briefly thanking the Board.

Treasurer Markowski; Recommendation for Lease financing of the purchase of 2 new Police vehicle

Treasurer Markowski was present to brief the Board on her recommendation for lease purchase financing of two (2) new police vehicles. Treasurer Markowski noted three lease options and stated the purchase was in the amount of \$106,278.70. Treasurer Markowski recommended using Municipal Leasing Consultants as they presented the lowest finance rate. 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, DePoy) approving the lease financing proposal from Municipal Financing Consultants for the purchase of 2 fully equipped 2022 Ford Interceptor vehicles for \$106,278.70, with a term of three (3) years, at a rate of 5.71% and authorize the Mayor to sign the leasing documents subject to review by the City Attorney. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Markowski; ARPA update and recommendation for resolution for ARPA spending on Government salary and benefit related expenses

Treasurer Markowski briefed the Board on the ARPA rules and how they have changed since inception. Treasurer Markowski noted the proposed resolution for the allocation of ARPA funding and sought the Boards approval. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Tadio) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Savage) adopting the resolution for the allocation of ARPA funding to fund government services under the replacing lost sector revenue spending category, to include general fund salaries, overtime and benefits in the total amount of \$4,506,011.08. **Motion passed.** Treasurer Markowski then noted the second part of assigning those general funds and asked the Board to do so. 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, Savage) to assign the General Fund unrestricted fund balance of \$4,506,011.08 to be used to fund the "ARPA" special projects and expenses that are approved by the BOA. **Motion passed.** President Doenges then read the resolution in to the record. 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) authorizing the BOA Chair to sign the resolution. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Savage; Charter & Ordinance 11/17 Local Option Tax

Alderman Savage; Charter & Ordinance 12/1 Local Option Tax

Both committee reports were deleted earlier in the meeting.

Alderman Talbott; Community & Economic Development

Alderman Talbott read his committee report from November 30, 2022 noting his committee along with others present met to review the proposal for the city's market-rate rental revitalization revolving loan pilot program drafted in collaboration with NeighborWorks of Western Vermont. Alderman Talbott noted in March 2022, the Board of Aldermen committed \$400,000 from the fund formerly known as ARPA for the purpose of creating a rental repair assistance program for use by landlords to renovate

vacant multi-family housing units into market-rate housing. Loan applications will initially be submitted to NeighborWorks for evaluation. Recommended projects will then be sent to the Rutland Redevelopment Authority board for selection, and then on to the Board of Aldermen for final approval. The committee members and others present voiced strong support for the program proposal. NeighborWorks will make final revisions to the proposal and complete the supporting documents and return to this committee for final review and approval. The goal is to launch the program in early 2023. Alderman Talbott noted no action or motion was requested and his report was for information only.

Alderman Gillam; Public Works

Alderman Gillam noted that his committee met that evening to discuss the "No Fault Damage Reimbursement Policy". Alderman Gillam noted his committee moved into executive session and when they came out a motion was proposed. "To approve as proposed the Know Fault Damage Reimbursement Policy as amended" and Alderman Gillam so moved. There was discussion and Attorney Bloomer briefed the Board on the amendments just approved that evening. With no further debate, **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no representative reports.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

President Doenges; Parking Committee.

President Doenges read his committee report from November 9, 2022. The committee met to discuss several items related to meters, fees and Park Mobile App. President Doenges noted a motion from committee establishing rates associated Park Mobile Fees and ticked fees for expired meters. Prior to moving the motion to the full BOA, President Doenges asked Attorney Bloomer for his update on this issue. Attorney Bloomer noted that the committee motion should be broken down into three various motions. The Board spent approximately 45 minutes suspending rules and making those various motions from Attorney Bloomer. All motions proposed failed or withdrawn. The BOA did refer back to the Parking Committee the issue of rates and fees, (Talbott, DePoy). **Motion passed.**

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

There were no petitions, letters or miscellaneous communications for the BOA.

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

There were no requests for the Board of Control Commissioners.

BOARD OF CANNABIS COMMISSIONERS

There were no requests for the Board of Cannabis Commissioners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Attorney Bloomer; Park Mobile Contract

Attorney Bloomer briefed the BOA on the new proposed Park Mobile App. and the need to update ordinances to meet this proposed software. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Davis) to table the Park Mobile Contract. **Motion passed.**

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Talbott briefed the Board on the TIF District and noted a motion to refer the funding mechanism for TIF applications to the Finance Committee. **Motion passed.**

At 8:46 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Talbott) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A Heck