

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday April 5, 2021

Members present; President Whitcomb, Aldermen Gorruso, Savage, Neary, Doenges, Talbott, Franco, Gillam, Clifford, DePoy and Davis. Also present; Mayor Allaire, Attorney Bloomer, Treasurer Markowski, Kim Peters and City Clerk Heck.

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

President Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Bob Pelletier, City Building Inspector on Saturday, March 27, 2021.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (March 15, 2021)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Congressman Peter Welch

Congressman Peter Welch of Vermont was online to update the City and Board of Aldermen on the related stimulus bills (American Rescue Package) and how that effected Rutland City. Congressman Welch noted that the city will be receiving \$4.4 million dollars in two lump payments. Congressman Welch noted how the funds could be used and who would make those decisions on how to spend it. The Congressman spoke on the continued COVID related issues and the need to continue our diligence to stay safe. There was brief Q & A from the Board, Mayor and Congressman Welch. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Talbott) referring the issue of federal funding to the Finance Committee. **Motion passed.**

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayoral Nominations: To Remove From the Table, Appointed Officers

President Whitcomb introduced the item. Alderwoman Davis and Alderman Clifford so moved and seconded the removal of nominations from the table. **Motion passed.** President Whitcomb noted earlier emails outlining the voting process. There was brief debate on how to login to these sites.

Mayor Allaire also noted a memo containing more nominations and reviewed those people and positions. Mayor Allaire asked the Board to table them until the next meeting. The request was so moved and seconded (Davis, DePoy). **Motion passed.**

Mayor Allaire then spoke on the shooting at the Quality Inn Hotel and State Housing and the effects to the City. Mayor Allaire then spoke about the increased issues with shopping carts and asked for a referral of the issue to the Charter & Ordinance Committee. Alderwoman Davis so moved the request to refer to Charter & Ordinance and Alderman Doenges seconded. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

There was brief debate on the new list of tabled nominations. Alderman Franco asked for resumes for all of the nominations.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

RRA Director, Brennan Duffy; BIAP Emergency Loan Program

Brennan Duffy, Director of the RRA was on line to brief the Board on the BIAP Emergency Loan Program Created last year for COVID relief to local businesses. Mr. Duffy noted sixteen (16) local participants totaling \$140,000 in loans and stated that a lot of these borrowers where still feeling the effects of COVID related issues. Mr. Duffy briefed the Board on the loan agreements and repayment schedule and was looking for the Board to approve different repayment options.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Talbott) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** Alderwoman Davis then moved the recommended motion for debate and read it aloud. Authorizing the RRA to work with borrowers and co-ordinate with the City Treasurer and City Attorney to modify loans from the Business Incentive Emergency Loan Fund, on a case-by-case basis, using any of the repayment options outlined above, and to further authorize the Mayor to sign all related documents on the City's behalf. Alderman Gorruso seconded. Debate. **Motion passed.**

RRA Director, Brennan Duffy; BIAP Forgivable Loan Agreement

Director Duffy introduced the request of the BIAP Forgivable Loan Agreement with Rutland Beer Works, LLC., and briefed the BOA on the forgivable loan policy. A motion was made and seconded (Talbot, Clifford) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** Alderman Talbot then so moved the language authorizing the Mayor to notify the borrowers and Treasurer that the loans have been forgiven by a vote on April 5, 2021. **Motion passed.**

Barbara Spaulding, RRA; Municipal Codes & Policies

Barbara Spaulding of the RRA was on-line, requesting that the BOA re-adopt the revised Municipal Codes & Policies (MP-1) organized by the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP). Mrs. Spaulding spoke of the awards granted to the City by (VCDP) and noted that these codes and policies are part of the criteria established to receive those grants. A motion was made and seconded (Gorruso, Clifford) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Gorruso, Davis) authorizing the BOA President to sign and re-adopt the revised MP-1 codes & policies. **Motion passed.**

Barbara Spaulding, RRA; Rutland County Parent Child Center

Mrs. Spaulding presented details of the request and sought authorization for President Whitcomb to sign all related documents allowing the grant to move forward. A motion was made and seconded (Gorruso, Gillam) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Gorruso, Gillam) authorizing the BOA President to sign on behalf of the City the PM-1 and PM-4 documents for the Rutland County Parent Child Center and to authorize the Mayor to sign the grant agreement. **Motion passed.**

Tara Kelly, Zoning Administrator (ZA); Sale of City Owned Property

Z.A. Kelly was on-line requesting Board approval on the sale of three (3) city owned properties. Z.A. Kelly noted these properties were available through the City Owned Property program and noted the Board's recommendation to approve the sales of 30 Lincoln Ave, 119 Park Ave. & 77 South Main Street. Z.A. Kelly briefed the Board on the purchasers, their amount of investment and timeframe associated with the rehab.

The Board decided to take each request individually and a motion was made and seconded (Clifford, Gorruso) suspending the rules and taking action on 30 Lincoln Ave. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Clifford, Davis) authorizing the sale of 30 Lincoln Ave. to Karin Cioffi for the purchase price of \$23,000 pursuant to 6-2 of the Rutland City Charter and to further authorize the Mayor to sign the sale related documents. **Motion passed.**

Z. A. Kelly introduced 119 Park Ave. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) suspending the rules and taking action on 119 Park Ave. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Doenges) authorizing the sale of 119 Park Ave. to John Janoski for the purchase price of \$21,500 pursuant to 6-2 of the Rutland City Charter and to further authorize the Mayor to sign the sale related documents. Debate followed. **Motion passed.**

Z. A. Kelly introduced 77 South Main Street. A motion was made and seconded (Doenges, Franco) suspending the rules and taking action on 77 South Main Street. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Doenges, DePoy) authorizing the sale of 77 South Main Street to Ryan Walton for the purchase price of \$10,000 pursuant to 6-2 of the Rutland City Charter and to further authorize the Mayor to sign the sale related documents. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Markowski: February Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Markowski was on-line to present an overview of the Treasurer's February Report. Treasurer Markowski noted that the third quarter report would be available and discussed at further length soon. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to receive and file. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Markowski: FY20 Financial Audit Reports for the City and the RRA

Treasurer Markowski spoke about the final report for FY 2020 and noted it will be available on-line to the public. Treasurer Markowski noted there was a vast amount of information and suggested a referral to committee where a member of Sullivan & Powers would be available to answer all questions. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to refer the FY 2020 audit to the Finance Committee. **Motion passed.**

At this point in the meeting, President Whitcomb announced the results of the Mayoral appointments.

Clerk Heck 10 in favor 0 against 1 absent.

Superintendent Kim Peters, 10 in favor 0 against and 1 absent.

Attorney Bloomer, 5 in favor 5 against and 1 absent.

President Whitcomb congratulated each nominee on their re-appointment.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Public Safety; Alderwoman Davis, Fire Truck Purchase

Alderwoman Davis read her committee report from Monday, April 5, 2021. The committee met to discuss the purchase of a new firetruck, as engine 3, the pumper truck had severe frame issues from rust and decay. The committee discussed the dynamics and how the City was receiving mutual aid from the surrounding towns. The committee also discussed options to purchase and lease the new truck without the normal bid process. A motion from committee to approve the request from Chief Lovett to purchase the new truck from Ferraro in the amount not to exceed \$404,754.00 was so moved. Debate. Alderwoman Davis noted three (3) financing options presented by Treasurer Markowski and presented those options.

Treasurer Markowski spoke on those options and recommended the shorter term option. Alderwoman Davis moved the seven (7) year term at 2.29%, Alderman Gillam seconded. Debate continued at length. President Whitcomb then noted an array of motion drafted by Attorney Bloomer. Alderwoman Davis withdrew her motion and proceeded to move all motions presented by Attorney Bloomer.

Alderwoman Davis moved the motions finding that the replacement of Engine 3 is an emergency purchase for the safety of City residents. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

Motion to find that the work Chief Lovett has done to gather quotes constitutes a fair and public process, which the Board reasonably believes has had the effect of minimizing costs to taxpayers. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed**

Motion to approve the purchase of the Ferraro Engine, as presented by Chief Lovett. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

Motion to authorize that said engine be purchased for a purchase price not to exceed \$409,938.14 from funds within the Fire Equipment Replacement Fund. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

Motion to authorize the leasing of said engine for 7 years, on the terms presented by the Treasurer. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

Motion to approve, and to authorize the Mayor to execute as needed, any documents necessary to the purchase of the engine consistent with the foregoing motions, in a final form approved by the City Attorney. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.**

That concluded the Public Safety committee report.

President Whitcomb then noted the final tally to the Mayoral appointments as the absent voter was able to respond.

Clerk Heck 11 in favor 0 against.
Kim Peters 10 in favor 1 against
Attorney Bloomer 5 in favor 6 against.

President Whitcomb then continued with the agenda.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no reports of select committees.

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 requests for the Board of Control Commissioners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Edgerton Street Safety Concerns, Chris & Debbie Creed

President Whitcomb read the request aloud. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) to refer the issue to the Charter & Ordinance Committee. **Motion passed.**

Hands Free Device Policy

There was brief debate on the request noting it was a Federal Mandate for Grant requirements and needed to be included as part of the previously passed MP-1 documents. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gorruso) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Garruso) to adopt the Hands Free Policy as written. **Motion passed.**

President Whitcomb asked if there was any new business to come before the Board.

Alderwoman Davis noted/warned Finance Committee meeting for Wednesday, April 14, 2021 to discuss the FY 2020 Audit.

Alderman Doenges asked to refer the Shopping Cart issue to the Charter & Ordinance Committee to review the present ordinance for shopping carts. Alderman Franco seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Doenges then referred the issue of refi eligible debt to the Finance Committee. Alderman Gorruso seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Neary moved to refer to Community & Economic Development Committee the feasibility to fund improvements of owner occupied apartment homes in Rutland City. Alderman DePoy seconded. Debate followed. The motion was amended to include a single family/non rental owner occupied home. **Motions passed.**

At 8:58 PM a motion was made and seconded (Gorruso, Talbott) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Henry A Heck
Rutland City Clerk

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