

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday June 21, 2021

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

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

Clerk Heck called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and noted Mayor Allaire was away on vacation. President Whitcomb was acting Mayor so the BOA needed to approve an interim-president. Clerk Heck noted that this was the first in person meeting in 15 months and gave brief details about the meeting prior to a President being approved. A motion was made and seconded (Clifford, DePoy) nominating Alderwoman Davis as interim President. There were no other nominations and a motion to close the nominations were made and seconded (Gorruso, Savage). Clerk Heck noted the nominations were closed and **motion passed**. Clerk Heck then called for the vote to appoint Alderwoman Davis as President. **Motion passed**.

Alderwoman Davis took her chair and thanked everyone and noted the last time the BOA met, was on March 16, 2020 and asked everyone to introduce themselves as there were many new faces. The Board members one by one stated their name. President Davis thanked everyone and moved on in the agenda.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (May 27 & June 7, 2021)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

William Notte – Legislative Update

Interim-President Davis noted the request from Representative William Notte and asked him to take the podium. Representative Notte thanked everyone and spoke on the latest census data and how it is going to effect the City and their four wards. Representative Notte presented information related to the Census data with potential options the City may have. Representative Notte noted the importance of acting sooner and getting all house and senate members to send the same message to Montpelier. There was brief debate before President Davis thanked representative Notte.

Bill Pecore at 133 Lincoln Avenue spoke of noise disturbance at his home coming from his neighbor. Mr. Pecore spoke on ordinance and statues and gave the board a brief overview of his request. There was discussion between Mr. Pecore and the BOA. Mr. Pecore stated that he has called the police several times. Attorney Bloomer weighed in on the conversation, noting the City had no real ordinance with noise and would speak with Chief KilCullen. President Davis noted several options discussed and asked for the issue to be referred to the City Attorney. The request was so moved and seconded (Gillam, Gorruso) **Motion passed**.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

President Davis noted that she forgot to have President Whitcomb introduce himself and asked if he had any communication for the Board. There were no communications from interim-Mayor Whitcomb.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

President Davis then noted the deletion of a pole and wire request from GMP and three (3) Special Event Request from Lyle Jepson and the Downtown Partnership and sought for those to be added and deleted to the agenda. That request was so moved and seconded (Gillam, Talbott). **Motion passed**.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Barbara Spaulding, RRA:

BROC Additional Refrigeration/Freezer

Barbara Spaulding was present to introduce the request and gave a brief update on the project. Mrs. Spaulding noted the RRA was requesting the BOA designate the RRA as the agency responsible for the grant administration of the BROC additional Refrigeration/Freezer grant #07110-IG-2020-Rutland C-19 and to circulate the form PM-4 for signatures. 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) to circulate for signatures. **Motion passed**.

Treasure Markowski:

Treasurer's report for May 31, 2021

President Davis noted that Treasurer Markowski was on vacation and a motion to receive and file would be in order. That request was so moved and seconded (Gillam, Talbott) **Motion passed**.

American Rescue Plan Act – (ARPA)

President Davis noted that this request was information related to the 4.4 million dollars the City was receiving from the American Rescue Plan. President Davis noted that this issue was referred and sits in Finance Committee. A motion was made and seconded (Gorruso, Gillam) referring the American Rescue Plan Act to the Finance Committee. **Motion passed**.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Clifford; Public Works Committee

Alderman Clifford read his committee report from June 14, 201 to discuss the current City Pavement Marking Program. Interim Commissioner Rotondo opened the meeting by giving the Committee a PowerPoint Presentation. The presentation began by reviewing the current pavement marking program. The Commissioner explained that waterborne paint is applied once per year at night usually by a painting contractor chosen via a competitive bid process. Unfortunately, waterborne paint is considered to be a temporary marking and is not very durable.

Interim Commissioner Rotondo then reviewed different alternatives to correct the current deficiencies. More durable marking products available include epoxy paint, polyurea paint and thermoplastic. At this point, the most promising alternative seems to be epoxy paint since it is impact and abrasion resistant. Polyurea is another good durable product except that it needs to be installed in a micro groove for protection. These products often last 2 to 3 plus years before repainting becomes necessary.

Commissioner Rotondo then referenced a 2018 pavement marking study performed by the VT Agency of Transportation that concluded epoxy and polyurea performed the best and lasted 35 months.

Interim Commissioner Rotondo then reviewed a proposed plan to convert the City to durable pavement markings over possibly a 2-3 year timeframe. He indicated that \$150,000 of "seed money" would be necessary to help finance the conversion and suggested using COVID Relief Funds if appropriate. A question was raised as to whether the current paving bond could be used to provide this necessary funding.

A motion out of committee was made by Alderman Neary to "approve modification of the nature of the pavement marking budget line to reflect that unspent funds can be carried over to the following year". The motion passed unanimously, and Alderman Clifford so move that motion to the full Board. Alderman Gillam seconded. Debate followed and Commissioner Rotondo noted after hearing from Bond Counsel, that bond funds can only be used for projects related to that bond. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no reports of select committees.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no reports of representatives.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

Pole & Wire Request; GMP

This item was deleted earlier in the agenda.

S.E.P. Request; Rutland County Out of the Darkness Walk

President Davis introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Talbott) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Neary) to approve the S.E.P. Request for the Rutland County Out of the Darkness Walk, September 18, 2021 from 8AM-1PM in Main Street Park. **Motion passed.**

SEP Request; Whoopie Pie Festival

President Davis introduced the request. Lyle Jepson was present to speak on the request. Mr. Jepson noted both the Parade of Hero's and Whoopie Pie Festival and briefed the Board on those events. 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, Gillam) to approve the S.E.P. Request for Whoopie Rutland a community festival on October 9, 2021 from 10AM-10PM on Center Street. **Motion passed.**

SEP Request; Parade of Hero's

President Davis introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Gillam) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** President Davis noted a motion to approve was in order, Alderman Talbott so moved. Alderman Neary seconded. **Motion passed.**

SEP Request Friday Night Live

Nikki Hindman of the Partnership was present to brief the BOA on Friday Night Live 2021. Ms. Hindman noted two dates in September the annual Friday Night Live events would take place. 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, Gillam) approving the two Friday Night Live events. **Motion passed.**

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

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

1st 3rd & Outside Consumption Request; Strangefellows Pub

President Davis noted the request for a 1st, 3rd and outside consumption request for Strangefellows Pub and noted a motion to circulate would be in order. Alderman Gorruso so moved. Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion passed.** There was some debate on documents being circulated and where Aldermen were to sign on the liquor application. President Davis then noted a request for an outside consumption request and a motion to authorize the Clerk to sign. Alderman Depoy so moved and Alderman Gillam seconded. **Motion**

passed. President Davis noted a motion was needed to exit the Board of Control Commissioners. This request was so moved and seconded (Clifford, DePoy). **Motion passed.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderman DePoy spoke on the current job market status in Rutland County and the huge lack of available employees. Alderman DePoy spoke on the challenges and possibly asking the Governor for help with the special benefits being offered with COVID. Lyle Jepson noted employers looking for 20 to 45 employees, he noted it is a huge problem.

Alderman Gorruso spoke on marketing Rutland and the lack of positivity, noting we are using old techniques to market Rutland. Alderman Talbott spoke on tax incentives and asked to refer the issue. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Neary) to refer the issue of Tip district to the Community & Economic Development Committee. Debate. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Gorruso, Clifford) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A Heck
Rutland City Clerk