

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, November 15, 2021

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

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (November 1, 2021)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Art Bemis spoke outside the rail on parking issues he is having during the winter months. Mr. Bemis noted that he purchased the old Historical Society House on Center St. which never had any delegated parking. Mr. Bemis gave the Board a brief history of the parking situation and sought input from the Board. It was noted that the Traffic Committee was meeting on Friday and that Mr. Bemis should attend.

Susan Schreibman, Paul Gallo and Dave Coughlin were present to update the Board on the Creek Path and specifically the segment three (3) portion. It was noted that the project is a little behind, but that financing was secure and it was just the matter of starting the construction phase, which can take from six to twelve months. Dave Coughlin spoke about the buffer along a portion of the creek and the availability of a \$20K grant for trees and assorted items for the project. This report was so information only and no action was requested.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

There were no communication from Mayor Allaire.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Attorney Bloomer asked to add an executive session and Alderman Talbott wanted to add his Community and Economic Development Committee report. Both requests were so moved and seconded to add to the agenda. (Davis, Gillam). **Motion passed.**

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Barbara Spaulding; RRA, VT Transportation Alternatives Resolution

President Whitcomb noted that Barbara was not available, but Alderman Neary could speak on the request. Alderman Neary spoke briefly on the issue noting the needed resolution supporting the City's application for the Vermont Transportation Alternatives Grant. 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, Gillam) to circulate for signatures the Vt. Transportation Alternatives Resolution. **Motion passed.**

Commissioner Rotondo; Municipal Roads Grant-In-Aid Program

Commissioner Rotondo was present to introduce his request. Commissioner Rotondo noted the City has an opportunity to receive a Municipal Grants-in-Aid to purchase a piece of equipment. Commissioner Rotondo went over the process and shared his idea on the purchase of a Hay bale shredder. A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Gorruso) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Gorruso) authorizing the Mayor to sign the letter of intent to participate in the SFY22 Municipal Roads Grants-In-Aid Program: Equipment purchase. **Motion passed.**

Commissioner Rotondo; Request for Referral LTCP

Commissioner Rotondo noted his request for referral stating that the next phase of the Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) was to hear from the engineers and to review the plan and to take input from the general public. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to refer the request to the Public Works Committee. Debate. Commissioner Rotondo noted the importance of this meeting and stated every Alderman should attend. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Markowski; Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Markowski went over her outline to the Board and reviewed each highlighted area, including cash balances, delinquencies, pooled cash and balance sheet/income/expenses. Her report was for information only and no action was requested or taken.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Talbott; Community & Economic Development

Alderman Talbott noted that his committee met on Thursday, November 4, 2021 to discuss the work to date on the new city website. The committee heard from Nathaniel Gibson of Collaboration 133 who has been hired to develop this site. The committee discussed the current website and how the new website would be updated. There was discussion on the Business Portal page and if this portal should be integrated with the new website. A motion from committee to refer the issue to the Finance Committee to review funding and Alderman Talbott so moved. Alderman Doenges seconded. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no select committee reports.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no representative reports.

Alderman Gorruso announced his General Committee would meet on December 1, 2021 to take up the General Fund Budget at 5:30 in the Alderman Chambers.

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.

Alderman Gillam did report on a new record set at the Stuff-A-Bus event in regards to dollar amount raised.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Clifford announced his Public Works Budget Committee meeting.

Alderman Neary spoke about LAZ and related meter and garage issues that have been brought to his attention. Alderman Neary noted the issues were complex and thought an adhok committee may be able to focus better on these concerns. There was debate. President Whitcomb noted that he would reach out to members about this committee.

With no further business to come before the Board, President Whitcomb sought executive session language from Attorney Bloomer.

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

Attorney Bloomer then noted a motion to enter into executive session (with the inclusion of the Mayor, Treasurer, Clerk and City Attorney) to discuss the negotiation of a contract as allowed under Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A). This request was so moved and seconded (Talbott, Savage).

At 8:15 PM the BOA moved into executive session.

At 8:37 PM a motion was made and seconded (Doenges, Talbott) to come out of executive session. **Motion passed.**

President Whitcomb then asked Attorney Bloomer if he had motion language. Attorney Bloomer stated a motion to authorize the Planning & Zoning Administrator to negotiate a lease with each of the various tenants of 49 Pine Street and 19 East Washington on terms (including rental amounts) that the Administrator deems appropriate, using a lease in substantially the form presented, and further authorizing the Mayor to sign and enter into such negotiated leases on behalf of the City. This language was so moved and seconded (Gorruso, DePoy). **Motion passed.**

At 8:38 PM a motion was made and seconded (Doenges, Talbott) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A Heck
Rutland City Clerk