

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Tuesday, January 21, 2020

Members present; President Davis, Aldermen Reveal, Humphrey, Ryan, Etori, Tommola, Mattis, Clifford, *DePoy and Whitcomb. Also present, Mayor Allaire, Attorney Bloomer and City Clerk Heck. Alderman Gillam was absent. Alderman DePoy arrived at 7:26 PM and left at 7:37 PM.

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (January 6, 2020)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Cathy Solsaa a member of the NAACP was present to discuss anti-bias training, noting the Board refers to it as bias training, and asked for a follow-up meeting after the anti-bias training.

Esterina Bergensol of Meadow Street spoke on issues regarding the potential bond question. Specifically when Meadow St. will be repaired. DPW Commissioner spoke briefly on the issue and noted that with the sewer issues needing to be completed first it could be a couple years before the whole project including paving would be completed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Allaire had no items for the Board.

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; Director RRA, Residential Tax Stabilization Request

Director Duffy was present to ask the Board to approve the RRA's request for residential tax stabilization at 20 Center Street. Director Duffy noted that Jean Boni purchased the property and was making a significant investment rehabbing the home. A motion was made and seconded (Mattis, Ryan) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Mattis, Whitcomb) approving the request for Residential Tax Stabilization at 20 Center Street, for a period of five years, at a value of \$77,500, contingent on all City taxes and fees being current by March 31, 2020. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Markowski; Qtrly Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Markowski was present to present her report on the six (6) month financial findings of the City. Treasurer Markowski presented the Board with two (2) pages of highlighted information. A motion was made and seconded (Etori, Mattis) referring her report to the Finance Committee. **Motion passed.**

President Davis asked the Board to take up the Special Events Permit request next as guest were present. There was no objection from the Board.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

SEP Request; RAVE Car Show, July 11-12, 2020, 9AM – 5PM, Rutland Fair Grounds

President Davis noted that this was a long standing request and needed no Board approval as the event was being held on private property. A motion was made and seconded (Clifford, Ryan) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Mattis, Clifford) approving the RAVE Car Show request for July 11-12, 2020, from 9AM – 5PM, at the Rutland Fair Grounds. **Motion passed.**

President Davis noted requests from Commissioner Wennberg and asked Alderman Clifford to read his standing committee report from Public Works as it contained information to those requests.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Clifford; Public Works

Alderman Clifford read his report from January 13, 2020. The report noted several items related to the Streets and Sidewalks Bond Proposal. The report detailed a proposed motion on bond language and schedule of warnings and hearings. Bond language and dates provided below.

Bond Language:

"Shall the City of Rutland issue general obligation bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000), for the purpose of making public improvements, namely, reconstruction, repair, rehabilitation and reclamation of (1) City streets and highways at an estimated cost of Four Million Dollars (\$4,000,000), and (2) City sidewalks at an estimated cost of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000)?"

Schedule of Warnings and Hearings:

BOA Approve & Adopt Warning	Tuesday, January 21, 2020
Post Warning	Friday, January 31, 2020
1 st Public Hearing	Monday, February 3, 2020
Bond Question Newspaper Ad	Thursday, February 13, 2020
Bond Question Newspaper Ad	Thursday, February 20, 2020
Bond Question Newspaper Ad	Thursday, February 27, 2020
Election Warning Newspaper Ad	Friday, February 28, 2020
2 nd Public Hearing	Monday, March 2, 2020
Election	Tuesday, March 3, 2020

These motions passed within committee. Alderman Clifford continued his report until finished. Alderman Clifford then so moved those motion out of committee. Alderwoman Mattis seconded.

Mayor Allaire spoke of his support for the bond and read a prepared statement outlining all of the reasons to move forward with a bond to the voters. Debate followed within the Board. Alderman Etti moved to amend (Clifford, Mattis) motion, to include quarterly reports from the Public Works Committee, on the progress of the paving and sidewalk projects. Alderwoman Mattis seconded. Debate. After a brief comment from Attorney Bloomer, noting it may be best to support the (Etti, Mattis) amendment motion as a separate motion. Debate. Alderman Etti moved to withdraw his amendment motion. President Davis noted the original motion from Alderman Clifford to place the proposed bond language on the ballot was on the table and called for a vote. **Motion passed.** President Davis then noted Alderman Etti motion to refer quarterly updates on the paving and sidewalk projects to the Public Works Committee. Alderwoman Ryan seconded. **Motion passed.**

President Davis then asked Commissioner Wennberg to continue with Bond items and asked him to move on to the adoption of the resolution for the Bond.

DPW Commissioner; Adoption of Resolution for Bond Question

Commissioner Wennberg noted the request was part of the Bond requirements and noted with the Board adopting the Bond Language and warnings this was the next part of the requirements prepared by Bond Council. A motion was made and seconded (Mattis, Ryan) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Mattis, DePoy) authorizing the Clerk to sign the resolution for the Bond question. **Motion passed.**

President Davis noted that the next request for the Bond was to authorize the Clerk to sign the declaration of official intent for the Bond question.

DPW Commissioner; Authorize Clerk to Sign Declarations of Official Intent Bond Question

Commissioner Wennberg spoke on the need for these documents also prepared by Bond council and required by State law. A motion was made and seconded (Mattis, DePoy) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Mattis, DePoy) authorizing the Clerk to sign the Declaration of official intent for Bond question 2020-2. **Motion passed.**

Commissioner Wennberg then asked about the previous noted scheduling of meetings and warnings and asked if the Board needed to make a separate motion. President Davis asked for a rules suspension to address the Public Hearings and warning schedules. The request was so moved and seconded (DePoy, Mattis). **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Clifford, Mattis) approving the Dates of February 3 and March 2, 2020 for Public Hearings on the proposed Bond to be placed on the March 3, 2020 ballot. Those meetings would start at 6:45 PM prior to the scheduled BOA meetings, and the previous mentioned warning dates to be warned in the newspaper. **Motion passed.** Clerk Heck asked the President if the Board had passed both declarations of intent. It was noted that Alderwoman Mattis motion was for 2020-2, Clerk Heck noted there were two (2) declarations and asked for 2020-1 to be approved. There was brief debate. A motion was made and seconded (Mattis, Clifford) authorizing the Clerk to sign the Declaration of Official Intent for Bond question 2020-1. **Motion passed.**

DPW Commissioner Wennberg; Utility Metering & Billing Update

Commissioner Wennberg noted he was asked to update the Board on the utility metering and billing with the closing of FATHOM. Commissioner Wennberg provided a timeline of events from early November 2019 to date. Commissioner Wennberg noted a new contract to be discussed next with a new billing company and various opportunities for improvements with FATHOM going out of business. Commissioner Wennberg's report was for information only and no action was requested.

Attorney Bloomer, Approval of Utility Bill Printing Contract

Attorney Bloomer briefed the Board on the new UTILITEC contract for billing, noting it was a standard contract and changes requested by the City were approved. A motion was made and seconded (Mattis, Whitcomb) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Mattis, Whitcomb) authorizing the Mayor to sign the contract with UTILITEC. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderwoman Humphrey; Community & Economic Development

Alderwoman Humphrey read her committee report from January 14, 2020. Alderwoman Humphrey noted her committee met to discuss pedestrian safety & walkability to economic development. The meeting covered numerous items pertaining to pedestrian safety, including reducing the speed limit & lit signs at crosswalks. This report was for information only and no action was requested.

Alderwoman Mattis gave a brief representative report from the Traffic Committee noting Chief Kilcullen sought to present a public safety task force on improving pedestrian safety.

Alderwoman Humphrey then asked to refer the issue of a pilot study of crosswalk design to the Community & Economic Development Committee. Alderman Ettori seconded. Alderwoman Humphrey noted a couple locations and possible funding from the Zamias Fund. There was no debate. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no select committee reports.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Alderwoman Mattis reported earlier that Chief Kilcullen was looking to start a Public Safety Task Force.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

Enman-Kesseiring Consulting Engineers; Request for Increase for Water Allocation

President Davis introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Mattis, Whitcomb) suspending the rules and taking action on the request, **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Mattis, Whitcomb) approving the request from 147 Woodstock Avenue to increase their water allocation to 907 gallons per day. **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

No items came before the Board of Control Commissioners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Ettori brought the issue of the transit center terminal being closed. President Davis noted that she could contact representative, Joe Tilden and ask him to look into it and report back to the Board.

Alderman Ettori asked for a referral to the HR Committee the issue of a re-write policy on how to handle harassment issues including reporting procedures within the work place. Alderwoman Ryan seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Ettori then updated the Board on the Youth Project and their data reveal. Alderman Ettori stated the event would be held, February 27, 2020 @ 5:30 PM in the CSJ Recreation Center.

With no further business to come before the Board a motion was made and seconded (Clifford, Mattis) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A Heck
Rutland City Clerk