

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, March 16, 2020

Members present; Aldermen Davis, Gorruso, Humphrey, Ryan, Etti, Talbott, Mattis, Gillam, Clifford, DePoy, and Whitcomb. Aldo present; Mayor Allaire, Attorney Bloomer and City Clerk Heck. PegTV was not present.

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

Clerk Heck called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Clerk Heck opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. Clerk Heck noted that the first order of business would be to have Mayor Allaire swear in all newly elected Aldermen. The Board then would need to elect a President.

Mayor Allaire swore in Aldermen Davis, Gorruso, Talbott, Clifford and Whitcomb. Clerk Heck then opened the nominations for Board President. Alderman Etti nominated Alderman Whitcomb. Aldermen Mattis seconded. Clerk Heck asked if there were any other nominations. Seeing none, Clerk Heck asked for a motion to close the nominations. That request was so moved and seconded (Etti, Mattis). **Motion passed.**

Clerk Heck then called for the vote nominating Alderman Whitcomb as Board President. Not sure of the vote, Clerk Heck asked to see a show of hands. There were 6 Yes votes in favor and 5 No votes against. **Motion passed.** President Whitcomb took the chair and welcomed all and moved on with the agenda.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (March 2, 2020)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

House Representative Notte was present to give an update on the session in Montpelier and current bills being passed and worked on. Representative Notte also read a resolution honoring David Sagi a previous President of the Board of Aldermen.

Jennie Gartner spoke on a volunteer group in Rutland; RutlandMutualAid.com. Alderwoman Humphrey also spoke on the issue noting contact information.

Alderman Clifford asked for a copy of the Sagi Resolution and asked for it to be framed and hung someplace within City Hall.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Allaire congratulated all newly elected candidates. Mayor Allaire then gave a brief update on the Coronavirus and noted that City Hall will be closed to the public starting on March 17, 2020. After briefing the Board on the current events with the Coronavirus and how the City will operate moving forward, Mayor Allaire introduced Claudio Forte, CEO of RRM who updated the Board on the Coronavirus.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

President Whitcomb noted a request to delete the USMC Road Race request as they were postponing that event.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Treasurer Markowski; Treasurer's Report February

A motion was made and seconded (Etti, DePoy) to receive and file. **Motion passed.**

Brennan Duffy; Director RRA, BIAP Request Blush Salon

Barbara Spaulding of the RRA was present to introduce the request. Mrs. Spaulding noted the RRA had approved a request from Paige Carrara, owner of Blush Salon, who was looking to expand her business. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Mattis) suspending the rules and taking action on that request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Mattis) approving the \$10,000 BIAP forgivable loan with a three year term at 0% interest for the Blush Salon application. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

DPW Commissioner; Operations and Maintenance Agreements for Consecutive Water System

President Whitcomb introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Clifford, DePoy) to refer the request to the Public Works Committee. **Motion passed.**

President Whitcomb noted the executive sessions and Attorney Bloomer gave language to move into executive session. Alderman DePoy asked that the Board hold off on those executive sessions to the end of the meeting and he so moved. Alderman Etori agreed and seconded. **Motion passed.**

Both executive sessions were pushed to the end of the meeting.

Attorney Bloomer; Request for Executive Session Regarding Pending Litigation

Attorney Bloomer; Request for Executive Session Regarding the Negotiation of a Contract

President Whitcomb continued with the agenda.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

There were no standing committee reports.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no select committee reports.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no representative reports.

Alderman Gillam asked to take all petition request and table them until the next meeting. Alderman Clifford seconded. There was debate. **Motion failed.**

Alderman Gorruso moved to approve the six reques. Alderman Humphrey seconded. It was noted a rules suspension was needed. Alderman Gorruso moved to suspend, Alderman Humphrey seconded. **Motion passed.** Alderman Gorruso moved to approve the six applications presented to the Board that evening. Alderman Davis asked to review each request separately.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

SEP; Coin Drop, Rutland County Humane Society, June 20, 2020

Alderman Gorruso asked to approve the request. Alderman Davis seconded the approval of the coin drop for the RCHS. **Motion passed.**

SEP; Rutland County Out of the Darkness Walk, 9-13-2020, 8AM -1PM

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, DePoy) approving the Rutland County out of the darkness walk, September 13, 2020. **Motion passed.**

SEP; Walk A Mile Rutland County, 4-26-2020, 9AM-3PM Depot Park

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, DePoy) approving the Walk a Mile Rutland County, Sunday, April 26, 2020 from 9-3PM in Depot Park. **Motion passed.**

SEP; USMC Road Race, 5-9-2020, 5K Run/Walk 8AM-11:30AM

Applicant asked the Board to withdraw their request as they were postponing their event.

Rutland County Farmers Market; 5-9-2020 – 10-31-2020

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, DePoy) approving the license fee request for the 2020 Farmer's Market season at \$500. **Motion passed.**

Susan Schreibman; Request to Set Public Hearings for Master Plan

Barbara Spaulding was present to brief the Board on the Master Plan update. Mrs. Spaulding noted that the Board needed to set two public hearings and sought a time for hearings on April 20, 2020 and May 18, 2020. There was discussion from the Board and Mrs. Spaulding. A motion was made and seconded (Etori, DePoy) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded setting public hearings for the Master Plan on April 20 and May 18, 2020 at 6:45 PM. **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

There were no items to come before the Board of Control Commissioners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Davis noted the prior discussion on shopping carts and moved to refer that issue back to the Charter & Ordinance Committee. Alderman DePoy seconded. **Motion passed.**

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Clifford moved to refer the issue of a City/Town merger to the Intermunicipal Committee. **Motion passed.** President Whitcomb noted that if there was no further miscellaneous motions, resolutions or new business, the Board had two executive session requests. Seeing none, Attorney provided language.

Attorney Bloomer stated a 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. That Language was so moved and seconded (Mattis, DePoy). **Motion passed.**

Attorney Bloomer then sought language to enter into executive session (with the inclusion of the Mayor, Recreation Superintendent and City Attorney) to discuss the negotiation of a contract as allowed under Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A). That language was so moved and seconded, (Mattis, Davis). **Motion passed.**

At 8:03 PM the Board moved into executive session.

At 8:32 PM a motion was made and seconded (Ettori, Mattis) to come out of executive session, **Motion passed.**

Attorney Bloomer noted a motion authorizing the mayor to sign an extension of the current lease, for up to six months, substantially the same terms of the existing lease, with the exception of the City who would not pay any taxes. **Motion passed.**

Attorney Bloomer introduced his next request on the First Step Pregnancy Center. Attorney Bloomer noted their exemption request and his feeling on how the City could move forward. 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, DePoy) to recommend that the City drops its defense of the appeal. **Motion passed.**

With no other business to come before the Board, A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

At 8:35 PM the Board adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A Heck
Rutland City Clerk