

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, June 15, 2020

Members present; President Whitcomb, Aldermen Gorruso, Humphrey, Ryan, Ettori, Talbott, Mattis, 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.

President Whitcomb noted that he and the Clerk verified all Aldermen present and requested unidentified callers identify themselves. It was noted that Brennan Duffy and Chief KilCullen were also present.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (May 28 & June 1, 2020)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

No one spoke from outside the rail.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Allaire spoke on two issues, noting that City Hall is fully staffed now and the second item noted was the installation of a drop box at the entrance to the building from the parking lot side. Mayor Allaire spoke on the opening of City Hall and noted for the time being it was still closed to the public.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Alderman Clifford moved to add his committee report for Public Works. Alderwoman Ryan seconded.
Motion passed.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Treasurer Markowski; 2019 RRA Audit Report (Receive and File)

Treasurer Markowski gave a very brief update and apology for not getting the RRA audit report out sooner. A motion was made and seconded (Ettori, Davis) to receive and file. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Markowski; May 31, 2020 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Markowski gave a brief report on the finances within the City. Treasurer Markowski basically reviewed the updates sheet emailed to the Board. There was brief debate on delinquencies.

Brennan Duffy, RRA Director; Downtown Strategic Plan Initiative

Brenna Duffy was present and gave a brief update on the strategic plan for downtown. Mr. Duffy noted because of COVID there would be no public in person meeting. Mr. Duffy did note that there would be a ZOOM meeting on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 5:30 PM for recommendation on moving forward with the project. There were no questions.

Attorney Bloomer; Request for Proposal; Legal Research Software

Attorney Bloomer was present to introduce his request for a RFP for legal research software. Attorney Bloomer noted approval from the Board was needed for the RFP. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to suspend the rules and take action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to authorize the City to go out for an RFP on legal research software. **Motion passed.**

Attorney Bloomer; Wage Increases for Non-Union PD Employees

Attorney Bloomer reviewed the memo he forwarded on to the Board with wage increases for non-union police employees. A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Ryan) suspending the rules and taking action on the request. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Davis) to authorize the ratification of Commanders, Sergeants and Executive Assistants for FY 19 at 3.0%, FY20 at 1.5%, and FY21 at .75 cents. There was debate on the raises and associated cost, where were the funds coming from. **Motion passed.** Alderman DePoy moved to send the issue of surplus of the FY 2020 budget from the Police Department to the Public Safety Committee. Alderman Gorruso seconded. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderwoman Ryan (C&ED)

Alderwoman Ryan read her committee report from June 9, 2020 noting her committee met to discuss the Center Street Modification Process. Brennan Duffy RRA Director was present to give an overview of the proposed concept and noted various players involved in the planning. There was a great deal of discussion among the committee members about concept, public safety, associated cost and timeline.

A motion was made and seconded (Ryan, Davis) to approve the Economic and Pedestrian Pilot Program for Center Street (and any other business in the downtown area that wishes to seek assistance under this program) and to fund the Program with an amount not to exceed \$20,000. There was lengthy debate with Alderwoman Mattis moving to amend the original motion to include "as ~~many businesses as~~ possible". Alderman Clifford seconded. Debate. Amended motion was withdrawn. **Original motion as presented passed.**

Alderman Clifford; Public Works

Alderman Clifford read his committee report from June 3, 2020 noting his committee met to discuss the Consecutive Water Systems' and an update on the Wastewater Bond Project. Alderman Clifford noted that the Consecutive Water Systems' comprising of Heritage Hill, The Gables and The Meadows had representatives present to discuss the City taking over and managing their water systems. Alderman Clifford noted that the Department of Environmental Conservation had been encouraging the City and the three (3) consecutives to enter into an agreement for a while. The committee and other individuals discussed consecutive water systems and how they worked. It was noted that the main reason for the proposal was due to the fact that the consecutives had had difficulty complying with the Disinfection Byproduct Rule over the years. A motion was so moved and seconded (Clifford, Davis) to authorize the Mayor to sign the Operation & Maintenance contracts with the Three (3) consecutives and the Department to submit the contracts and applications for exemption to the State.

Wastewater Bond Project

Alderman Clifford asked DPW Commissioner Wennberg to begin the briefing on the wastewater bonds. Mr. Wennberg said Mike Smith, from Weston and Sampson, would brief the board on the force main and digester projects, and Jim Rotondo will brief the committee on the Northwest Neighborhood project. Mike Smith briefed the Committee on drilling issues with the force main project and COVID related issues with the digester project. City Engineer Rotondo then briefed the committee on the six (6) block construction project by the Middle School to install a new separate storm sewer system. Engineer Rotondo reviewed associated cost and funding as well as the benefits with the new system. There was no action requested with this part of the report and the committee adjourned.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no select committee reports.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no representative reports.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

GMP Pole and Wire Request, Church Street President Whitcomb introduced the request. 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, Gorruso) to approve with the seven standard conditions. Alderwoman Humphrey recused herself because of work related issues. **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Untable- Adoption of Master Plan

President Whitcomb introduced the item to untable the adoption of the Master Plan. Aldermen Gorruso and Davis so moved and seconded. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Gorruso, DePoy) to adopt the Master Plan as presented. **Motion passed.**

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderwoman Humphrey moved to send the issues of outdoor fires and pits to the Public Safety Committee for review with the Fire Department, options for the potential of having either within the City. **Motion passed.**

Alderwoman Ryan moved to refer the issue of what lessons learned from the implicit bias training to the HR Committee. Alderwoman Humphrey seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Gorruso sought information on if the City contributed to the Solid Waste District. Alderman Gorruso does not want to see City Residences pay a fee at the transfer station. Alderman Gillam explained the fee structure for members and nonmembers.

With no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gorruso) to adjourn at 8:10 PM. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A Heck
Rutland City Clerk