

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, November 04, 2019

Members present; President Davis, Aldermen Reveal, Humphrey, Ryan, Ettori, Tommola, Mattis, Clifford, DePoy, Gillam and Whitcomb. Also present; Mayor Allaire, City Attorney Bloomer and Deputy City Clerk Kapusta.

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (October 21, 2019)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Savannah Crowther, 30 North Street Rutland City, relocated to Rutland through the "Stay to Stay" program and asked that the Board of Aldermen do more about pedestrian safety in the city. A motion was made and seconded (Whitcomb, Ryan) to send the request to Community & Economic Development Committee. A second motion made and seconded (Gillam, Mattis) to include the Planning Commission. **Both Motions Passed.**

Tabitha Moore, 97 School Street Wallingford, President of the Rutland Area Branch of the NAACP, spoke about dwindling population and businesses unable to find people to work. She said that in order for outsiders to find Rutland more attractive it involves addressing racial issues. She said that she and others would continue to show up to make sure that the Board of Aldermen receives Implicit Bias Training.

Heather Juliussen Stevenson, 210 Lincoln Avenue Rutland City spoke to the Board about her prior visit and the lack of action that was taken regarding Bias Training.

Julie Fredette, who owns 20 High Street in Rutland City but resides in Chittenden, VT spoke to the Board about the Bias's that we all have and the importance of the Bias Training.

Jennie Gartner, 260 Church Street Rutland City, identified herself as a History Teacher for one of the Rutland City Schools. She told her students that she was coming to this meeting and asked them what she should say to address the Board about Bias Training. She elected to give a historical perspective.

Erica Zimmer, 81 Temple Street Rutland City, spoke about an email that she had sent to each Board member about her own implicit biases over the years.

Alderman Tommola excused himself to President Davis and left the meeting at 7:35.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Allaire handed out the proposed Fiscal 2021 Rutland City Municipal Budget proposal. A few highlights are the budget is up 2.9%, 9% increase in Blue Cross and Blue Shield, 8.4% increase in workers compensation, 1.5% COLA for non-union employees, no new positions in the budget and water and sewer rates will remain flat.

A motion was made (Ettori, Reveal) to refer the budget to the appropriate committees. **Motion passed.**

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

President Davis noted a request from the City Attorney for an executive session on the Opioid settlement. So moved (Whitcomb, Ettori) **Motion passed.**

Alderman Whitcomb moved to add Implicit Bias Training to unfinished business, seconded by Alderwoman Mattis. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

RRA Director Brennan Duffy; Downtown Strategic Plan Update

Brennan provided an update on the Downtown Strategic Plan initiative and invited the BOA and interested members of the public to attend an upcoming kick-off meeting to provide thoughts and

ideas. An open house style community forum will be held on November 14, 2019 from 11:30am to 6pm. The event will be held in the first floor conference room of the CCV building at 60 West Street.

Treasurer Markowski; Request for RFP Audit

A motion was made (Mattis, Gillam) to suspend the rules and take this issue up tonight. **Motion passed.** A motion was made (Mattis, DePoy) that the Treasurer obtain RFP for audit services. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Markowski; Request for signature on Loan Document

A motion was made (Mattis, DePoy) to suspend the rules and take this issue up tonight. **Motion passed.** A motion was made (Mattis, DePoy) to circulate for signatures. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Whitcomb; Public Safety

Chief Larsen provided an update that the Fire Department Apparatus Committee has worked to develop the specifications for a new fire engine, and that work is now complete. Chief Larsen explained that he would like to sell engine 2 and use the proceeds to purchase the newly designed engine.

At the meeting a motion was made by Alderman Tommola to authorize the fire department to list for sale engine 2 in order to purchase a replacement truck as detailed in the provided sketch, for a price not to exceed the net revenue from the sale of engine 2 and Alderman Whitcomb so moved.

Seconded DePoy. **Motion passed.**

At the meeting a motion was made by Alderman Tommola to refer fire alarm permit fees, and false alarm fees to the Public Safety Committee and Alderman Whitcomb so moved. Seconded DePoy. **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

There were no Petitions, Letters, Miscellaneous Communication.

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

Rutland Restaurant; Third Class Liquor License Request

President Davis requested a motion be made to go into the Board of Control Commissioners. So moved (DePoy, Whitcomb). **Motion passed.**

The motion on the floor would be for the clerk to sign, so moved and seconded (DePoy, Whitcomb). **Motion passed.** Alderman Reveal abstained.

A motion was moved and seconded to come out of the Board of Control Commissioners (DePoy, Clifford). **Motion passed.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Whitcomb made a motion that the Mayor request and amount not to exceed \$2,500 from the Contingency Fund to pay for Implicit Bias Training. Seconded by Ettori. Alderwoman Humphrey requested a roll call vote. **Motion passed.**

Reveal	Yes
Humphrey	Yes
Ryan	Yes
Ettori	Yes
Mattis	Yes
Gillam	Yes
Clifford	No
DePoy	No
Whitcomb	Yes

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

President Davis asked if there was any other business for the Board. Seeing none, President Davis Asked Attorney Bloomer for executive session language for the Opioid Litigation update.

Attorney Bloomer then noted:

1. Motion to find that premature general public knowledge regarding probable litigation, to which the City would be a party, would clearly place the City at a substantial disadvantage because the discussion will divulge the City's strategy in such probable litigation and will include confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the City. So moved (Mattis, DePoy). **Motion passed.**

2. Motion to enter into executive session (with the inclusion of the City Attorney) to discuss probable litigation, as allowed under Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(E) and Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(F). So moved (Reveal, Mattis). **Motion passed.**

At 7:57 PM the Board moved into executive session.

At 8:01 PM a motion was made and seconded (Reveal, Ettori) to come out of executive session. **Motion passed.**

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

The Board adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy L. Kapusta, Deputy City Clerk