

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, April 17, 2017

Members present; President Davis, Aldermen Notte, Humphrey, Ryan, Etori, Tommola, Mattis, Cook, Larson and Donahue. Also present, Mayor Allaire, Deputy Clerk Kapusta, and Attorney Bloomer. Alderman DePoy was absent.

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (March 20, 2017)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Vanessa Robertson, a resident of 47 North Street Ext., spoke about a major issue she has with the Committee Assignments for the Marketing Committee. The Committee is made up of all men, two of which are retired or close to retirement. Ms. Robertson expressed that, the City has invested a considerable amount of money in the revitalization of the city through marketing and an Alderwoman deserves to be on that Committee to represent women that make up 51% of society.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Un-table Mayoral Appointment, Matt Whitcomb

President Davis sought a motion to remove from the table the Mayoral appointment of Matt Whitcomb. The request was so moved and seconded (Larson, Etori). **Motion passed.** President Davis then sought a motion to circulate the ballot box. The request was so moved and seconded (Larson, Etori). **Motion passed.** Deputy Clerk Kapusta collected all ballots and presented them to Attorney Bloomer. While Attorney Bloomer was tallying the votes, President Davis moved on in the agenda to Additions and Deletions.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Commissioner Wennberg, Request to Contract for Professional Services; Commissioner Wennberg requested authorization for the Mayor to sign a contract for professional services in the amount of \$67,900 for the final engineering design related to the South End Distribution Improvements (formerly Water Equalization Tank Installation Project). The request was so moved and seconded (Notte, Larson) to suspend the rules and take the issue that evening. **Motion Passed.** A Motion was made and seconded (Notte, Larson) approving the request for authorizing the Mayor to sign the contract for professional services in the amount of \$67,900 with Otter Creek Engineering. **Motion Passed.**

President Davis read the results of the vote. Matt Whitcomb to the RRA Board, 10 Yes 0 No. Appointment confirmed.

Treasurer Wilton; Proposal for Auditing Services

Treasurer Wilton sent an email to the BOA with the three audit firm proposals. Her recommendation is Sullivan and Powers. Alderwoman Humphrey made a motion to send the proposals to the Finance Committee for further review and seconded (Humphrey, Etori) **Motion Passed.**

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Wilton asked to refer the report to the Finance Committee for further discussion about being well ahead of the budget before the end of the year. A Motion was made and seconded (Humphrey, Etori) to send to the Finance Committee. **Motion Passed.**

Treasurer Wilton handed out three audit reports and stated that Randall Northrop will be available May 1, 2017 to answer any questions the BOA may have. Motion to refer audit to Finance Committee and seconded. (Humphrey, Etori)

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Etori; Chair, Community and Economic Development

Alderman Etori read his committee report regarding the progress of the Center Street Marketplace redevelopment and to review an application for Zamias Funds. Committee member Alderwoman Humphrey moved to recommend to the full board the approval of an amount not to exceed \$200,000 from the Zamias Fund to fund the Center Street Marketplace redevelopment project

including the funding of the gate/fencing alternates with any remaining amount to return to the Zamias Fund. A Motion was made and seconded (Ettori, Humphrey). **Motion Passed.**

Alderman Larson; Chair, Public Works

Alderman Larson read his committee report concerning the water/sewer utility billing due dates being close to property tax due dates. Gail Gorruso, DPW Office Manager, proposed a schedule of billings that would commence in Fiscal Year 2018. It was decided by unanimous vote to refer to the City Attorney for determination of Ordinance Change and decision on whether an additional referral to Charter and Ordinance is required. A Motion was made and seconded (Larson, Notte) **Motion Passed.**

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no reports of Select Committees.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Joe Tilden, Vice Chair of the Board of Commissioners of Marble Valley Regional Transit District provided an informational update on statistics for The Bus.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

Deborah Hall; Homeless Prevention Center

The Homeless Prevention Center has established a successful track record of stabilizing formerly homeless and at-risk households by providing case management, service coordination and aftercare. The center works collaboratively with community partners and the local Continuum of Care to gain a better understanding of Rutland's homeless system and areas for growth. The greatest gap in services is stability for homeless families entering into the state funded General Assistance (GA) hotel program. The use for hotels for homeless families is meant to be brief; however, living in poverty and the lack of affordable housing leads to costly cycling through crisis-driven systems.

The need has been established by this community and the current proposed state budget includes one-time funding for emergency housing needs to two underserved regions, Rutland being one of them. The former Red Cross building has been identified as a site to potentially house up to 10 families with children. The shelter will be staffed 24/7, on-site case management and coordination of services will begin immediately for the entire house hold.

The center is in the process of applying for funds from the state for staffing and operations. The center is requesting the BOA to authorize the Mayor to sign the Local Government Approval form before the May 19, 2017 proposal deadline.

A request for motion was made and seconded to send the request to Community and Economic Development for further discussion (Notte, Ryan) **Motion passed.**

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.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

President Davis asked if any member of the Board had an item for this section of the agenda.

Alderman Larson stated that the City Charter is not a gender neutral document and asked that it be referred to Charter and Ordinance to begin work on revising the Charter accordingly. A motion was made and seconded to refer to committee. (Larson, Ettori) **Motion Passed.**

President Davis received an email regarding the Loyalty Day Parade inquiring about Aldermen participation. The participating Aldermen would walk as a delegation along with the Mayor.

Killington signed a two year deal to hold the Women's Cup in November and President Davis would like the City of Rutland to maybe plan some events to bring people down from the mountain to the City. The request to refer to the Recreation Committee was so moved and seconded (Notte, Mattis) **Motion Passed.**

President Davis added clarification to Vanessa Robertson's Outside the Rail comments; any Alderman or Alderwoman can attend any Committee meeting and have a voice. Together we work as a team/unit.

At 7:40 PM a motion was made and seconded (Larson, Tommola) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy L. Kapusta