

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, May 1, 2023

Members present; President Talbott, Aldermen Cupoli, Barbagallo, Tadio, Gillam, McClure, Adams, Hooker and Davis. Also present, Mayor Doenges, Attorney Bloomer and Interim City Clerk Kapusta. Alderman McCann and Savage were absent.

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (April 17, 2023)

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Hooker) approving the minutes of the previous meeting.

Motion passed.

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Ted Brady, Executive Director of Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) gave a summary of the benefits and services offered by VLCT. Mr. Brady encouraged the new Board members to take full advantage of creating a membership to gain access to model templates, legislative updates, federal funding assistance, research experts, insurance professionals and advocates.

Dave Coppock spoke to the Board about a resolution for “No Mow May”. This resolution, signed by the Board of Aldermen would recognize that bees and other pollinators are integral to the pollination of plants in order to grow a wide variety of essential foods including fruit, nuts, and vegetables. Pollinator populations are threatened due to habitat loss, pesticide treatments, mowing, disease and parasites. Bees and other pollinators are responsible for a third of our food and contribute over \$217 billion to the global economy each year. This resolution encourages Rutland City residents to allow their back yard grass to grow to a maximum height of ten (10) inches during the month of May.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Hooker) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Hooker) to accept and support the resolution as presented for “No Mow May”. **Motion passed.**

Cathy Solsaa, Chair and Marybeth Lennox-Levins, Clerk of the Rutland City School Board offered their help and services as the liaisons from the Rutland City Board of School Commissioners to the Board of Aldermen.

Susan Schreibman and Paul Gallo spoke about a referral request related to Segment III of the Creek Path. Bids were received in April and there is a short fall for construction. There is a Bike Ped Grant that is out right now through VTrans that they would like to apply to for funding and ask that this issue be referred to committee.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to refer the issue to Community and Economic Development. **Motion passed.**

William Lovett, Chief Engineer and Emergency Management Director reminded the public that as part of our participation in the Rutland County Emergency Alerting Plan, the Fire Whistle at the Fire House will blow 60 times, 4 rounds of 5-5-5, on May 9, 2023 at 6:30 PM. The plan calls for information about the emergency to be broadcast through cell phones, social media, local media and the City’s web sites.

Alderman Gillam, representing the Loyalty Day Parade Committee, invited all of the BOA to march in the parade. This year the parade route is a little smaller, it is the same route as the Halloween Parade. The Loyalty Day Parade is on Sunday, May 9th beginning at 2:00 PM.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Un-Table Mayoral Appointment

Mayor Doenges introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Hooker) to un-table the nomination. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Tadio) to circulate the ballot box. **Motion passed.** Interim City Clerk Kapusta gathered all votes and presented them to Attorney Bloomer for verification.

Mayor Doenges spoke about the three things he will bring to the Board: 1) What we have done for the past week or two; 2) What we are actively doing; and 3) What we are going to do next.

- Submitted a pre-application with the help of Barbara Spaulding, RRA to the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant
- To start the process of choosing buildings for the Municipal Energy Resilience Program grant, the Mayor asked that the Board convene a committee meeting to go through that process.

A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) to refer to process to the Environmental Sustainability committee. **Motion passed.**

- Alderman Talbott, Cupoli, and Mayor Doenges all visited Montpelier where they met with the Rutland Caucus, and later the Governor and Speaker. They also sat in on a combined committee meeting for bill S.100. It's a land use meets housing bill that will dictate or help the City in how we look at housing over the next two years.
- Met with Ashley from the United Way of Rutland County on how the City and United Way can work together.
- Last week Bill McGuiness from DPW Sewer division retired after 23 years of service and this week after 35 years of service, Scott Taggart retired from the Water Department.
- A transportation planning meeting with Andrew Strniste, Devon Neary and Ethan Pepin, talked about the future of transportation in Rutland.
- Had some conversation at Ad-Hoc Housing committee about the My 10% for Vermont.
- The Recreation Department had an RFP site visit at Main Street Park and those responses will be coming in very soon.
- LAZ is putting through a marketing campaign for the parking garage.
- Meeting this week with the Homeless Prevention Center to talk about the resources that are available now and what will be available at the end of May and June.
- Capital Improvement Planning is something that we will start thinking about. The 1% Option Tax has passed through the House and is currently in the Senate. Once passed the 1% Option Tax will begin in October.
- Loyalty Day Parade is Sunday, May 9th.

President Talbott noted the nomination of Tracy Kapusta for City Clerk was confirmed by a vote of 6 yes votes and 3 no votes.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

President Talbott noted the removal from the agenda of the request for William Noel from the Board of Control Commissioners. So moved and seconded (Davis, Hooker). **Motion passed.**

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Barbara Spaulding; RRA, Downtown Designation Renewal Resolution

Ms. Spaulding asked the Board to sign a resolution for the City of Rutland to apply for the Downtown Designation renewal. The application is due June 5 and there are eleven tasks that need to be undertaken by the City. The tasks have been assigned to the appropriate parties including the RRA, Department of Public Works, Building and Zoning Department and the Downtown Rutland Partnership.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Cupoli) to circulate the resolution for signatures. **Motion passed.**

Barbara Spaulding; RRA, Support for USDA Rural Development Grant

The bids for the New Story Center expansion project came in at twice the construction budget. New Story was able to secure an additional \$500K to reduce some the scope of work, but are seeking other funding sources for some of the construction. New Story Center will also be seeking additional private donations. The municipality's support is required to apply to USDA for a Community Facilities Grant and are asking the Board to authorize the Mayor to sign the attached letter.

A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Gillam) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Hooker) to authorize the Mayor to sign the letter of community support for the Community Facility Application to USDA Rural Development. **Motion passed.**

Barbara Spaulding; RRA, Special Benefits District Revolving Loan Fund Revisions

A committee of RRA members and Brian Budrow of the Downtown Rutland Partnership (DRP), made revisions to the Special Benefits District Revolving Loan Fund. The Committee recommended the following changes to the full RRA Board on April 25:

- Increased the interest rate from 2% to 5% fixed and 3% fixed for the development of upper floor market-rate housing
- Added a non-refundable application fee of \$200
- Updated the application form to be fillable online at the DRP website
- Included a checklist on the application form for required documentation.

The RRA request that the draft policy be referred to Committee.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to refer the Special Benefits District Revolving Loan Fund Revisions to Community and Economic Development Committee. **Motion passed.**

Commissioner Jim Rotondo; Request Authorization to sign the Letter of Intent to Participate in the SFY 24 Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid Program

Commissioner Rotondo introduced the request to authorize the Mayor to sign the Letter of Intent to Participate in the SFY24 Municipal Roads Grants-In-Aid Program. This program provided funding to municipalities to implement best management practices to bring hydrologically connected road segments into compliance with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) standards. A Hydrologically connected road segment is one that drains into surface water (streams, rivers, ponds, lakes and wetlands).

A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) to authorize the Mayor to sign the Letter of Intent to Participate in the SFY24 Municipal Roads Grants-In-Aid Program. **Motion passed.**

Commissioner Jim Rotondo; Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Check Valve Project

a. Request Authorization to sign the Step II Engineering Services Agreement

b. Request Approval of the Step II Loan Application

Commissioner Rotondo introduced the request to approve the Step II Engineering Services Agreement (ESA) without referral to committee. Back in 2017, Weston and Sampson were contracted to investigate four combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfalls and determine whether the installation of a check valve would reduce the volume and frequency of CSO's. Based on initial site visits and review of existing flow data, it was recommended that the City suspend the investigation until after the Hydraulic and Hydrologic (H&H) Model of the City's combined sewer system was completed. Since then, the H&H Model and the CSO Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) were completed. This project was included in the CSO Long Term Control Plan 5-Year Project Implementation Schedule that was approved by the Board in February 2022.

A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Hooker) to authorize the Mayor to sign the Step II Engineering Services Agreement (ESA) with Weston & Sampson Engineering for design services for the Combined Sewer Overflow Check Valves project in the amount of \$55,500, with the final form of the ESA to be approved by the City Attorney. **Motion passed.**

Commissioner Rotondo introduced the request to approve and circulate for signatures the Step II Loan Application for the combined sewer overflow check valves project.

A motion was made and seconded (Barbagallo, Davis) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Barbagallo, Gillam) to approve and circulate for signatures the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Step II (Final Design) Loan Application for the Combined Sewer Overflow Check Valves project in the amount of \$63,000. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Gillam; Public Works Committee

Alderman Gillam read his report from the Public Works Committee that was held on April 15, 2023. New federal regulations require every public community water system in the country to prepare a service line inventory and lead service line replacement plan prior to October 2024. With close to 6200 connections in Rutland City water system, this will be a massive project. Alderman Gillam read the motion by Alderman Barbagallo, to move to the full BOA for approval and circulate for signatures to submit a (DWSRF) Service Line Inventory Loan Application in the Application in the amount of \$800K. Alderwoman Davis seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

The BOA had a brief discussion with Patrick Smart from MSK Engineers.

Alderman Gillam read the motion by Alderman Barbagallo, to move to the full BOA for approval to Contract with MSK Engineers to prepare a service line inventory and lead service line replacement plan for the City of Rutland Water Department at a cost not to exceed \$800K, pending final review of the contract from the City Attorney before the Mayor sign the agreement. Alderwoman Davis seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no Reports of Representatives.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no Reports of Select Committees.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

SEP Request; Coin Drop; June 17, July 15 & August 12, 2023; 10AM-2PM

A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Davis) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Davis) to approve the Coin Drops on June 17, July 15 and August 12, 2023 from 10AM to 2PM. **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

There were no items for the Board of Control Commissioners.

BOARD OF CANNABIS COMMISSIONERS

There were no items for the Board of Control Commissioners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderswoman Davis reminded Alderman Gillam, of which he is the chair now, that a referral was done to committee for the separation of water/sewer bills and property tax bills. Currently the bills are due within 14 days of each other.

Alderman Gillam noted that the Commissioner of Public Works invites all of the BOA members for a tour of the Water and Sewer Departments. Please provide dates available to Alderman Gillam.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Barbagallo; Solar Panel Installation

Alderman Barbagallo introduced his proposal for installation of solar panels throughout the city on various city properties. Alderman Barbagallo made a motion to refer his proposal to the Environmental Sustainability committee. Alderswoman Davis seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

Alderswoman Davis added that the Treasurer could give information on the solar credits the City has for this meeting.

Alderswoman Tadio would like to refer to the Environmental Sustainability committee the creation of a mission statement for this committee, investigation of a green fleet policy and the investigation of a home weatherization program. Alderswoman Davis seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

Alderswoman McClure who is the Board's representative to the Rutland Regional Transportation Advisory Committee made the Board aware of a potential transportation funding opportunity to the City. The "Animating Infrastructure" grant from the Vermont Art's Council, pays for the design and installation of art and other place making on or adjacent to public transportation infrastructure. It funds projects up to \$15,000 with a 20% local match. This grant is due June 1, 2023 for FY24. Alderswoman McClure requested to refer the matter to the Community and Economic Development Committee to investigate the feasibility of applying for the grant. So moved Alderswoman Davis. **Motion passed.**

Mayor Doenges read a proclamation for the month of May 2023 as Bike Month and for Rutland City residents to join him in this special observance.

Motion was made and second (Davis, Barbagallo) to adjourn at 8:20 PM. **Motion passed.**

Respectively,

Tracy L. Kapusta
City Clerk