

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, August 7, 2023

Members present; Aldermen Cupoli, Barbagallo, Hooker, Gillam, McClure, Tadio, Davis, and McCann. Also present, Acting Mayor Michael Talbott, Attorney LaChance, Treasurer Markowski and City Clerk Kapusta. Alderwoman Savage and Alderman Adams were absent.

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

Clerk Kapusta called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Clerk Kapusta stated the first order of business tonight will be to nominate a Board President to preside over tonight's meeting, since Michael Talbott is filling in as Mayor while Mayor Doenges is away.

Clerk Kapusta opened the nominations. A motion was made and seconded (McClure, Cupoli) to nominate Alderwoman Davis as Board President to preside over tonight's meeting. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Barbagallo) to close the nominations. **Motion passed.** All those in favor of Alderwoman Davis being your Board President for tonight's meeting, please say aye. **Motion passed.**

Alderwoman Davis took the seat as President and moved into the agenda.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (July 17, 2023, July 19, 2023 & July 27, 2023)

A motion was made and seconded (Hooker, Cupoli) approving the minutes from July 17, 2023, July 19, 2023 and July 27, 2023. **Motion passed.**

OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (Formally called OUTSIDE THE RAIL)

Eloise McGarry, 54 Killington Avenue read a letter from Rutland United Methodist Church, Inc. dba Companions in Wholeness (CIW). CIW is a program located at 60 Strong Avenue where hot breakfast and lunch is provided to those in the community who are homeless or live with food insecurity. Last June, 2022 the City gave CIW \$7,500. CIW is supported by grants, fundraisers, and donations. CIW is requesting a total of \$15,000 to help continue this work and help support the cost of the Director and to purchase food and containers for food.

A motion was made and seconded (McCann, McClure) to refer the request to the Finance Committee. **Motion passed.**

Ivo Skorik, 105 Robbins Street told the Board that he believes the City should have personally consulted him on the length of a curb, ahead of installing it, in front of his two-unit property.

Roy Thomas thanked the Board, Kim Peters, Tyler Dahlin and the Recreation Maintenance Department for all their help with revitalizing Justin Thomas Memorial Park. The park is officially open. Once all the enhancements are complete, the Thomas Family intends to have a grand re-opening celebration that will be communicated throughout the community. Mr. Thomas mentioned he would like to see better signage and crosswalk painting by the park and asked the Board for help with that.

A motion was made and seconded (McClure, Barbagallo) to refer signage and crosswalk painting to the Traffic Committee and the Public Works Committee. **Motion passed.**

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Acting Mayor Michael Talbott thanked all the City employees who helped with Friday's storm. There were some local business that experienced flooding. He requested that a referral to the Community and Economic Development Committee be done for a possible emergency BIAP loan or grant to help these local businesses.

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

Michael Talbott requested, on Mayor Doenges's behalf, two HUD programs that he would like to refer to committee to review and see if we are eligible for funding. He believes that Rutland fits into these two programs for several reasons. Program one is Distressed Cities and Persistent Poverty Technical Assistance Program and program two is Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Program.

A motion was made and seconded (McCann, Hooker) to refer to the Community and Economic Development Committee. **Motion passed.**

Michael Talbott requested, on Mayor Doenges's behalf, the energy efficiency solar evaluations that was previously discussed in committee at having a solar evaluation completed to determine where the City might place solar and how much energy the City might generate from it. The City has an opportunity to begin that study of our sites and he would like to send back to the Environmental Sustainability Committee, where they can review the process and decide on next steps.

A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Barbagallo) to refer the issue to the Environmental Sustainability Committee. **Motion passed.**

The Mayor communicates that there was one respondent to the RFP for the 10 Cleveland Avenue asbestos assessment, Clay Point Associates was awarded the bid for a total of \$2,200.00. This will provide the City with a full perspective on the asbestos situation at the site and they'll perform the work over the next three weeks and send us the results.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

President Davis made the request to remove the approval of a lease proposal for purchase on Two Police Vehicles from Reports and Letters from Department Heads and Officials, so moved (Gillam, McClure). **Motion passed.** President Davis made the request to move up the Special Events Permit requests from Petitions, Letters, Miscellaneous Communication. So moved (Gillam, McCann). **Motion passed.**

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

Special Events Permit Request; Wonderfeet Truck or Treat; October 22, 2023, from 12PM-4PM

A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Hooker) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Hooker) approving the Special Event Permit for Wonderfeet Truck or Treat on October 22, 2023 from 12PM-4PM. **Motion passed.**

Special Events Permit Request; Walk to End Alzheimer's Rutland; September 23, 2023, from 8AM-4:30PM

A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, McClure) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Hooker) approving the Special Event Permit for Walk to End Alzheimer's Rutland on September 22, 2023 from 8AM-4:30PM. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Barbara Spaulding, RRA; Business Incentive Assistance Program (BIAP) for Nail'd It

Ms. Spaulding introduced the request. The RRA Board met to review a BIAP application for a business plan for Nail'd It to be located at 230 North Main Street. The applicant, Allyson Bradley is requesting a \$10,000 BIAP Forgivable Loan and referral to Heritage Family Credit Union (HFCU) for a secured BIAP loan of up to \$50,000. The applicant meets the criteria through personal investment of \$10,000 and the creation of more than two full-time jobs. The applicant plans to open in November/December.

A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Gillam) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, McClure) to approve the \$10,000 BIAP forgivable loan and referral to HFCU for a secured BIAP loan of up to \$50,000 for Nail'd It. **Motion passed.**

Barbara Spaulding, RRA; Vermont Community Development Program Pre-application East Creek Commons, 194-208 Columbian Avenue

Ms. Spaulding introduced the request. The RRA Board met with Mary Cohen on July 25th to review the project plans and recommendation to the City to apply for up to \$1M in Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) funds for East Creek Commons, 194-208 Columbian Avenue and referral of this project to the Community and Economic Development Committee for the full scope of the project to be discussed at the committee level.

A motion was made and seconded (McClure, McCann) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (McCann, Barbagallo) to approve the application for VCDP Pre-application and to set the public hearing for September 5, 2023 at 6:45 PM. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Gillam) to refer this project to the Community and Economic Development Committee. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Gillam; Public Works Committee Minutes from July 18, 2023

Alderman Gillam read his report from the July 18, 2023 Public Works Committee meeting. Agency of Transportation (Vtrans) gave a presentation on repaving and realignment roadway reconfiguration project for 2024 paving. The committee meeting was for briefing only, as the final decision will be in the hands of the Rutland City Highway Commissioners. This report was for information only.

Alderman Gillam; Public Works Committee Minutes from July 25, 2023

Alderman Gillam read his report from the July 25, 2023 Public Works Committee meeting. Vtrans officials explained the scope of the projects to the public that were present. This report was for information only.

Alderman Gillam; Public Works Committee Minutes from July 31, 2023

Alderman Gillam read his report from the July 31, 2023 Public Works Committee meeting. The committee met to discuss two issues. The first issue was a discussion about moving to monthly billing city utilities (water and sewer). The committee took no action. The second issue was an update from the DPW Commissioner and Associate Engineer on all construction projects in process and next year construction season. This report was for information only.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no reports of representatives to come before the Board.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no reports of select committees to come before the Board.

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 Cannabis Commissioners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderman McCann made a motion to review the process for informing residents of what paving projects are coming up, how residents can review the actual details before the project starts to see if there is any space for improvement and to refer this issue to the Public Works Committee. Seconded by Alderwoman Tadio. **Motion passed.**

Motion was made and second (Cupoli, Barbagallo) to adjourn at 7:53 PM. **Motion passed.**

Respectively,

Tracy L. Kapusta
City Clerk