

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, May 16, 2016

Members present; President Notte, Aldermen Allaire, Robertson, Etti, Tommola, Donahue, Larson, Bloomer, DePoy, and Davis. Also present, Mayor Louras, Attorney Romeo, and City Clerk Heck. Alderman Humphrey was absent.

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (May 2, 2016)

A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Larson) to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. **Motion passed.**

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Matt Howland & Fred Hass both of Rutland had prepared statements and a list of questions associated with the refugee resettlement plan. Both gentlemen read their letters and presented a copy to the Clerk.

Dave Trapini spoke about a petition that will be circulating to protest the resettlement plan.

Kelly Cross spoke about her concerns with medical issues and how it will affect people with new refugees adding to the burden. Ms. Cross shared other related concerns with the resettlement.

Rutland Welcomes Committee spoke about their recent meeting and their goals to assist with the resettlement plans.

Ken Cormier spoke about the licensed taxi situation and his concern for unlicensed taxi's working within the City of Rutland.

Kam Johnston spoke about access to public records.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Request to Table Mayoral Appointment; Tara Kelly, Zoning Administrator

Mayor Louras presented his nominee to the Board. Tara Kelly then introduced herself, gave a brief statement and looks forward to meeting with the Board about the appointment.

Parking Deck Update

Mayor Louras updated the Board on concerns with issues at the transit center specific to stress cracks and fractures in an elevated platform. The Mayor noted his dialog with the State and their commitment to bring in a structural engineer to evaluate the issue. The Mayor related that he will keep the Board up to date when the structure has been evaluated.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

President Notte noted three requests to add items to the agenda and sought Board approval. President Notte noted a request from Attorney Romeo for the authorization of closing services and two representative reports; one from the Transportation Council and the RRA. The request was so moved and seconded (Allaire, Etti). **Motion passed.**

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Chief KilCullen; Request to Accept FY14 State Homeland Security Grant

President Notte introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Larson) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded to request the Board accept the attached grant totaling \$166,400.00 and authorize up to \$30,000.00 from the Police Department's asset forfeiture account be allocated to cover project costs not covered by the grant. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

Barbara Spaulding; RRA, Support of Resolution, President to Sign

President Notte introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Robertson) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) approving the attached resolution and authorizing the Board President to sign. Alderman Allaire briefly reviewed the request. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

Barbara Spaulding; RRA, Grant Agreement Offer

President Notte introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Etti) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Etti) authorizing the Mayor to sign the grant agreement between VTRANS and the City of Rutland, for \$62,320, for lighting in the Center Street Market Place. Alderman Allaire noted the motion was for debate. There was considerable debate with the request. One concern was with financing and what if there was not enough financing for the Market Place how could they purchasing lighting. Mrs. Spaulding answered all questions presented. The other concern was with conflict of interest as to who was administering the grant

money. A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Bloomer) to refer the request to the Finance Committee. There was brief debate. **Motion to refer passed.**

Attorney Romeo; Request for Executive Session, Discuss Labor Relations

Per past practice, the request for executive session was moved to the end of the meeting.

Commissioner Wennberg; Agreement for MS4 Services – RNRCD

President Notte introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) approving the attached agreement with the Rutland Natural Resources Conservation District for required stormwater program services which is MS4 and authorize the appointee (appropriate person) to sign. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

Superintendent Wight; Giorgetti Improvements

Superintendent Wight reviewed her request for funding improvements at Giorgetti Arena. The main request was for approving contracts with Electrical Services of Vermont and Wiemann Lamphere to ensure that code requirements are being met. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Allaire) approving the Giorgetti Improvement request for code requirements. There was a fair amount of debate. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Allaire) to refer to the Recreation Committee the issue on improvements and funding options for Giorgetti. **Motion passed.** Alderman Bloomer asked the Superintendent to update the Board on the pool project. Over the next several minutes details on that project were discussed. Superintendent Wight also acknowledged support from the National Guard on a cleanup project at Giorgetti Park.

Attorney Romeo; Closing Services Request, ADDED 5-16-2016

Attorney Romeo briefed the Board on FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Program and the conclusion of this program to which there are associated cost that the City cannot cover in relation to closing work the City Attorney is unable to do. Attorney Romeo sought authorization from the Board to work with the Mayor on an RFP for closing attorney services following requirements from the State. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Larson) to suspend the rules and take the request up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Larson) approving the request as stated by Attorney Romeo to authorize the Mayor to seek an RFP. Attorney Romeo noted funds would come from the Attorney's Legal Services line. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Pension Deficit Committee

Alderman Allaire read his committee report from the Pension Deficit Committee. Tracy Braun was present to review and evaluate issues within the pension. The committee discussed options associated with the deficit and sought to further evaluate and meet again to discuss this very important topic.

Public Safety Committee; Parking Meter Map Enclosed

Alderman Allaire read his committee report from Public Safety. Commissioner Wennberg was present to explain the need for the kiosk and presented his plan for replacing depleting stock of meters with the new kiosk. Alderman Allaire noted concerns from committee members and merchants and sought to have a representative from Cale, the manufacturer of the kiosk, present to do a demonstration. This report is for information only and no action was taken in committee.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no select committee reports.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Alderman Allaire; Transportation Committee

Alderman Allaire stated that this report was a continuation from an earlier representative report and gave a VTRANS update from the National Highway Mapping System. It was noted that the State wanted to remove sections of City roads from this national system. There was a fair amount of debate generated from this report as several members of the Board were against the removal of these roads from the National Highway System.

Alderman Etori; RRA

Alderman Etori noted the April 12, 2016 minutes from the RRA and specifically asked the Board to note the Business Incentive & Assistances Program started last fall. Alderman Etori stated that the Board approved the transfer of \$50,000 from the Zambias Fund and half of the revenues from the solar investments to be placed in an account to fund this program. The Treasurer at that time was asked to transfer the Zambias funds into an account at the Heritage Family Credit Union. To date that has not been done and no reason as to why has been explained. Alderman Etori shared the RRA concerns about public image and being a good partner with the credit union. A motion was made and seconded (Etori, Davis) to suspend the rules and take action on that issue that evening. **Motion passed.** Alderman Etori offered a motion. Alderman Davis seconded the request as long as the motion stated "to instruct the Treasurer to follow the Board's motion to transfer the Money". Alderman Etori was amenable to the wording change. There was brief debate. Alderman Etori confirmed that Treasurer Wilton sits on the RRA Board and was present when the request was made. Alderman Davis asked to amend her motion to include "the Treasurer reports back to the BOA when that transaction is completed". **Motion passed.**

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

S.E.P. Request; Memorial Day Service, May 30, 2016 West Street Cemetery

A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Robertson) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded approving the Special Events Permit request for the annual Memorial Day Service on May 30, 2016 at the West Street Cemetery. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

S.E.P. Request; School's Out Resource Fair, June 11, 2016 3-7 PM

President Notte introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) approving the School's Out Resources Fair for June 11, from 3 – 7 PM located on Baxter Street between Library Ave. and Maple St. **Motion passed.**

S.E.P. Request; Second Annual Rally for Recovery, July 9, 2016 Noon-5 PM

President Notte introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Allaire) approving the Second Annual Rally for Recovery on July 9, from noon – 5 PM, for a block party recovery celebration located at Granger St., & First St., to South St. **Motion passed.**

S.E.P. Request; 40th Crowley Bros Road Race, June 12, 2016 5 AM – Noon

President Notte introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) approving the Special Events Permit for the 40th annual Crowley Brothers Road Race on June 12, 2016 from 5 AM – Noon. **Motion passed.**

Mike Messier asked about a Special Events Permit for the Kiwanis 70th Anniversary party at Combination Pond on August 14th. President Notte noted it was too late to add an item to the agenda, but he would get with Mr. Messier before the next BOA meeting to get his request placed on the agenda.

Fire Pit request

President Notte introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Robertson) to refer the issue to the Charter & Ordinance Committee. There was debate as to the referral. **Motion passed.**

Parking Meter Maximum Time Request

President Notte introduced the request. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Allaire) to refer the issue to the Community and Economic Development Committee. **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Larson noted minutes from the Planning Commission that were in the Boards packet. Alderman Larson noted a reference from those minutes calling the shopping plaza a "beast" and expressed his displeasure and concern with that term being used.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

President Notte noted there were no miscellaneous motions, resolutions, or new business to come before the Board, but Attorney Romeo had requested an executive session and sought help with the motions.

Attorney Romeo noted the motion which finds premature or general public knowledge of discussion pertaining to labor relation agreements with employees would clearly place the City at a substantial disadvantage. This motion was so moved and seconded (Allaire, Davis). **Motion passed.** The seconded motion required was to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing labor relation agreements with employees and to have the Mayor and Police Chief remain. This request was so moved and seconded (Allaire, Davis). **Motion passed.**

At 9:17 PM the Board moved into executive session.

At 9:55 PM a motion was made and seconded (Allaire, DePoy) to come out of executive session and adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk