

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, May 2, 2016

Members present: President Notte, Aldermen Allaire, Humphrey, Robertson, Etori, Tommola, Donahue, Larson, Bloomer, DePoy and Davis. Also present, Mayor Louras, Attorney Romeo and City Clerk Heck.

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (April 18, 2016)

A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. **Motion passed.** Alderman Larson asked for a grammatical correction under additions and deletions.

President Notte noted the large gathering of people to speak outside the rail about the immigrant situation. President Notte spoke about ground rules on how the proceedings would work.

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

President Notte asked all speakers to give their name and address for the record and he also asked them to spell their last name. Over the next two hours and forty-five minutes approximately 50 people spoke on the refugee resettlement issue. The majority of the discussion revolved around support for the resettlement. There was some discussion on the process of the issue, specifically how Mayor Louras informed every one of his decision on this issue.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

There were no formal communications from the Mayor.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

President Notte noted one request from Michael Coppinger to add a special events permit request to the agenda. President Notte asked for a motion to do so. Aldermen Allaire and Etori so moved and seconded. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

James Rotondo; City Engineer, Request for Signatures on DWSRF Municipal Funding Application

President Notte introduced the request from Engineer Rotondo. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Allaire) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Donahue) to circulate the request for signature on the DWSRF Municipal Funding Applications for the Water Distribution Main Replacement and the Water Equalization Tank Installation. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Sharon Davis; Chair, Community & Economic Development, Evelyn Street Redevelopment

Alderman Davis read her report from April 21, 2016 at 5:30 PM. The Committee met to discuss the Evelyn Street Redevelopment Project. The Board moved to enter into executive session to discuss real-estate lease options. Alderman Davis noted that this issue will need to be discussed further and sought an executive session at the end of this meeting to discuss the redevelopment project. President Notte noted the request.

Matt Bloomer; Chair, Marketing Committee, April 20th Meeting

Alderman Bloomer read his committee report from April 20, 2016 noting the members discussed two proposed designs on a new City website. Alderman Bloomer noted the continued discussion in committee on this issue and stated that this report was for information only.

Matt Bloomer; Chair, Marketing Committee, April 27th Meeting

Alderman Bloomer read his committee report from April 27, 2016. The report noted the meeting was held with economic development groups to discuss their marketing strategies. It was noted that an updated marketing study not only on retail downtown but within the surrounding area would be very helpful. Members suggested ideas on developing new strategies and sought to get back together in a month or two. Alderman Bloomer stated that the issue would remain in committee and his report was for information only.

Matt Bloomer; Chair, Finance Committee, FY 2015 Audit Review

Alderman Bloomer read his Finance Committee report from April 26, 2016. The committee met with Randall Northrup, the City's auditor to hear about the FY 2015 Audit. Mr. Northrup reported there were no material weaknesses and gave an unmodified ("clean") opinion. Several deficient funds were noted as well as the appropriate funding of the unassigned fund balance. Discussion turned to the pension and the continued work needed to correct the current deficit. The group then discussed Mr. Northrup's "Management Letter of Comment" which cautioned the city about potential weaknesses within six

areas listed. A motion was made and seconded (Bloomer, Davis) to refer one of those weaknesses, police inventory on weapons, ammunitions and tools to the Police Commission with the commission to report back to the BOA with an update. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no select committee reports

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Alderman Etti; RRA Representative Report, SBD Survey and Advisory Vote

Alderman Etti gave a very brief review of a handout he had placed on the Board's desk highlighting the CSC Polling Center findings for the RRA on the SBD survey of the advisory vote.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

S.E.P. Request; Walk MS Rutland 2016; Sat, May 14, 2016, 9AM - 2PM

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) to approve the special events permit request for the aforementioned Walk for MS, Saturday, May 14, 2016 from 9AM – 2PM. **Motion passed.**

S.E.P. Request; Great Strides Rutland, Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser, Sat, May 21, 2016 7AM – 2PM

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 request, Great Strides Rutland, Walk-A-thon Fundraiser on Saturday, May 21, 2016 from 7Am – 2PM. **Motion passed.**

Added request from Mike Coppinger.

President Notte introduced the request, Blessing of the Bikes BBQ on Sunday, May 15, 2016 from noon to 3:33 PM, a motorcycle parade and BBQ on Center Street. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Robertson) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Robertson) to approve the request. There was brief debate on the time requested. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to move into the Board of Control Commissioners. **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

Outside Consumption Request: Downtown Bar & Grill May 15, 2016, 10AM – 4PM

A motion authorizing the Clerk to sign the outside consumption request for Downtown Bar & Grill Saturday, May 14, 2016 from 10 AM – 4PM was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy). **Motion passed.**

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Parking Kiosks

President Notte introduced the request while Clerk Heck handed out paperwork presented by the Mayor. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to refer the issue to the Public Safety Committee. There was brief debate on the committee of referral. There was further debate on the process on how the Board of Finance could approve such a purchase without the approval of the Board of Aldermen. **Motion passed.**

President Notte then noted the time and sought an extension by the Board to continue past 10:30 PM. The request was so moved and seconded (DePoy, Davis). **Motion passed.**

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Refugee Resettlement Update

President Notte introduced the request. Mayor Luras then presented his reasons for how he should have come to the Board before his announcement of the refugee resettlement and apologized for having the Board blindsided by that announcement. Several members voiced their extreme displeasure on how the situation was handled. After approximately 45 minutes of debate, a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Allaire) to refer the resettlement issue to the Committee of the Whole. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Larson spoke about the local option tax revenues and moved to refer to the Finance Committee the discussion of taking 1/10th of .01 cent of that option tax for the utilization of the development of the City website and the betterment of the community and economic development. This request was seconded by Alderman Donahue. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

President Notte then noted a request for an executive session and sought guidance from City Attorney Romeo.

Attorney Romeo noted a motion was in order to move into executive session for the purpose of negotiating or securing real-estate lease options pursuant to VSA 313 A2. Alderman Davis so moved and Alderman Allaire seconded. **Motion passed.**

At 11:15 PM the Board moved into executive session.

At 11:32 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Ettori) to move out of executive session. **Motion passed.**

At 11:33 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk