

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Tuesday, September 6, 2016

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

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (August 15, 2016)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Mary-Ann Pratico of North Clarendon brought a list of questions to the Board and sought answers to them. Questions ranged from refugees to homeless people and hungry children.

Gail Johnston brought paving concerns in the Northwest neighborhoods to the Board. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Larson) to refer the request to the Mayor and DPW Commissioner as the Board has no jurisdiction on City paving.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Request to Move Communications from the Mayor to the End of the Agenda

President Notte noted the Mayor's request and sought to move communications from the Mayor to the end of the agenda. There was no objection.

Request for Referral; LAZ Budget; referred last week

Request Charter Change; Fire Equipment Fund

Nomination Request to Board of Aldermen

President Notte moved on with the agenda.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Chief Jones; Request to Approve Donation of Sick Leave

Chief Jones introduced his request and sought BOA approval to allow donated sick time to firefighter Kyle Goodrich. There was debate to the request, specific to the fact that Mr. Goodrich was injured off duty. The Mayor and City Attorney spoke to the issue and noted that they were looking for a policy change on future requests like this one and sought to have the request referred to committee to allow further debate. 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, DePoy) approving the donated sick time to firefighter Kyle Goodrich. **Motion passed.** A motion was then made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) to refer the issue of donated sick time to the General Committee. **Motion passed.**

Superintendent Wight; Department Updates and Professional Services

Superintendent Wight had a list of five (5) updates for the Board. The first spoke of a confirmation from the Vermont Forest, Parks and Recreation that the City had been approved for the Land, Water, and Conservation Fund for a pavilion at Rotary Park. The second request was asking for the Board's approval to hire NBF Architects to prepare a study on the feasibility of having a gym at the Courcelle building. There was some debate to the request as normally the Mayor would ask the Board for seeking and RFP. A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Davis) to suspend the rules and take the request for seeking an RFP up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Davis) authorizing the Mayor to seek an RFP for a feasibility study of building a new gymnasium at the Courcelle building. **Motion passed.** The third issue discussed was the Center Street Marketplace. Superintendent Wight updated the Board on the City being the local project manager and the potential to rebid the project. The fourth item focused on the pool and the bids opened last week at the BOF meeting. The bids were over the projected cost by a million dollars. Superintendent Wight noted working with Weston and Sampson on cost saving reductions. The fifth update was for the Browse Health Trust grant for the fall of 2016. If awarded this grant, it will help improve the health of the community. This concluded Superintendent Wight's report.

President Notte then asked to wait on Alderman Bloomers' reports and asked Alderman Larson to report out on his Public Works Committee report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Ed Larson; Chair, Public Works Committee, South Main St. Pavement Issue

Alderman Larson read his report from August 16th on the delamination of pavement on South Main Street. Alderman Larson noted his request for the City Attorney to look at bringing legal action against the State/VTRANS for its refusal to fix the pavement on South Main Street. The committee heard from Engineer Rotondo who provided concerns about testing done by VTRANS and the need for further test. Commissioner Wennberg was present to share how the City has handled the issue and what steps are necessary to alleviate the problem. The committee agreed that a letter or resolution may be in order after some more research, also extending an invitation to the City Legislative Delegation to attend a future Public Work Committee meeting. The issue is to remain in committee.

Matt Bloomer; Chair, Marketing Committee (2) Reports

Alderman Bloomer read his committee report from August 22, 2016. The report included a review of the previous work by the group on the new City website. The committee discussed hiring an intern to help with placing information on placeholder pages created by their vendor. The intern idea was presented and drafted with an application developed by the chair. The committee expressed a desire to move further with the idea and a motion was made and seconded to ask the Mayor to authorize the Castleton University's internship coordinator to post the internship availability form with the recommended stipend and Alderman Bloomer so moved. Alderman Etori seconded. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Bloomer continued with his report, noting the committee discussed marketing objectives. Those objectives will be discussed with area economic development people at their next Marketing Committee meeting. Alderman Bloomer shared his marketing objectives for Rutland City and proposed objectives during the next year.

Alderman Bloomer then reported out his next Marketing Committee meeting of August 25, 2016. Alderman Bloomer reviewed past goals and short term strategies. The committee brain-stormed ways to market the City and move objectives forward. This meeting was basically a continuation of the previous meeting and this report was for information only. Alderman Larson commended both Alderman Bloomer and Etori for their tireless effort and hard work with this committee.

Melinda Humphrey; Chair, Charter & Ordinance Committee

Alderman Humphrey read her report from August 29, 2016. The committee met to discuss riparian buffer along Moon Brook and Combination and Piedmont Ponds. Residents along the pond (Combination) spoke of the importance of the riparian buffer and the need to preserve it. The committee then discussed ways to help preserve this buffer and asked Attorney Romeo and DPW Commissioner Wennberg to draft language within the City Ordinances for helping with this issue. The committee will meet in a couple months to review that language. This report was for information only. There was brief debate as to the necessity of a motion. Alderman Humphrey moved to direct Attorney Romeo and DPW Commissioner Wennberg to draft language within the City Ordinances for helping with the issue of preserving riparian buffer. Alderman Allaire seconded the request. **Motion passed.**

Sharon Davis; Chair, Community Development, Marketing Plan

Alderman Davis read her report from August 30, 2016. The committee met to discuss, Killington Valley initiative. The group discussed ways to increase visitors to the Rutland and Killington areas using strategic marketing plans. The cost was estimated to be approximately \$25,000; several entities had already given a \$1,000 each. Alderman Davis noted her committee approved a request using \$6,000 from the Zamias fund and she so moved. Alderwoman Robertson seconded. There was brief debate on the continued process and the request is to remain in committee. Alderman Etori noted the use of the Zamias application and stated the positive effect it made during the request process. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Davis then asked the President for one more issue to be discussed, at which Alderman Davis noted the great deal of work put forth by Alderman Bloomer, who at the end of the meeting was stepping down from the Board for personal reasons. Alderman Davis wanted to have Matt Bloomer be the representative for the Killington Initiative group and sought to make a motion to that effect. There was brief debate before the President noted he was able to make that appointment and would be willing to do so if it was OK with Alderman Bloomer. There was no objection from Alderman Bloomer.

Dave Allaire; Chair, Public Safety, Refugee Resettlement

Alderman Allaire read his committee report from August 31, 2016. The committee met to discuss with the Rutland City Police any safety concerns with refugee resettlement. The committee and police discussed potential challenges with the refugees and the potential for various situations and how they would be handled. Language barrier questions were discussed and well as cultural and gender biases. The committee discussed all questions or concerns that were asked. The meeting ended with the committee feeling satisfied that the Rutland Police were preparing for the potential of refugee resettlement coming to Rutland and they are preparing for such. Alderman Allaire noted that his report was for information only.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no select committee reports

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no representative reports.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

S.E.P. Request; Cat Country Birthday Block Party; 9-16-2016 from 5-9PM on Center St

President Notte introduced the request and sought Board action. 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) approving the special events permit for Cat Country Birthday Block Party on Friday, September 16, from 5 to 9 PM, on Center Street, from Wales to Merchants Row. **Motion passed.**

S.E.P. Request; Walk a Mile Rutland County, Sunday, 10-2, 7AM-3PM.

President Notte introduced the request and sought Board action. 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, Allaire) approving the special events permit for Walk a Mile Rutland County on October 2nd from 7AM to 3PM, located at Main Street Park. **Motion passed.**

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

Both requests were introduced by President Notte.

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

Outside Consumption Request; Downtown Bar & Grill, September 16, 2016

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Allaire) authorizing the Clerk to sign the outside consumption request. **Motion passed.**

Outside Consumption Request; The Saloon, September 16, 2016 Cat Country Party

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) authorizing the Clerk to sign the outside consumption request. **Motion passed.**

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Davis reiterated a previous request to have Board of Finance minutes included in the Aldermen's packet.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

President Notte; Vietnam Veterans Fund

President Notte explained the request noting the local chapter; Chapter #1 of the Local Vietnam Veterans Association in Rutland was getting older and wanted to make sure the memorial at Main Street Park would be taken care of. President Notte and Treasurer Wilton attended a meeting where the City would be given funds to maintain their memorial once their aging chapter breaks up. President Notte was looking for a referral to the recreation committee to further discuss and hear from the chapter their wishes moving forward. The request was so moved and seconded (Davis, DePoy). There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Tommola; Proposed Letter to State Legislators

Alderman Tommola spoke briefly about this request, but noted that State Senator Brian Collamore was drafting a letter to send to the Department of State from the Rutland Senators. Alderman Tommola then moved on to his proposed letter from the Board of Aldermen.

Alderman Tommola; Proposed Letter from BoA to Department of State requesting they disregard Mayor's Letter of Support for Refugee Resettlement

Alderman Tommola introduced his request and read his drafted letter aloud. The letter asked that any previous letters of support, including Mayor Louras's be disregarded. The letter noted the lack of information requested by the Board and the Board's desire to not offer support to the refugee resettlement in Rutland. A motion was then made to suspend the rules and take action on the drafted letter. A vote was taken and the **motion to suspend failed** for lack of majority. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Allaire) to refer the letter to the Community and Economic Development Committee. Debate. Alderman Tommola challenged the President's ruling and asked for a count of the votes. President Notte asked for a show of hands and verified a vote of 7 YES and 3 NO. It takes 8 votes in favor to support a rule suspension, **Motion failed.** The motion to refer was then called. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Bloomer then took the opportunity to speak about his resignation and thanked the Mayor and voters for their support. The Board applauded Alderman Bloomer and several Aldermen spoke in support and thanked him for his service. Alderman Bloomer removed himself from his chair as Mayor Louras had a nomination for the Board.

President Notte then noted the several issues still within the agenda under Communications from the Mayor.

Request Charter Change; Fire Equipment Fund

Mayor Louras introduced the request for a charter change to be placed on the November ballot. Mayor Louras explained the work involved and the Boards decision at their last meeting to have the Mayor provide language for the November ballot to increase funds available for fire equipment. Mayor Louras thanked all those involved in the decision making process and moved the language to the Board.

"Shall section 8-5 of the Charter of the City of Rutland be amended as follows: deleted matter in **[brackets]**, new matter **underlined**.

9-8.5. Assessment of Taxes

The Board of Aldermen shall annually, during the first twenty (20) days of July, assess upon the grand list of the City taxes sufficient to meet the following requirement:

(E) Taxes required for the replacement for fire equipment, which shall not exceed [\$.004] \$.0175 on the dollar of the grand list, except if a larger sum has been authorized by the legal voters of the City in a meeting warned for that purpose.

Mayor Louras then asked the Board to take the issue up that evening as time was a concern within the election process. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Larson) to approve the recommended charter change for the fire equipment replacement fund to \$.0175 on the dollar of the grand list and to place the question on the November ballot. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

Nomination Request to Board of Aldermen

Mayor Louras asked George Gides to join him at the podium. Mayor Louras asked the Board to consider George Gides as his appointment to replace the earlier resigned Matt Bloomer. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) to table the nomination. **Motion passed.** Mayor Louras noted a handout of Mr. Giles's resume. Mr. Gides addressed the Board and sought their support in his appointment. Mr. Gides looked forward to meeting with all of the members and answer any questions they may have.

At 8:42 PM a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk