

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, July 18, 2016

Members Present: President Notte, Aldermen Allaire, Etori, Tommola, Donahue, Larson, Bloomer, DePoy and Davis. Also present, Mayor Louras, City Attorney Romeo, Commissioner Wennberg, Chief Jones, Chief Kilcullen and Deputy Clerk Kapusta. Robertson and Humphrey were absent.

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (July 5, 2016)

Alderman Allaire moved to approve the minutes. Alderman Davis seconded and the motion passed.

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Michael Messier; 10 Hill Pond Road

Mr. Messier spoke about his thoughts on Combination Pond relative to City via EPA, the City and DEC agreement.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

A motion was made and seconded, (Alderman Davis and Alderman Larson), for Chief Jones' contract to be referred to the Public Safety Committee. Motion passed.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Request from Public Works Commissioner Wennberg regarding conditions for installation of buried conduits and wiring within accepted city streets. President Notte entertained a motion to add the request to the agenda. A motion was made and seconded, (Alderman Allaire and Alderman Davis). Motion passed.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Treasurer Wilton; Tax Rate proposal for FY 17

Treasurer Wilton could not be here; President Notte noted that it would be appropriate to refer back to the Tax Rate proposal when Aldermen Bloomer reads his report from the Finance Committee. Alderman Allaire agreed, moved on.

Treasurer Wilton; Preliminary YE Treasurer's Report 6-30-2016

President Notte would entertain a motion to receive and file, so moved Alderman Bloomer and Alderman Larson. Motion made (Alderman Davis and Alderman Larson). Motion passed.

Attorney Romeo; Request for Executive Session, 1) Civil Action 2) Labor Relations Agreement

President Notte moved this item to the end of the meeting.

Sean Sargeant; Chair Police Commission, PD Weapons & Ammo Inventory

Chief Kilcullen spoke about the Auditor's comments following a "Management Letter of Comment" regarding the issue of adequate controls over the PD weapons and ammunition inventory. To address the inventory control deficiencies, a keypad lock has been installed on the arms room door. Members of PD will have a unique access code and will be internally monitored. A camera will be installed inside the arms room to monitor activity within and stored ammunition inventory will be in a locked cabinet within the locked room. Motion to receive and file, (Alderman Davis and Alderman Allaire). Motion passed.

Engineer Rotondo; Request to amend Killington Ave Sidewalk Design Contract

Alderman Davis made a motion to suspend the rules and take the issue tonight, Alderman Larson seconded. Motion made, (Alderman Davis and Alderman Allaire). Motion passed.

Alderman Allaire made a motion for debate, to move to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract amendment for \$7,500.00 for professional services related to the Killington sidewalk extension project. Seconded Alderman Larson. Motion passed.

Engineer Rotondo; Request to amend Downtown Gateway Project Design Contract

Alderman Davis made a motion to suspend the rules, Alderman Larson seconded. Motion passed.

Alderman Davis made a motion for approval of the amendment in the amount of \$11,500.00 for professional services related to Downtown pedestrian Gateway improvement project, funds to be taken from existing dedicated Downtown Gateway Design Project, to authorize the Mayor to sign. Seconded Alderman Allaire. Motion passed.

Jeff Wennberg, Commissioner of Public Works; Conditions for Installation of Buried Conduits and Wiring within Accepted City Streets

Alderman Davis requested to move to Public Works Committee, seconded by Alderman Allaire. After some discussion motion passed.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Davis; Chair Community and Economic Development, Hickory St. Phase III

The applicant is requesting \$20,000.00 for a 30 year loan at 0% interest from the Maples Revolving loan fund, this would be the city's financial stake in the project. Alderman Davis requested a motion to approve the request, seconded by Alderman Allaire. Motion passed.

Alderman Bloomer; Chair Finance Committee

Alderman Bloomer made a motion for discussion to commit \$790,000.00 of general fund unassigned fund to the pension fund. Alderman Allaire seconded. After a lengthy discussion, Alderman Bloomer withdrew the motion and made a new motion to refer the issue to the Finance Committee. Seconded Alderman Davis. Motion passed.

Alderman Bloomer made a motion to move \$350,000.00 from the general fund unassigned fund balance to support the FY17 tax rate. Alderman Allaire seconded. Motion passed.

Alderman Bloomer made a motion to approve a Municipal Tax Rate of 1.5170. Alderman Tommola seconded. Motion passed.

Alderman Bloomer made a motion to approve a Non Residential Educational Tax Rate of 1.6243. Alderman Davis seconded. Motion passed.

Alderman Bloomer made a motion to approve a Homestead Educational Tax Rate of 1.5607. Alderman Allaire seconded. Motion passed.

Alderman Allaire; Chair Public Safety

Alderman Allaire made a motion to approve \$300,000.00 from the Fire Equipment Replacement Fund to buy a used apparatus to replace Engine 4 and a new replacement for truck 6. Alderman Larson seconded. Motion passed.

The next issue was to spend \$10,000.00 from the Giorgetti Trust, which bequeathed that amount to the Fire Department for purchase of two ATV's and Emergency Services Trailer from the Town of Mendon. These vehicles are needed to expand capabilities for firefighting in such areas as Pine Hill Park, which is limited now with current capabilities.

Alderman Allaire made a motion to approve the transfer of \$10,000.00 from the Giorgetti Trust to the Fire Equipment Department fund. Alderman Davis seconded. Motion passed.

Alderman Allaire made a motion to approve the purchase of two ATV's and trailer from the Town of Mendon up to \$10,000.00. Alderman Davis seconded. After some discussion the motion failed.

Alderman Allaire made a motion to approve the purchase of UTV's for the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00. Alderman Etti seconded. Motion passed.

Alderman Allaire made a request to spend \$6,400.00 from the current Fire Department budget for Rescue Struts. This request did not need committee approval as it is a budgetary item. The Committee agreed the need was justified and thanked the Chief for explaining the purchase and therefore will go out to bid at the Board of Finance as it is over the \$3,000.00 threshold.

Alderman Allaire then brought up the issue of outside services pay rate for the Fire Department. Currently, the outside services rate is \$40.00 per hour for all rank and file officers by contract. This is a rate paid by outside vendors such as VT State Fair. When officers work these shifts their rate of overtime pay is greater so the City is losing money. The committee agreed that a

change was needed but it could be handled administratively. The City Attorney researched the issue and indeed needed Board approval. Alderman Allaire made a motion to set rates for outside services for the Fire Department at \$58.00 per hour for the Department Chief's and \$50.00 per hour for Lieutenants. Alderman Davis seconded. Motion passed.

Mayor Louras and Chief Jones will be coming to the Board with a proposal on increasing the Mills in the Charter for the apparatus and fire equipment fund. Alderman Davis stated that she has referred this to the Finance Committee on a number of occasions and made a motion to re-refer it to the Finance Committee. Alderman Bloomer seconded. Motion passed.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were none.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were none.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

Commander Matthew Prouty; Parking Signage for Library Avenue

Alderman Davis made a motion to receive and file the letter from Commander Prouty. Alderman Larson seconded. Motion passed.

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

There was none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Attorney Romeo; Draft Resolution Regarding Pension Funding

Alderman Allaire made a motion to suspend the rules and take the issue up tonight. Alderman Davis seconded. Motion passed. Alderman Allaire made a motion to circulate the resolution for signature. Alderman Donahue seconded. Motion passed. Alderman Larson recused himself from signing the letter.

Alderman Davis made a motion to have the Finance Committee minutes go to the Board. Alderman Allaire seconded. Motion passed.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderman DePoy made a motion to have irrigation brought to the ball fields and reconstruction of Giorgetti Field to the Recreation Committee. Alderman Davis seconded. Motion passed.

Executive Session

Attorney Romeo; Request for Executive Session Civil Action

Attorney Romeo; first motion would be to make a finding that premature general public knowledge of a pending civil litigation will clearly place the City at a substantial disadvantage. Alderman Allaire so moved. Alderman Davis seconded. Motion passed.

Attorney Romeo; second motion to enter into Executive Session for the discussion of civil litigation to which the City is a party, the Mayor, Public Works Commissioner and Attorney Cooper remain. Alderman Allaire so moved. Alderman Davis seconded. Motion passed.

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:35 PM. A motion was made, Alderman Davis, and seconded by Alderman Allaire to go out of Executive Session at 9:00 PM.

Attorney Romeo; Request for Executive Session Labor Relations Agreement

A motion was made, Alderman Davis, and seconded by Alderman Allaire to suspend the rules and take the matter of the DPW contract up tonight. Motion passed.

A motion was made, Alderman Davis, seconded by Alderman Allaire to approve the contract with AFSCME Local 1201, DPW and Clerical and authorize the Mayor to sign. Motion passed.

Alderman Davis moved to go out of Executive Session; Alderman Larson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tracy L. Kapusta, Deputy City Clerk