

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT

Board of Aldermen Minutes

Monday, July 20, 2015

Members present: President Notte, Aldermen Allaire, Humphrey, Skates, Ettori, Siliski, 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 (July 6, 2015)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Lorene Borelli spoke on issues with her apartment.

Kimberly Griffin, Paul Gallo and Russ Marcin of the Creative Economy made an announcement on an upcoming event, to be held at the fairgrounds. The Family Fun Day will be held August 2, 2015 from 1-4 PM and everyone is invited.

Glenn Reed spoke on the 25 years of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and noted the upcoming events to inform the public on their anniversary.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayoral Appointment: Mayor Louras introduced his nominee, Michael Jones for Fire Chief to the Board. The Mayor gave a brief history of the nominee's credentials and sought the Board's pleasure.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to table the appointment. **Motion passed.**

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Superintendent Wight; Recommendation for Pool Engineering/Architect Work

This request was asked to be removed by Superintendent Wight. The request was so moved and seconded (Allaire, DePoy). **Motion passed.**

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Commissioner Wennberg; Employment Contract Renewal, Lewis Hotaling

Commissioner Wennberg reviewed his request and sought authorization to renew this contract. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Siliski) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Skates) to authorize DPW to employ Lewis Hotaling on limited part-time bases for the upcoming fiscal year. **Motion passed.**

Commissioner Wennberg; Water Allocation Request

Commissioner Wennberg explained the request for additional water at the Alderman's Chevy dealership in Rutland Town. A motion was made and seconded (Larson, Davis) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Larson, Davis) to approve the allocation of 68 gallons per day. There was brief debate on the request. **Motion passed.**

City Engineer Rotondo; Request for Three (3) RFP's

Commissioner Wennberg introduced the request for three RFP's from Engineer Rotondo. A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Davis) to refer the Clover St. issue to the Public Works Committee. **Motion passed.** There was brief debate before a motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Larson) to suspend the rules and take the issue of Killington Ave. Sidewalk up. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Larson) authorizing the City Engineers Request for Proposal (RFP) for engineering design services for the Killington Ave. Sidewalk Project. **Motion passed.** President Notte noted the last request was for the Downtown Pedestrian & Gateway Project. A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Davis) to suspend the rules and take the issue up. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Davis) authorizing the City Engineers Request for Proposal (RFP) for engineering design services for the Downtown Pedestrian & Gateway Project. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Wilton; Treasurer's Report, Preliminary FY End 2015

Treasurer Wilton provided the Board with a complete FY 2015 packet and reviewed some of the brief highlights. Treasurer Wilton made it perfectly clear that this was a preliminary report and some of those numbers will change. The Treasurer also noted that the City did well in maintaining its budgeted goals. Treasurer Wilton noted a large number of tax sales that were about to begin and asked if there were any questions. Alderman Siliski asked if this report needed to be reviewed in committee. The Treasurer asked to wait for the next updated report.

At this point, a request was made to hear Petitions, Letters and Miscellaneous Communications. There was no debate.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

Greg Cox; Vt. Farmers Food Center, Requests City Apply for a Vermont Community Development Program Planning Grant

Greg Cox presented his request before the Board. A motion was made and seconded (Siliski, DePoy) to refer the issue (Vermont Community Development Program Planning Grant) to the Community & Economic Development Committee. Alderman Davis explained that this was not the appropriate committee and suggested the RRA, as

they did the grant work for the City. Alderman Siliski withdrew his motion. A motion was made and seconded (Siliski, Bloomer) to refer the issue (Vermont Community Development Program Planning Grant) to the RRA. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Sharon Davis; Chair, Community & Economic Development, Zamias Fund

Alderman Davis stated her committee met on July 13, 2015 to discuss the issue of use of Zamias funds. The Committee reviewed an overview and application form to help guide the RRA in the application process. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Bloomer) approving the application for Zamias Fund use. **Motion passed.**

Ed Larson; Vice-Chair, Public Works, FirstLight Fiber

Alderman Larson, Vice-chair of the committee read his report from July 15, 2015. The report noted a request from FirstLight Fiber to have some existing fire alarm and traffic signal wires relocated, so FirstLight could hang fiber optics. All questions and concerns were answered at that meeting. A motion was made and seconded (Larson, Davis) to approve the FirstLight request with reimbursement to the City costs which would also require FEMA rates including the seven standard conditions for equipment and benefits. **Motion passed.**

Tom DePoy; Chair, Public Works, Traffic Signal/Street Light Maintenance

Alderman DePoy read his committee report from July 14, 2015. The Committee discussed a referral from an RFP approving LaFaso Electric for the City’s traffic signal/street light maintenance contract. The committee had to decide if there was a conflict issue with Mr. LaFaso because he works for the City as a Deputy Chief for the Fire Department. Alderman DePoy reviewed the application and criteria from LaFaso Electric. A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Larson) confirming the selection of LaFaso Electric LLC, to perform Traffic signal and street light maintenance. Debate.

There was strong support from several Aldermen to deny the request. The City Attorney was asked his opinion on the ethics conflict. Attorney Romeo stated that he had not seen any evidence to indicate a conflict of interest. Upon calling for a vote, a roll call vote was called. The President asked the Clerk to call the Roll.

Alderman Davis		NO
Alderman DePoy	YES	
Alderman Bloomer	YES	
Alderman Larson	YES	
Alderman Donahue		NO
Alderman Siliski	YES	
Alderman Ettori	YES	
Alderman Skates	YES	
Alderman Humphrey	YES	
Alderman Allaire		NO

President Notte reported the vote, Seven (7) YES, Three (3) NO. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no Select Committee Reports.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no Representative Reports.

BOARD OF TAX ABATEMENT

There were no issues for the Board of Tax Abatements.

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Setting Tax Rates

Treasurer Wilton reviewed the handout from the Aldermen’s Special meeting held on Thursday, July 16, 2015. There was very little debate before a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Donahue) to set the City Tax Rate at 1.5346. **Motion passed.** President Notte noted that there was the education rates to set as well and asked for the non-resident education rate to be set at 1.6189. This request was so moved and seconded (Allaire, Skates). Alderman Siliski abstained from voting. **Motion passed.** President Notte then asked for the homestead rate of 1.5683 to be set. The request was so moved and seconded (Allaire, Donahue). Alderman Siliski again abstained from voting

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

There was no Miscellaneous Motions, Resolutions or New Business to come before the Board.

At 8:07 PM a motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk