

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, March 16, 2015

Members present; Aldermen Allaire, Skates, Humphrey, Notte, Donahue, Siliski, Ettori, Larson, Bloomer, DePoy, and Davis. Also present, Mayor Louras, Attorney Romeo, and City Clerk Heck.

City Clerk Heck called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

City Clerk Heck swore in Mayor-elect Louras.

Mayor Louras swore in all elected Aldermen.

City Clerk Heck then opened the floor for Board President Nominations.

A motion was made and seconded (Siliski, Donahue) to nominate William Notte as Board President. There were no other nominations and a motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) to close the nominations. **Motion passed.** Clerk Heck stated that Alderman Notte was the sole nominee and asked for a voice vote, William Notte was confirmed as the new Board President. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Notte took his seat and gave a brief acceptance speech and then continued with the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (March 2 , 2015)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Marsha Castle spoke on a recently approved event happening on April 2nd, and invited all to participate.

Beth Berra asked for a round of applause for David Allaire.

Kevin Loso of the Housing Authority briefed the Board on phase III of the continued redevelopment on Hickory Street.

Lisa Lynch from ARC noted that March was Disability Development Month and gave a brief history of her organization. Rick Reardon, ARC Board President, also spoke on the organization.

Kam Johnston congratulated all elected officials and stated that he is still concerned with lighting in his neighborhood and intersection safety.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Request for Mayoral Appointments to be Tabled

A motion was made and seconded (Larson, Allaire) to table the appointments presented by Mayor Louras. **Motion passed.**

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Alderman Siliski asked that the issue of the City Audit by Randall Northrup of Corette Associates be added to the agenda. This request was seconded by Alderman DePoy. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Superintendent Wight; Home Depot Fund & White's Pool Professional Line

Superintendent Wight asked the Board to approve the use of \$25,000 from the Home Depot Fund to help fund the Rotary Park redevelopment plan. There was brief debate on the time element for 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) authorizing the Recreation Department to not exceed \$25,000 from the Home Depot Fund for the continued improvements at Rotary Park. Debate was lengthy with most Aldermen participating. A motion was made and seconded (Siliski, Donahue) to refer the issue to the Recreation Committee. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

Superintendent Wight then reviewed the White's Pool Professional Line. Her request was to use unspent money's from a prior contract with Weston Sampson to continue with any pool related needs. There was a fair amount of debate. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Allaire) to refer the issue to the Recreation Department. **Motion passed.**

Larry Jensen; BOA Contract Approval for International Association Chiefs of Police Search Committee

Larry Jensen; Chair of the Police Commission, introduced the request and sought Board approval to utilize the IACP for the new Police Chief search. Mr. Jensen also gave the Board an overview of the funding available. There was debate among the aldermen on the funding aspect of the request. A motion was made and seconded (Larson, Donahue) to refer the issue to the Finance Committee. Debate was extensive to the referral and its timing. Alderman Davis asked to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract with the first \$14,000 being paid from this fiscal year police budget and to refer the remaining associated cost to the Finance Committee. President Notte then restated the amendment to the original motion and called for a vote. **Motion passed.** President Notte then stated that the original motion had been amended and called for a vote on the motion as amended. **Motion passed.**

President Notte then moved to the Petitions, Letters and Miscellaneous Communications of the agenda as a large gathering of people were present with request.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

Susan Schribeman RRPC & Lt. Kevin Geno , City's Pedestrian Assessment

Lt. Geno gave a very brief overview of how the Pedestrian Assessment would take place and answered all questions from the Board. Lt. Geno asked everyone to participate and take a very short survey to further help develop the plan.

Dave Coppock; Rutland City Planning Commission, 2015 Goals

Dave Coppock of the Rutland City Planning Commission briefed the Board on the Commissions plans for 2015 and their request to review the by-laws within their jurisdictions. Mr. Coppock noted the lack of State regulated zoning laws and the need for the City to get on board. There was brief debate as to the request. No action was requested and the meeting was just to introduce the issue to the BOA.

Judith Dark; Rutland County Farmers' Market Renewal Application

Judith Dark came before the Board with their yearly request and noted the only change per the request was a Tuesday change to Wednesday to coincide with the Winter Farmers Market. Judith thanked the recreation department for their quick action with the resurfacing of the grass areas and asked if there were any questions. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) to suspend the rules and take the request up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) approving the request of the Rutland Downtown Farmers market with fees set at \$500. Alderman Larson abstained from voting, sighting his relationship with the market. President Notte noted the abstention and called for a vote. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Wilton; Added Agenda Item, City Audit

Treasurer Wilton introduced Randall Northrup who presented the Board with copies of the 2014 Rutland City Audit. The report on a whole was very brief. Mr. Northrup did state "the Opinion for 2014 is again unqualified (clean) and for the first time there are no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies". There was very little discussion on the topic. A motion was made and seconded (Siliski, Larson) to refer the 2014 City Financial Audit to the Finance Committee. **Motion passed.** Treasurer Wilton followed with a brief Treasurer's Report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Sharon Davis; Chair, Community & Economic Development, Tax Stabilization for Alternative Energy

Alderman Davis read her committee report from March 12th. The report stated the committee met to discuss an Energy/Environmental Property Tax Stabilization Incentive Policy. Alderman Davis concluded her report with a motion to adopt an Energy/Environmental Property Tax Stabilization Incentive Policy and she so moved. Alderman DePoy seconded. There was no debate. **Motion passed.**

President Notte then moved back into the Petitions, Letters, Miscellaneous Communication portion of the agenda

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

GMP Pole & Wire Request

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 to approve with the seven standard conditions. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no Select Committee reports

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no Representative reports

President Notte noted a motion to move into the Board of Tax Abatement.

The request was so moved and seconded (Allaire, Davis). **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF TAX ABATEMENT

New Abatement Procedure

President Notte asked Attorney Romeo to explain the request. Attorney Romeo stated it was just an updated procedural list for requesting tax abatements and reviewed the procedures. There was brief discussion. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) to adopt the new procedures listed on page 22 of the agenda. **Motion passed.**

Marge Johnston; Request for Tax Abatement, 94 Library Ave

President Notte noted that the Board had several options on how to proceed with the Johnston abatement request. Attorney Romeo detailed the options available to the Board. A motion was made and seconded (Siliski, Davis) to deny the request. Attorney Romeo noted that was fine as long as there was a specific reason to be recorded by the Clerk. The members noted the request was denied because they felt the request was for FMV, which needed an appeal to the Assessor. There was lengthy debate on the issue. A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) to call the question. Kam Johnston noted his right to speak. The President noted the question had been called and it was not debatable. **Motion passed.** Mr. Johnston objected and asked for a roll call vote. There was brief debate before the motion to deny was called. **Motion passed.** A motion to move out of the Board of Tax Abatement was called and passed.

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Davis noted an earlier request on lighting in the N.W. Neighborhood be re-addressed to the BOHC and sought input from them.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderman-Elect Skates; Request to refer to the Committee of the Whole, City Vision/Mission Statement

Alderman Skates presented a handout detailing his request for a referral to the Committee of The Whole. Alderman Skates reviewed his ideas with the Board. A motion was made and seconded (Skates, Donahue) to refer the reviewed request City Vision/Mission Statement to the Committee of the Whole. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Davis asked for a point of personal privilege to acknowledge David Allaire's term as Board President. Alderman Davis noted his length of service and hard work as Board President.

Alderman Larson noted folks who left their water running and were not directed to by DPW to contact DPW to see if they can have their bills adjusted.

Alderman Allaire wanted to thank DPW and Building & Zoning for their quick response on a situation on Church Street. He also thanked everyone for their support of him as Board President and looks forward to working as a member of the Board.

At 9:12 PM a motion was made and seconded (Ettori, Skates) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk