

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, December 1, 2014

Members present; President Allaire, Aldermen Kiernan, Humphrey, Notte, Donahue, Siliski, Brodowski, Larson, Bloomer, DePoy and Davis. Also present, Attorney Romeo and City Clerk Heck.

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (November 17 , 2014)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Shelley Lutz, Keith Wight and Joe Blumenthal, members of the Pine Hill Park Partnership, presented an update on the activities within the park. Mr. Wight spoke on the history of the partnership and their various contributions and coordinating of work groups working within the park.

Jeff Wennberg, Commissioner of Public Works asked the Board to add the issue of Catamount Association Lease to the appropriate committee for discussion. There was brief debate. President Allaire noted several other issues that had been requested to be added to the agenda and noted the Commissioners' request.

Chief Schlachter noted a correction on the signing of the Hazard Mitigation Plan from the Board President to the Mayor. President Allaire noted the request.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

There were no communications from Mayor Louras.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

As noted previously, the President asked for five (5) different items to be added to the agenda. President Allaire reviewed the requests. RAHA Contract, Superintendent Wight, Rescheduling of a Tax Abatement, President Allaire, Discussion on suggested days to hold the FY 2016 Final Budget, President Allaire, Referral of the Catamount Trail Lease, Commissioner Wennberg and Hazard Mitigation Plan authorize the Mayor to sign, Chief Schlachter. A motion was so moved and seconded (Larson, Davis).
Motion passed.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Barbara Spaulding; RRA, Northwest Neighborhood Revitalization Grant

President Allaire read the request. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Notte) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to circulate the document for signatures. **Motion passed.**

Chief Schlachter: FEMA Mitigation Plan

Chief Schlachter reviewed the request noting the plan dealt with potential hazards within the City and how those emergencies would be handled. The Chief noted other financial impacts associated with the federal government and reimbursements. 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) to move for the adoption of the Mitigation Plan. There was brief debate and a request from Alderman Larson to also include Annex S to the motion. President Allaire then restated the motion to adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan, Final Draft Annex S. **Motion passed.**

Chief Schlachter then introduced his second added request asking the Board to correct an earlier request of having the Board President sign the Emergency Operations Plan, authorizing the Mayor to sign. President Allaire noted the request and sought a rules suspension. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Larson) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Larson) authorizing the Mayor to sign the Emergency Operations Plan. **Motion passed.**

Superintendent Wight; Requests for Two Referrals to Recreation Committee; Pool & Pool Funding .

Superintendent Wight asked the Board to refer two issues dealing with the recent discussed pool and funding sources. A motion was made and seconded to refer both requests to the Recreation Committee. Debate. There were brief questions on possible March Ballot listings. Alderman Larson wanted to send funding to the Finance Committee. Alderman Davis withdrew her requests. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Brodowski) to refer the discussion of a new pool to the Recreation Committee. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Larson) to refer the funding portion of the pool to the Finance Committee. **Motion passed.**

Superintendent Wight then introduced her added request for action on the RAHA Contract. Attorney Romeo explained the changes noting a two (2) year limit and not the original ten (10) year contract. Attorney Romeo also noted some rate information was changed per the two (2) year agreement and there is no mention of Bond language and one typo. A motion was made and seconded (Notte, Davis) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Notte, Davis) authorizing the Mayor to sign the contract with corrections and typo noted in paragraph 22. Alderman Humphrey abstained from voting as she sits on the RAHA Board. There was brief debate. **Motion passed.**

Commissioner Wennberg; Progress Report Northwest Neighborhood Project

Commissioner Wennberg started his presentation handing out the 2016 Water & Sewer rate study, which the Board needs to complete the budget process. Commissioner Wennberg then noted the Northwest Neighborhood sewer project and thanked the Board for allowing the update presented by City Engineer Rotondo and Craig Jewitt, the lead project engineer. Engineer Rotondo and Mr. Jewett spent the next 10 minutes updating the Board on where the project stood and the expected completion date in early July 2015. There were brief questions and answers from the Board. No action was taken and the report was for information only.

Commissioner Wennberg then introduced his next added issue to the agenda of the renewal of the Catamount Lease. Commissioner Wennberg noted it was a lease within the watershed and asked for a referral to discuss the contract. A motion was made and seconded (Larson, Davis) to refer the request to the Public Works Committee. **Motion passed.**

Mike Coppinger: Revolving Loan Fund Request

President Allaire introduced the request from Mike Coppinger. Mr. Coppinger's Board reviewed the request and sought the Boards approval for a loan from the Revolving Loan Fund to MKF Properties in the amount of \$30,000. 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 of the Revolving Loan Fund in the amount of \$30,000, with the criteria stated. There were some brief questions from Aldermen Bloomer & Brodowski. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Tom DePoy; Chair, Public Works: Alderman DePoy read his report from 11/23 and 11/24. Alderman DePoy noted a site visit on the 23rd and his committees follow up meeting on the 24th. The report was on an issue on Mayfield Road and residents concerns with drainage.

Alderman DePoy read his report and noted it was for information only. No action was requested. Alderman DePoy did note that Commissioner Wennberg would update the Board on his recommendations for solving the concerns of the residents.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

President Allaire HR Committee Report: President Allaire read his report from the Human Resource Committee. The report stated the continued process on the update/rewrite of the City Personnel Handbook (non-union). President Allaire stated a continuation in the process, and noted the committee would meet after the budgeting process. His report was for information only.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Alderman Larson, Downtown Rutland Partnership Representative: Alderman Larson read his report from the DRP's meeting and highlighted several areas discussed during that meeting. Alderman Larson noted that his report was for information only.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

Green Mountain Power; Pole & Wire Request, Cottage Street: President Allaire read the request and asked for a rules suspension. 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 (DePoy, Davis) to approve the request with the seven standard conditions. There was some debate on why, who and how this station was requested. Alderman Larson noted a request to have the Mayor sign as noted on the contract. There was brief debate on this specific request. An amendment was made to request the Mayor to sign the request. Debate still continued on the issue of who was paying for the power. Alderman Humphrey offered a very brief explanation on who pays and also to abstain from voting on this issue as she works for Green Mountain Power. **Motion passed.**

S.E.P. Request, Recreation Department, Winter Festival, February 14&15, 2015 10-2PM

President Allaire read the request and asked for action. A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Davis) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Davis) approving Winterfest on February 14 & 15, 2015. **Motion passed.**

Abatement Request; Arthur W. Castle, 138 Grove Street, Parcel ID 10881

Abatement Request; Arthur W. Castle, 1 Seabury Street, Parcel ID 10880

President Allaire read the requests and noted that the committee of Aldermen Kiernan, Humphrey as chair, and Notte would be next in line to hear the requests and to report back to the full Board on January 5th, 2015 at 6:45 PM. This request was so moved and seconded (Davis, Larson). **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Allaire noted his two requests that had been added to the agenda earlier in the meeting and sought to take them up under unfinished business. President Allaire noted his first request to reschedule an abatement hearing on a mobile home request from T&C Corporation to December 15, 2014 at 6:55PM. This request was so moved and seconded (Davis, Larson). **Motion passed.**

The next request related to the final budget meetings. President Allaire noted the Board usually met in one evening to finalize the budget and the lengthy process it took to achieve this process. The President sought to possibly have two nights and wanted the Board to be aware that he is setting aside December 29th & 30th as possible dates to hold those meetings.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Larson; Request for Referral: Alderman Larson brought some long term financial planning before the Board and sought a referral to the finance committee to discuss the realignment of a portion of the downtown meter revenues into a downtown capital improvement fund. This request was seconded by Alderman Donahue. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Larson noted a future issue within his Public Safety Committee on lighting issues within the Northwest section of the City and asked his committee members to take a drive through that area to see what the request may refer to.

At 8:32 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Brodowski) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk