

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Monday, July 15, 2013

Members Present; President Allaire, Aldermen Kiernan, Humphrey, Notte, Donahue, Siliski, Cassarino, Larson, Wallstrom, DePoy, Davis, City Attorney Romeo and Deputy City Clerk Clark.

President Allaire called the meeting to order at 7PM.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (July 1, 2013)

Alderman Davis moved for the approval. Alderman Larson seconded. Kam Johnston spoke outside the rail saying he would like the minutes to reflect he was recognized when he spoke outside the rail and was not disruptive and would like to be recognized as a participant in the discussion of the Dana School. The motion then passed.

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Police Department & Police Commission Updates

Police Chief James Baker spoke briefly of three officers and their accreditations: Greg Sheldon (present outside the rail) was promoted from Corporal to Sergeant; Justin Sousa (who was not present) was promoted to Corporal and Officer Ernest LaGuardia (present outside the rail) as a new officer. Chief Baker discussed aggressive leadership program in the Police Department, staffing issues including eight Officer vacancies, Evidence Technician Position, Crime Analysis Position and Executive Assistant position. Chief Baker also briefly mentioned special investigators, animal control and talked about project vision and enforcement. Chief Baker said there are meetings held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month and said Joe Kraus is now chair. Chief Baker said inside the Police Building there is a full time Social Worker, an Assistant Attorney General, Domestic Violence Advocate and an Analytical Services Unit and working on additional avenues and updated the board on compliance, strategy and enforcement. Chief Baker acknowledged Corrine Rodrigue outside the rail, whom is a grant writer and neighborhood block party organizer. Larry Jensen, chair of the Police Commission, spoke outside the rail of improving culture, strategic plan and training.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

There were no communications from the Mayor

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Setting of FY 2014 Tax Rate

President Allaire said according to the City's Charter the tax rate needs to be set by July 20 and is hoping to set the rate tonight. Treasurer Wilton spoke outside the rail recapping the Treasurer's Report as of June 30 FY 2013 preliminary year and briefly explained the numbers. Treasurer Wilton handed out three different scenarios for setting of the tax rate to the board members and pointed out there is a \$75,000 cost to repair the Courcelle Brothers building roof the city has acquired for the Recreation Department. Alderman Wallstrom spoke of the \$75,000 roof repair that needs to be done to the Courcelle Building that the Recreation Department has acquired. Recreation Superintendent EJ Bishop spoke outside the rail regarding the roof repair explaining there are ten different roofs to the building of which four are in need of immediate repair. Alderman DePoy questioned why the city was not made aware of the roof repair. Mr. Bishop said the city purchased the building as is for \$1.00 and they were not allowed to inspect the building prior to acquiring it. Mr. Bishop stated that he was not made aware of the roof issue and he has not been authorized to make phone calls. Alderman DePoy, Siliski and Larson expressed their concerns of the roof repairs and a lengthy discussion ensued.

President Allaire stated there are a lot of unanswered questions the board can either proceed, request for a transfer or reconvene as the board does not have to decide tonight. Alderman Wallstrom suggested getting estimates of a transfer amount. President Allaire said in order to make a motion on any kind of transfer a motion to suspend the rules and take up the issue would be in order. Alderman Wallstrom so moved with Alderman DePoy seconding. The chair was in doubt and asked for a raise of hands: seven yes three no - the motion to suspend the rules failed. Treasurer Wilton recommended a motion from the board would be to commit \$75,000 of the General fund Balance to the Courcelle Brothers Roof Project. President Allaire called for a recess at 8:35 PM after a lengthy debate. The meeting resumed at 8:50 PM with President Allaire suggesting setting the tax rate that evening with one of the options given by the City Treasurer and come back at later time to discuss the issues at Courcelle Building. Alderman Cassarino moved to suspend the rules and set the tax rate. Alderman Davis seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Wallstrom opposed.

Treasurer Wilton handed out a fourth scenario to the board for setting the tax rate. Debate continued. Alderman Wallstrom said it is disingenuous for just getting figures that night and not dealing with the Courcelle Building but will set the rate and made a motion to set the tax rate based on an \$800,000 transfer from the Fund Balance to apply to the tax rate reserving \$100,000 in the unassigned fund balance as contingency for the roof fund or if other funding is found it would increase the reserve fund balance for a Municipal Tax Rate of \$1.3911. Alderman DePoy seconded. Alderman Davis asked Treasurer Wilton what the impact will be on a \$150,000 home. Treasurer Wilton said Homestead Education Tax will be \$82.05 an increase 3.9% increase and Municipal Tax will be \$91.20 an increase of 4.57%; blended of \$173.25 a 4.23% increase. After discussion on that motion, the motion passed. Alderman Larson and Donahue opposed. Alderman Wallstrom moved to set the Homestead Education Tax rate at \$1.4565. Alderman Davis seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Wallstrom moved to set the Non-Residential tax rate of \$1.5817. Alderman DePoy seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Wallstrom moved to send the Courcelle Brothers Roof issue funding of its repair to the Recreation Committee. Alderman Davis seconded and the motion passed.

Evan Pilachowski; City Engineer, Rutland Creek Path Segment 2

President Allaire said the request is for authorization for signature for resident engineering services. Alderman Davis moved to suspend the rules and take the issue up. Alderman Wallstrom seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Davis moved to authorize the Mayor to sign. Alderman Notte seconded and the motion passed.

Wendy Wilton; Treasurer, Treasurer's report-June 30th Preliminary

This issue was taken up earlier in the meeting.

James Simonds; Building & Zoning; Request for Carol Wagner, Vacation Carry Over

Alderman Davis moved to suspend the rules. Alderman Notte seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Davis moved for the approval for Carol Wagner to carry over twelve days of earned vacation time after her anniversary date of August 4, 2013. Alderman Notte seconded and the motion passed.

Charles Romeo; City Attorney; (3) Executive Session Requests "Contract Negotiations" & "Collective Bargaining"

President Allaire asked the Board to move Attorney Romeo's requests to the end of the meeting.

Charles Romeo; City Attorney; Request for Addendum to the Creek Path (not on agenda)

Mr. Romeo requested a suspension of the rules for authorization for the mayor to sign and explained the three standard pieces of language left out; if parties terminate early and how the commission is paid.

Charles Romeo; City Attorney; Request for Addendum to the Creek Path (not on agenda)

Alderman Davis moved to suspend the rules. Alderman Notte seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Davis moved to authorize the Mayor to sign. Alderman Notte seconded and the motion passed.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Chris Siliski; Chair, Finance Committee; Internal Control Checklist

Alderman Siliski read his committee report saying the committee met to discuss the internal control checklist provided to the Board of Aldermen dated June 26, 2013 by Treasurer Wilton. The committee made a motion to acknowledge the receipt of the City's Internal Control Checklist pursuant to VSA 163(11), in which he so moved with Alderman Davis seconding and the motion passed.

Chris Siliski; Chair, Finance Committee; West, Church and Wales Street Project

Alderman Siliski read his committee report saying the committee met to discuss the project and the scope of work. The committee made a motion to recommend approval of the trimmed scope of work as outlined by DPW using \$50,000 of Zamas Funds previously set aside by the Board of Alderman and a contribution of \$5,000 by DPW from its FY Budget. If approved, the committee encourages the Board of aldermen to consider authorizing DPW to solicit bids for the full scope of work understanding additional funding of \$25,000 may be needed. Alderman Davis questioned the motion. Alderman Siliski said two motions would be needed. Alderman Kiernan spoke against the motion. Evan Pilachowski (City Engineer) explained what the project entails to the board. There was a lengthy discussion about the issue. Aldermen Siliski, Larson and Cassarino spoke in favor of the project. Kam Johnston spoke outside the rail about the issue. President Allaire then asked if there was any further debate. There was none and the motion passed with Alderman Kiernan opposing. Alderman Donahue moved to authorize DPW to bid out the entire scope of the project as originally proposed. Alderman Wallstrom seconded and asked if this is bidding out the entire scope in addition to bidding out the truncated project. Alderman Siliski said the board approved DPW to bid out and allocate \$55,000 to the trim scope of work. After further discussion, President Allaire asked for those in favor to raise their hands. The motion then passed.

President Allaire asked for the Board to take up Petitions, Letters and Miscellaneous Communications at this time. The Board obliged.

William Nottle; Chair, Charter and Ordinance Committee (tax issues & issuing Liquor Licenses)

Alderman Nottle read his committee report and said this issue is now considered closed.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no reports from any select committee.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dave Wallstrom; Update from RCSWD (food waste)

Alderman Wallstrom read his committee report. Information only.

Chris Siliski; Planning Commission Update (curb cut on Route 7)

Alderman Siliski read his committee report. Information only.

Alderman Kiernan; Regional Transit Center

Alderman Kiernan read his committee report. Information only.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

SEP Request; DRP, Summerfest, August 2&3, Downtown Rutland

Alderman Davis moved to suspend the rules. Alderman Nottle seconded and the motion passed.

Alderman Davis moved to approve the Special Events permit for Summerfest on August 2 & 3, 2013.

Alderman Nottle seconded and the motion passed.

SEP Request; DRP, Killington Classic Party, Friday Aug. 30th, Merchants Row & Center St

Alderman Davis moved to suspend the rules. Alderman Wallstrom seconded and the motion passed.

Alderman Davis moved to approve the Special Events permit for Killington Classic party on August 30, 2013. Alderman Kiernan seconded and the motion passed.

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dave Wallstrom; Update on Courcelle Building

This issue was taken up earlier in the meeting

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Watkins School

Alderman Davis asked for a re-referral to send the issue of the Watkins School back to the Community & Economic Development Committee, in which she so moved with Alderman DePoy seconding and the motion passed.

Downtown Partnership: Revolving Loan Fund Application for 40-42 Merchants Hall

Alderman Wallstrom read his report saying this project is on hold and is looking to withdraw the application. Alderman Wallstrom moved to suspend the rules. Alderman Davis seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Wallstrom moved to withdraw the loan application. Alderman Davis seconded and the motion passed.

Downtown Partnership Annual Meeting; Street Scape Downtown; Sculpture Garden

Alderman Wallstrom read his committee report and said this project falls in the city's right of way and requires it sent to committee. Alderman Wallstrom moved to refer the issue of the sculpture garden to the Community & Economic Development Committee. Alderman Davis seconded and the motion passed.

Whites Playground; Community Assistance; Thursday August 8th

Alderman Wallstrom said the city has received funding for the revitalization of Whites Playground and said there is a stipulation for the funding that the community must provide the labor and asked for community assistance by calling the Recreation Department or rutland.letthembekids.org for more information.

Executive Sessions

Contract Negotiations:

President Allaire asked for a motion to go into executive session at 9:45 PM, which Alderman Kiernan so moved with Alderman DePoy seconding and the motion passed. Alderman Wallstrom moved to come out of executive session at 9:55 PM. Alderman DePoy seconded and the motion passed.

Collective Bargaining for DPW

President Allaire asked for a motion to go into executive session at 9:55 PM, which Alderman Wallstrom so moved with Alderman Notte seconding and the motion passed. Alderman Wallstrom moved to come out of executive session at 9:57 PM. Alderman DePoy seconded and the motion passed.

Civil Action

President Allaire asked for a motion to go into executive session at 9:57 PM, which Alderman Wallstrom so moved with Alderman DePoy seconding and the motion passed. Alderman Wallstrom moved to come out of executive session at 10:15 PM. Alderman DePoy seconded and the motion passed.

Alderman Cassarino moved to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Aldermen. Alderman Notte seconded and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan A. Clark
Rutland City Deputy Clerk