

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT

Board of Aldermen Minutes

Monday, December 17, 2012

Members Present; President Allaire, Aldermen Kiernan, Romeo, Notte, Donahue, Siliski, *Robinson, Sargeant, DePoy and Davis, City Attorney Costello and City Clerk Heck. Alderman Robinson arrived at 7:35PM, Alderman Wallstrom was absent.

President Allaire called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, December 3, 2012)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Kathleen Krevetski, a Rutland City Resident spoke on the health and safety issues of adding Chloramine to the City water supply.

Kam Johnston came before the Board with several requests resulting from his BCA hearing. Mr. Johnston sought what he felt were inefficiencies in the BCA process and was requesting the Board of Aldermen intervene. Mr. Johnston also mentioned recording issues within lister cards and the Grand List. No Action was taken.

Brennan Duffy asked the Board for a referral of the Property Tax Stabilization issue to the appropriate committee. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Romeo) to refer the stated issue to the Community and Economic Development Committee. **Motion passed.**

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Invite Proposals for Parking Deck

A motion was made and seconded (Robinson, Davis) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Robinson, Davis) authorizing the Mayor to invite proposals. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Barbara Allen; RRA, Request to Set Public Hearing

President Allaire read the request from Barbara Allen to set a public Hearing for the Rutland Creek Path on Monday, January 7, 2013 at 6:45 PM. This request was so moved and seconded (Davis, Robinson). **Motion passed.**

Andrew Costello; City Attorney, Request for Executive Session: Labor Relations Agreement with Employees

President Allaire asked for the request to be moved to the end of the meeting. There were no objections.

Andrew Costello; City Attorney, Request for Executive Session: Civil Action

President Allaire asked for the request to be moved to the end of the meeting. There were no objections.

Andrew Costello; City Attorney, Request for Executive Session: Contracts

President Allaire asked for the request to be moved to the end of the meeting. There were no objections.

Wendy Wilton; Treasurer, Treasurer's Report

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Romeo) to receive and place on file. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Christopher Robinson; Chair, General Committee

Alderman Robinson read his report stating that his committee met to discuss the issue of a railcar donation. He stated that the 1913 Rutland Railway Coach Car had been donated to the City, with a location of the current train station as a suitable location to exhibit it. The cost to house the railcar was estimated at \$50,000. Unfortunately only \$10,000 had been raised. The Vermont Farmers Food Center (VFFC) offered to take and display the car for the City. They offered to build a suitable structure to hold and display the rail car. They stated that the City would still own the car.

A motion was made and seconded (Robinson, Notte) to authorize the City Attorney to draft an agreement to have the rail car located at the VFFC with the City retaining ownership of the rail car and to have the VFFC reimbursed for any reasonable cost incurred associated with the construction of a shelter on their property if the rail car is moved. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Robinson, Notte) to authorize the City Attorney to draft a letter of intent to accept the rail car and to have it placed in the City by September 1, 2013. **Motion passed.**

William Notte; Chair Public Works

Alderman Notte stated that during his committee budget meeting, the committee wished to introduce approving the Streetlight Improvements line (100-7-30-40-730.000) at their December 17th BOA meeting. A motion was made and seconded (Notte, Sargeant) to assign \$325,771 of the City's unassigned fund balance for the purpose of funding an LED conversion Project for leased streetlights, due to long term energy savings associated with the project. Any financial incentives from Efficiency Vermont (assumed to be \$127,000) will be used to offset the total cost of the project and be recorded as revenue to the General Fund. **Motion passed.**

Chris Siliski; Chair, Finance Committee

Alderman Siliski stated that his committee met to discuss the Water and Sewer Rate Study in preparations for the water-sewer budget review. The Committee heard from the Commissioner and the Business Manager that usage had declined and so the estimated usage to set the budget had also been reduced. The committee sought to focus on setting a stable tax rate. They discussed the financial positions of both the water and sewer

and sought ways to keep rates down. The Following motions were presented to the full Board.

A motion was made and seconded (Siliski, Davis) to have the Treasurer prepare a schedule of outstanding capital debt borrowed by the City water-sewer system and the varied terms-amounts of each payment. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Siliski, Davis) asking the DPW Commissioner to provide the BOA with a timely list of suggested cuts that equals 8% of the current proposed budget. Note, the 8% figure was based on Alderman Sargeant's calculation of the estimated % of decrease in usage. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Siliski, Davis) asking the DPW Commissioner to provide the BOA with a timely list of varied meter fees and a statement of expected impact the potential adjusted fees will have on the water-sewer rates up to a doubling. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Robinson asked the Clerk to notify the Commissioner of those request.

Alderman Robinson updated the Board on the issue of the West St. Cemetery and the hole in the fence. Alderman Robinson stated that the hole had been repaired and considered the issue closed.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Nothing to Report

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Nothing to Report

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

There were no Petitions, Letters or Misc. Communications

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

There were no items for the Board of Control Commissioners

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to come before the Board.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Sean Sargeant; Baxter Street Pedestrian Ramp

Alderman Sargeant read his report on a pedestrian ramp from Baxter St. to West St., noting that the Vermont Farmers Food Center had approached him about improving the existing "pedestrian ramp". Alderman Sargeant's report contained proposals from VFFC on design, cost and fundraising. Alderman Sargeant felt the proposal was too important to the downtown to not have the City involved. A motion was made and seconded (Sargeant, Robinson) to refer the issue to the Community and Economic Development Committee. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Romeo gave a brief update on the Blighted Property Steering Committee, noting they have been working on crafting a vacant property ordinance. A motion was made and seconded (Romeo, Robinson) to refer the vacant property ordinance draft, to the Charter and Ordinance Committee. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Notte) to refer the issue of common level of appraisal (CLA) and coefficient of dispersion (COD) to the finance committee for discussion, based on the State's report. **Motion passed.**

President Allaire asked the Board to take the issue of a Routes 4 & 7 request up if they wished. He explained the tardiness of the request and apologized for the request not being on the agenda. He stated that the contracts were just "boiler plate" type maintenance agreements on scheduled paving. 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, Notte) authorizing the President to sign Parts I & II of the maintenance agreements. **Motion passed.**

At 8:11 PM a motion was made and seconded (Robinson, Davis) to move into executive session to discuss labor relation agreements with employees. **Motion passed.**

At 9:10 PM a motion was made and seconded (Notte, Davis) to come out of executive session. **Motion passed.**

A motion was presented then questioned if a rules suspension was in order. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Romeo) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. Upon calling the vote, President Allaire was unsure if it passed with the $\frac{3}{4}$ percent needed, and asked for a show of hands, 7-2. **Motion passed.** A motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the Fire contract from 2014 – 2017 as presented by the City Attorney, was made and seconded (Sargeant, Davis). There was staunch debate from Aldermen's Siliski and Robinson for researching further options on the contracts finance options. **Motion passed.**

At 9:16 PM a motion was made and seconded (Notte, Sargeant) to enter executive session to discuss civil actions where premature or general knowledge could place the City at a substantial disadvantage. **Motion passed.**

At 9:25 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Sargeant) to come out of executive session. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Allaire, Davis) to suspend the rules and take the issue up that evening. **Motion passed.**

A motion was made and seconded (Robinson, Davis) for the City to apply credit to LaValley's sewer bill in the amount of \$21,871.32. **Motion passed.**

At 9:28 PM a motion was made and seconded (Robinson, Davis) to move into executive session to consider the negotiations or securing of real-estate purchase options. **Motion passed.**

At 9:34 PM a motion was made and seconded (Sargeant, Notte) to come out of executive session. **Motion passed.**

At 9:35 PM a motion was made and seconded (Robinson, Romeo) to enter executive session to discuss a contract where premature or general knowledge could place the City at a substantial disadvantage. **Motion passed.**

At 9:45 PM a motion was made and seconded (DePoy, Romeo) to come out of executive session. **Motion passed.**

At 9:46 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk