CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Aldermen Minutes
Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Members present: President Allaire, Aldermen Larson, Notte, Romeo, Siliski, Robinson, Sargeant, Wallstrom, DePoy, and Davis. Also present, Mayor Louras, Attorney Costello and City Clerk Heck.

President Allaire called the meeting to order at 7PM. He opened the meeting with a moment of silence for Mike and Michael Garofano who were tragically killed on Sunday August 28, 2011 as a result of flooding from hurricane Irene.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (August 15, 30, & 31 2011)

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

OUTSIDE THE RAIL

Deidra Esposito of Earl Street came before the Board in regards to the flooding on her street but more specifically the bank erosion along the river. Ms. Esposito stated that she has lost approximately 15 feet of the right a way that was along the bank. She is very concerned about a large tree that is partially exposed at the root base caused by the erosion. There was brief questioning from the Board with a motion to refer the issue (Notte, Davis) to the Public Works Committee. **Motion passed.**

President Allaire asked the Board to move several issues up in the agenda as the Mayor had a lot of information for the Board. There was no debate from the Board.

The Board received a late request for a Special Events Permit from Jackie Lorman for a fundraiser for the Women's Shelter on Grove Street. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to suspend the rules and take the issue up. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, DePoy) to approve the request. **Motion passed.**

Special Events Permit; Partnership, Killington Motorcycle Classic, 9-9-11, Downtown Rutland
Request was withdrawn. There will be no Killington Classic this year.

Request for Water Connection, John Ruggerio, Corner of Gleason Rd. and Rte. 4
A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Robinson) to refer the issue to the Intermunicipal Committee. **Motion passed.**

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Louras gave the Board an update on the water issues presented to the City from Hurricane Irene. He stated that the event was equivalent to a 500 year event. The Mayor then asked Engineer Pilachowski to update the Board and citizens on the events currently happening at the water filtration plant. Evan then proceeded to explain the events at the Mendon Brook intake house and what was being done to get that water supply back on line. There was a diagram that he used to lay out locations and the work in progress to get water into the reservoir. He explained how the hurricane compromised the rivers and how they were being fixed.
He detailed how the City was trying to maintain the emergency pump and the efforts to get that pump working, and to continue to run even though it is compromised and can not pump as much water as they need to keep the reservoir full. There were questions from the Board in regards to the amount of water consumed by its users, and how much water is being replaced. The Mayor stated that there is not enough water going back into the reservoir as the users are using. The Board asked different scenarios based on

working and non-working pumps. There was discussion on how the flow could be increased at the emergency intake, and options the City had. The Mayor answered all questions and emphasized the need to continue to conserve water.

Alderman Davis could not commend enough the efforts by all those involved in getting the repairs done. She named several and stated there were still others she could not remember but thanked them all for a tremendous job. The Mayor detailed how the Alpine Pipeline had been reconnected, tested and working. He detailed the effort by Doug Casella to rebuild route four by taking the fill from the Mendon brook and placing it back upstream from where it came.

The Mayor then detailed the need for people affected by loss from the storm to contact FEMA to register for aid. He listed several contact locations and emphasized the need to register first before they do anything else.

<u>REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS</u>

Wendy Wilton; Treasurer, Treasurer's Report, & Library Pole Light Replacement

Treasurer Wilton briefed the Board on the current status of the City Financially. She also asked for three amendments to prior approved issues of the Board. A motion was made and seconded (Robinson, Notte) to suspend the rules and take the issues up. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Robinson, Davis) to amend the budget and approve transfer of $30,000 from general fund rec programs to the Giorgetti Fund for turf payments. **Motion passed.** The next motion (Robinson, Wallstrom) was to amend the budget to reflect a $605 increase to the Government Building Salary Line. **Motion passed.** The final request was to amend the transfer from the Enterprise Funds and the Interfund transfer to $211,259. Alderman Davis so moved. Motion was seconded by President Allaire. **Motion passed.** Concluding, the Treasurer stated the over all health of the City financially was good.

The Treasurer then brought the issue of decorative lighting at the library to the Board. She stated that time was an issue and was requesting a not to exceed dollar amount. The President reminded the Board that the issue had been tabled at an earlier meeting. A motion was made and seconded (Robinson, Davis) to untable the issue. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Robinson, Davis) to approve from the Zamias fund up to $11,500 for the purpose of lighting at the library. Alderman Robinson also asked any funds received from the insurance company to fix the damaged light would be returned to the Zamias Fund. There was a great deal of debate as to the time line, financing, and need of such an expensive light. President Allaire called for a vote but was unsure of the out come, he asked for a show of hands. The results 6 yes and 3 no, **Motion passed.**

Wendy Wilton; Treasurer, Addendum to business Visa Card Application

Treasurer Wilton then asked the Board to approve an application for a credit card to be issued to the Purchasing Agent to use for on line purchases and approve procedures for handling the card. She was also asking the Board President to sign the addendum relieving the Treasurer of liability issues. A motion was made and seconded (Notte, Davis) to suspend the rules and take the issue up. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Notte, DePoy) to approve the treasurers' request. There was brief debate with Alderman Romeo questioning any written policy on the use of this or any other card in use.

Finally the Treasurer asked the Board for authorization to open an account in the name of the Michael Garofano Memorial Fund. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Romeo) to suspend the rules and take the issue up. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Larson) to approve the development of the Michael Garofano Memorial Fund account. **Motion passed.**

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

Issue was moved to the end of the meeting.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Sharon Davis; Chair, Community and Economic Development, Downtown Resident Parking

Alderman Davis stated that her committee met on August 18th to discuss downtown resident parking. The committee discussed using the Wales St. parking lot as a source for residents living downtown. The discussion entailed removing the lot from the City inventory and setting a monthly fee. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Notte) to remove the Wales Street parking lot from the City inventory list. Debate ensued with Alderman Romeo making a motion to table the issue for further review. There was no second to table, request failed. After further brief debate the **Motion passed.** The next motion was made and seconded (Davis, Notte) to set the monthly fee rate at $20.00 for undesignated spots. **Motion passed.**

Sharon Davis; Chair, Community and Economic Development, Citywide Beautification

Alderman Davis again stated that her committee met on August 31st, to discuss the issue of City wide Beautification. She stated that the discussion was brief as most City representatives were absent because of the storm related emergency. (Irene) Most discussion pertained to volunteer vs. budgeted items, and who was working on what properties in the City. The report was for information only and the issue is to remain in committee.

Ed Larson, Chair, Finance Committee

Alderman Larson stated that his committee met on August 22nd all members present to discuss Internal Control Risk Assessment. He stated that Treasurer Wilton presented a Municipal Checklist for Internal Control. The checklist contained 28 issues of general control, 20 issues of Cash and Accounts Receivable, 29 issues in Purchasing, Disbursement & Financial Records, and 22 Issues in IT. All or most of these the issues or concerns have been corrected. Alderman Larson stated that any issues that remained would be left in committee and his report was for information only.

Sean Sargeant; Chair, Public Safety, Fire Protection Agreement GE Plants 2 & 4

Alderman Sargeant stated that his committee met on August 24th to discuss the issue of Fire Protection Agreement for GE Plants 2&4. Sean stated that his committee discussed the current status of responders and the technical aspects of the issues. Chief Schlachter stated the relations between his department and the town, the cost of responding to calls, and the new contract he and Mr. Varien (Representative of GE) had worked out.

Alderman Sargeant stated that the new contract called for a base rate of $6,000. $2,250 for hazardous materials response, $2,500 for rescue equipment, $2,500 for rescue training, & $3,750 for overtime. That brings the total to $17,000 PER YEAR PAYABLE ON October 1, of each year. The Chief asked that any money not expended at year end will not be placed in the General Fund but placed in the Fire Equipment Replacement Fund (Fund235).

A motion was made and seconded (Sargeant, Robinson) to authorize the City Attorney to amend the current contract to the new terms presented by the Chief and to authorize the Mayor to sign the amended contract and to authorize the City Treasurer to put in place a method to sweep any unexpended portion of the $17,000 contract payment into the Fire Equipment Replacement Fund on October 1st of each year.
Motion passed.

Alderman Davis notified the Board that her Community & Economic Development Committee meeting had been postponed until September 22nd at 5:30 PM.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

None to report

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

None to Report

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

Special Events Permit; Partnership, Killington Motorcycle Classic, 9-9-11, Downtown Rutland

Moved up in the agenda.

Request for Water Connection, John Ruggerio, Corner of Gleason Rd. and Rte. 4
Moved up in the agenda.

The Board did not move into the Board of Control Commissioners as the request for an outside consumption request was no longer valid as the event had been canceled.

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

Outside Consumption Request, Downtown Tavern, Sept. 9, 2011, 4 – 11PM
No action taken.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None to Report

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Romeo asked that since the Board had approved credit card use that the City Attorney consult with the City Treasurer and pertinent members of the executive branch and draft a Credit Card use policy and to report back at the next meeting. Motion was seconded by Alderman Davis. **Motion passed.**

President Allaire updated the Board on his request to have the Clerk send flowers from the Board to the Garofano service. He thanked Treasurer Wilton for the account Information (100-7-80-00-888.000).

President Allaire briefly described the Department of Health notice on a case of West Nile Virus. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Notte) to receive and file the notice. **Motion passed.**

At this point the President stated that the Attorney had requested an executive session to consider a pending civil action. At 9:12 PM a motion was made and seconded (Robinson, Notte) to enter into executive session, the room was cleared.

At 9:18 PM a motion was made and seconded (Robinson, Notte) to come out of executive session. **Motion passed.**

At 9:20 PM a motion was made and seconded (Siliski, Robinson) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk