

Board of Aldermen Minutes
City of Rutland
Monday, April 01, 2024

Members present: President Talbott, Aldermen Talbott, Heck, Barbagallo, Davis, McCann, McClure, Gillam, Savage, Adams, and Whitcomb. Also present, Mayor Doenges, Treasurer Markowski, Chief Lovett, Chief Kilcullen, Superintendent Peters, and City Clerk Kapusta.

Absent: Alderwoman Tadio and Attorney LaChance.

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (March 18, 2024)

A motion was made and seconded (McClure, Savage) approving the minutes from the previous meeting.

Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Laurie Borelli from 30 Elm Street spoke about noise in her neighborhood. Ms. Borelli has notified her landlord and the police but feels that enough is not being done.

Scott Graves from 38 Stratton Road asked for a referral to the Charter and Ordinance Committee for Breaking Housing Matters of which he is a stakeholder. After discussion with the Board, it was determined that the Committee of the Whole would be a better committee for this to be referred to. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) to refer Breaking Housing Matters to the Committee of the Whole. **Motion passed.**

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayoral Appointment: Nomination – Planning Commission

Mayor Doenges introduced the request. For Board consideration the following nomination for appointment to the Planning Commission is Susan Starr-Adams. A motion was made and seconded (Savage, McClure) to table the nomination to the next Board of Aldermen meeting on April 15, 2024.

Motion passed.

Untable Mayoral Appointment – Aaron Hildebrand, Planning Commission

Mayor Doenges introduced the request. Alderwoman Davis and Alderwoman McClure moved and seconded the removal of the nomination from the table. **Motion passed.** The nomination the Board will vote on is Aaron Hildebrand for the Planning Commission. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, McCann) to circulate the ballot box. **Motion passed.** Clerk Kapusta gathered all votes and presented them to Treasurer Markowski for verification.

Mayor Doenges asked the Board to refer the review of the Rutland Redevelopment Authority contract to the Community and Economic Development Committee. So moved by Alderwomen Davis and Alderwoman Savage. **Motion passed.**

Mayor Doenges spoke about the three things he will bring to the Board: 1) What we have done for the past week or two; 2) What we are actively doing; and 3) What we are going to do next.

- Mayor Doenges spent some time in Montpelier discussing two bills. First was S. 311, The Be Home Act, an incentive program to allow development in certain communities by passing certain ACT 250 rules to be able to develop housing. Second was H. 667, an Act 250 reform bill.

- Mayor Doenges met with the Governor, thanks to Representative Clifford and Maguire for setting up this meeting. It was supposed to be a five-minute meeting that ended up being forty-five minutes long and the discussion was around the needs in Rutland.
- Almost all the street lighting in Rutland is owned by Green Mountain Power. Mayor Doenges will place a survey out on the City website for people to complete on streetlights and the data will be gathered as to where street lighting needs to be improved.

Mayor Doenges asked the Board to refer the discussion of Street light brightness to the General Committee. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, McClure) to refer to the discussion of street light brightness to the General Committee. **Motion passed.**

- In the next week will be working on the transportation-oriented district planning using the grant that the City was awarded. This grant can only be used for planning purposes only.
- A transitional housing meeting will take place later this week. The Housing Trust, BROCC, Rutland Mental Health, and a couple of other organizations will come together and see where we are at and come up with the next steps in the plan.
- The Mayor will be away on vacation for the next Board of Aldermen meeting and President Talbott will be acting Mayor during that time.

President Talbott confirmed the appointment of Aaron Hildebrand to the Planning Commission by a vote of 10 yes votes and zero no votes.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no Additions or Deletions to the Agenda.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Fire Chief Lovett: Annual Review of the City's Local Emergency Management Plan

Fire Chief Lovett presented the annual review of the City's Local Emergency Management Plan and asked for approval for the Mayor to sign the document. A motion was made and seconded (McCann, Savage) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (McClure, Adams) to authorize the Mayor to sign the City's Local Emergency Management Plan, the adoption statements of several Federal procedures and the DPW Mutual Aid Agreement.. **Motion passed.**

Police Chief Kilcullen: Community Meetings

Police Chief Kilcullen informed the Board that the Rutland City Police Department will be hosting a series of community meetings during the first two weeks of April. Officers and supervisors who have overall operational responsibility for each patrol sector will be introduced at these meetings. Current crime trends, historical data and challenges that are faced in each sector will be highlighted. Each meeting will be hosted by a stakeholder within that respective sector. The community meeting schedule is located on the City calendar found on rutlandcity.org and the Police Departments Facebook page. Dates for the meetings are April 5,8,9, and 11, 2024.

Superintendent Peters: Recreational Trails Program Grant Update

Shelley Lutz updated the Board on the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant. Six weeks ago, when Ms. Lutz was at a Board of Aldermen meeting she stated that the grant was being used for a universal trail. Plans had to change because the cost was much greater than the grant allowed. So, this grant is going to be used for Park maintenance.

Superintendent Peters: Giorgetti Ice Season-Summary

Superintendent Peters gave the financial summary for Giorgetti during the winter season. Program Director Cassell gave an update of the events, programs, and rentals for Giorgetti during the winter season.

Superintendent Peters: Winter Program Updates

Superintendent Peters gave an update on winter sports and programs for Rutland Recreation Community Center and the Courcelle building.

Superintendent Peters: Spring Program Updates

Superintendent Peters gave spring updates that started the week of March 24 and will conclude at the end of May.

Treasurer Markowski: Request for Board review and signature on Vermont Municipal Bond Bank Certificate of Completion for the Street and Sidewalks Bond 2021-1

Treasurer Markowski introduced the request. The Vermont Municipal Bond Bank (VMBB) post issuance procedures require a Project Completion Certificate when projects are complete. The required project completion certificate has not been filed with the Bond Bank for the streets and sidewalks bond series-2021-1. This bond is part of the \$5M streets and sidewalks bond that was approved by the voters in March 2020. The bond proceeds of \$1.5M have been fully expended and this portion of the project is complete. A motion was made and seconded (McCann, Savage) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Adams, Gillam) for the Board to execute the VMBB Certificate of Project Completion for the \$1.5M Streets Bond Series 2021-1 and circulate for Board signatures. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Markowski: Treasurer's Report on completion of FY23 City Audit

Treasurer Markowski sent an email to the Board of the completed Audit Report and related correspondence from Sullivan, Powers & Company, PC for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The email included the Audit Report, Management Letter and Audit Communication Letter. This information is for review and Treasurer Markowski is looking to the May 6th Board of Aldermen meeting for Sullivan, Powers & Company, PC to present the FY23 City Audit to the Board.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

There were no Reports of Standing Committees.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no Reports of Representatives.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no Reports of Select Committees.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

Special Event Permit: Homeless Prevention Center; Spring Sprockets & Walk-it's, Pine Hill Park May 4, 2024, from 10:00AM – 1:00PM

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, McClure) to approve the Special Event Permit for the Homeless Prevention Center, Spring Sprockets & Walk-it's at Pine Hill Park on May 4, 2024, from 10AM to 1PM. **Motion passed.**

Special Event Permit: Rutland County Humane Society, Coin Drops, Saturdays June 22, August 10, and September 14, 2024, from 10:00AM – 2:00PM

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, McCann) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (McClure, Savage) to approve the Rutland County Humane Society Coin Drops for Saturdays June 22, August 10, and September 14, 2024, from 10AM to 2PM. Alderman Heck pointed out that the Coin Drop Policy only allows for one a year for a business. Alderman Heck did state that it has been approved by the Board for the last couple of years for the Humane Society to hold multiple coin drops. Alderwoman McClure expressed the need for the three-coin drops as the Humane Society has reached out to the community on Facebook for financial help. President Talbott called for a vote on the motion. **Motion Failed.** Another motion was made and seconded (Davis, Adams) to approve the Rutland County Humane Society Coin Drop for Saturday, June 22, 2024, from 10AM to 2PM. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, McCann) to refer to the General Committee the Coin Drop Policy. **Motion passed.**

BOARD OF CONTROL COMMISSIONERS

There were no items for the Board of Control Commissioners.

BOARD OF CANNABIS COMMISSIONERS

There were no items for the Board of Cannabis Commissioners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderwoman McClure reminded the Board about the Project Vision meeting on April 11th at 12:00PM at Calvary Bible Church.

President Talbott reminded everyone that the deadline to register dogs is April 1, 2024.

Motion was made and second (McClure, McCann) to adjourn at 8:01 PM. **Motion passed.**

Respectively submitted by, Tracy L. Kapusta, City Clerk