

Amended Board of Aldermen Minutes
City of Rutland
Monday, May 20, 2024

Members present: President Talbott, Aldermen Tadio, Heck, Davis, McClure, McCann, Adams, Gillam, Whitcomb, and Savage. Also present, Mayor Doenges, Treasurer Markowski, Attorney LaChance, and City Clerk Kapusta. Alderman Barbagallo was absent.

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (May 6, 2024)

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

Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stanley Madison from 299 West Street spoke about the drug activity going on, racing on West Street, and the loud noise from modified car exhausts. Police Chief Kilcullen was in attendance and acknowledged that they are aware and that investigations do take time, but they are addressing the concerns. There is a Noise Ordinance that was recently updated.

Greg Leonard from 87 Bellevue Avenue spoke about his concerns about the impact on the side streets with increased traffic and speeding. Alderman McCann asked if Mr. Leonard had seen the data from 2014's five (5) week trial of the "Road Diet" and that traffic using the side streets decreased. Alderman Whitcomb stated he has spoken with many residents and what Mr. Leonard spoke about was the common theme that he has heard. Alderman Whitcomb made a motion to refer to the Public Works Committee a discussion regarding excepted and verified forecasting tools that could be used to measure the impact to the side streets and a discuss level of services. Alderwoman seconded the motion. There was debate and comments from Aldermen Heck and McCann. **Motion passed.**

Stacey Ludden, 802 Nutrition, Nancy Greenwood, Realtor, Tony Thomas Bixby, Attorney, all business owners on Woodstock Avenue expressed their concerns and displeasure with the "Road Diet". They all commented that no one from the city came to their businesses to ask for their opinions.

Alderman Whitcomb asked the Mayor to speak about whether the changes to Route 4 & 7 are temporary or permanent. Mayor Doenges said that in 2014 there was the option for painting temporary lines. The City was not given that option this time. Mayor Doenges said that we need to try this and see if it will work and let it run for a while based on the changes that were made. If after sometime this configuration doesn't work and it's a failure based on all the data given, the City can undo the process and there would be a fee to do that. The City would find ways to pay for that using grant money and interactions with the State. It was known from the beginning that the City was not getting a trial of the new configuration. The line markings will be permanent.

Alderman Whitcomb made a motion to refer to Public Safety Committee a discussion regarding risk mitigation strategies to emergency vehicle responses on affected roads. Seconded by Alderwoman Davis. **Motion passed.**

Patty Barclay a school bus driver, and John Pedone from North Main Street spoke about their concerns about the Route 4 & 7 "Road Diet".

Lopi LaRoe, a local artist, started by saying happy bike month to everybody. Ms. LaRoe talked about Moon Brook. In 1993 it was declared an impaired water way and is interested in revitalizing and cleaning up Moon Brook, Otter Creek, Mussey Brook and create a riparian corridor ordinance. Alderwoman Tadio made a motion to refer to the Environmental Sustainability Committee a discussion of a riparian corridor ordinance. Alderwoman McClure seconded the motion. There was some debate on the motion. Aldermen Savage, Whitcomb, McCann, Tadio, and McClure voted “yes”. Aldermen Heck, Adams, Gillam, and Davis voted “no”. **Motion failed.**

Robert Schlachter from Rutland Avenue addressed the Board about his concerns regarding the Route 4 & “Road Diet” and emergency vehicles.

Lisa Lamb, one of the business owners of Speedi Lube on the corners of Route 4 & 7 and Speedi Automotive on Woodstock Avenue, expressed her concerns about the “Road Diet”. Ms. Lamb also asked if there is any support line that businesses can call after the “Road Diet” is complete. Alderman Whitcomb made a motion to refer to the Finance Committee the creation of a mass media communication fund for the purpose of notifying residents of public hearings. Alderman McCann seconded the motion. There was discussion among Board members about the motion. **Motion passed.**

Alderman Heck made a motion to refer to the Committee of the Whole to make sure that the August 28th meeting specifically was warned accordingly per statute of the open meeting laws. Alderwoman Davis seconded for debate. Aldermen Heck, Whitcomb, Adams, Davis, and Gillam voted “yes”. Aldermen Savage, McCann, Tadio, McClure voted “no”. **Motion failed.**

Alderman Gillam called a Point of Order about some of the facts that were displayed in the room are not correct. Alderman Gillam just checked the calendar and there were three (3) meetings. July 18, July 25, and August 14th was at the Hub. Alderman Gillam wanted to make it clear that those meetings were warned, they are still on the City calendar, and they were done properly, and they were warned through the State also.

Rob Towle and Anne Carpenter also expressed their concerns about the “Road Diet”. Both also questioned where the 70/30 figure came from.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Doenges addressed some of the questions brought from Public Comment. When the State came the comment was in 2014 it was not done correctly and if it will be done now it will need to be done differently because in 2014 it didn’t work. Some of the things being done differently will be better signage, proper light configurations, and properly paving the roads. When the decision was made on the 28th it was based on the information and data that the City was being provided with from the State and the latency that would be seen at intersections was better than in 2014. Conversations are going on with DPW, Police, Fire, and the school multiply times a week to make sure this is something that is being looked at constantly. The Regional Planning Commission is the City’s asset for capturing a lot of this data transferred from the State. Sensors were placed on the roadways for all the side streets that were going to be used because that was one of the big concerns. Last October the sensors were placed on these side streets to look at how fast people were going and how many cars were going down those roads. That data will be compared when it is done because we want to look and compare. Another piece of data, that gathers GPS data from people’s cell phones, is going to be used to run reports on the past two-three years and then do another report after the road is done to see how where travel times increased. roadways@rutlandcity.org will be used to help get information out to the public.

Mayor Doenges spoke about some events that took place in the City and legislation bills that passed that will benefit Rutland. The Capital Improvement Program will kick off on Wednesday.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

President Talbott made a motion to move up Petitions, Letters, Miscellaneous Communications and add Pension Update to Reports, Letters, Miscellaneous Communication. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and seconded by Alderwoman McClure. **Motion passed.**

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

Special Event Permit: Eclipse Teen Night Club 20th Anniversary; Community Center October 19, 2024, from 6:00PM – 12:00AM

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Tadio) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Davis) to approve the Special Event Permit for Eclipse Teen Night Club 20th Anniversary at the Community Center on October 19, 2024, from 6:00PM to 12:00AM. **Motion passed.**

Special Event Permit: National Night Out; Monsignor Thomas Connor Memorial Park August 6, 2024, from 4:00PM – 7:00PM

A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Adams) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Adams) to approve the Special Event Permit for National Night Out at Monsignor Thomas Connor Memorial Park on August 6, 2024, from 4:00PM to 7:00PM. **Motion passed.**

Special Event Permit: 47th Annual Running of the Crowley Brothers Memorial Road Races & Events; Sunday, June 9, 2024, from 5:00AM – 12:00PM

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, McClure) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Davis) to approve the Special Event Permit for the 47th Annual Running of the Crowley Brothers Memorial Road Races & Events on Sunday, June 9, 2024, from 5:00AM to 12:00PM. **Motion passed.** Alderman Gillam disclosed to the Board that he is a road commissioner for the race and a volunteer and that he would be voting on the event.

Special Event Permit: Memorial Day Ceremony; West Street Cemetery Monday, May 27, 2024, from 10:00AM – 1:00PM

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, McClure) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Heck) to approve the Special Event Permit for the Memorial Day Ceremony at the West Street Cemetery on Monday, May 27, 2024, from 10:00AM to 1:00PM. **Motion passed.** Alderman Gillam disclosed that he is also involved in this event and would be voting on the event.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Fire Chief Lovett: Rebuilding Ladder Truck

Chief Lovett introduced the request. Progress on the rebuild was going as expected and assemblies were ready to be installed on the new frame. During the fitting of the pump and its transmission, it was discovered that unusual wear was reported in the transmission. If not addressed it will become a problem. The additional cost is \$31,125 above the authorized \$819,644, granted by the Board in September of 2022.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Heck) to approve the \$31,125 for the transmission pump assembly for the money to come from the Fire Equipment Replacement Fund. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Markowski: Treasurer's Report for City and RRA period ending April 30, 2024

Treasurer Markowski provided a summary of the April 30, 2024, Treasurer Reports. Government Buildings is going to be over budget, there are some things at City Hall that need to be addressed and can't wait to get fixed. Fuels tanks were red flagged, the lift by the Clerk's Office needs repair, the elevator, a water issue flowing into a window. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Adams) to refer

to the Finance Committee the fuel tanks, the lift, elevator and water issue to fund those rather than overspend the fund balance to consider using ARPA funds. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Markowski: Pension Update

Treasurer Markowski gave an overview of the Pension Board minutes from May 15, 2024. The portfolio allocation is 60% equity and 40% fixed income. The current balance of the portfolio provides a buffer of \$40 million in fixed income to be able to cover five (5) or more years of plan disbursements. As of March 31, 2024, the plan total assets were valued at \$113 million with a discount rate of 7%.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderwoman Tadio: Community & Economic Development Committee Report, May 9, 2024

Alderwoman Tadio read the committee report from the Community & Economic Development meeting on May 9, 2024. The first order of business was the review of the new Rutland Redevelopment Authority (RRA) contract for the fiscal years 2025-2029.

A motion was made to authorize the Mayor to sign the Rutland Redevelopment Authority contract for FY 25-29, pending attorney review. So moved by Alderwoman Tadio and seconded by Alderwoman McClure. **Motion passed.**

Next there was discussion about the success rates of the Business Incentive and Assistance Program (BIAP). No action was taken.

Last was discussion about the Rutland 2050 Vision Plan document. Rutland City currently has an 8-year municipal plan, but it would be helpful to have a 25-year vision plan. Once completed it would be used to attract developers to Rutland. The goal is to put a Request for Proposal (RFP) and see who comes back to the City with an affordable option. Costs for the Rutland 2050 document could possibly be covered by ARPA funds.

A motion was made to recommend to the Board of Aldermen to authorize the Mayor to issue an RFP for the Rutland 2050 document. So moved by Alderwoman Tadio and seconded by Alderwoman McClure. **Motion passed.** Aldermen Gillam, Davis and Heck voted “no”.

Alderwoman Savage: Recreation Committee Report, May 14, 2024

Alderwoman Savage read the report from the Recreation Committee meeting on May 14, 2024. The first topic was to discuss Main Street Park updates. Phase I of the renovation's bids came in much higher than expected. The project was scaled back to include updates to the gazebo with three sided steps, a lowered height with no railing providing 360 degrees visibility. There will be an ADA compliant ramp and pathway. DPW will work with the Recreation Maintenance staff to pull out the old pathways and pour the new cement sidewalks to help reduce costs. This topic will remain in committee to discuss if other phases could be added in the future.

Next the committee discussed the Giorgetti Ice Arena Refrigeration Replacement. The current system is over 50 years old, well past its lifecycle and the cost to replace is approximately \$1.6 million. Funding discussion will remain in committee and reconvene later when there is more information from the Capital Improvement Plan. In the meantime, Superintendent Peters will look for additional possible grant funding to support the project.

Director Dahlin explained that to be able to open Giorgetti Arena for the next ice season an update is needed for all current safety systems and the Rutland Recreation Department is asking for approval to spend up to \$100,000 out of the Mary Giorgetti fund.

A motion was made to approve the Rutland Recreation Department's request for funding to update all current safety systems to the current safety codes and standards at Giorgetti Arena for an amount not to exceed \$100,000 from the Giorgetti fund and to send to the full board for approval. So moved by Alderwoman Savage and seconded by Alderwoman McClure. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no Reports of Representatives.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no Reports of Select Committees.

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

Alderman McCann has been receiving some emails regarding the Green Belt ordinance and he looks forward to addressing it in Charter & Ordinance.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Alderwoman McClure thanked all those that came out for Sip n' Shop.

Alderman McCann made a motion to refer to Charter & Ordinance a review of a potential update to current ordinances as related to emergency vehicles and where drivers can safely pull over if the bike lane exists. Seconded by Alderwoman McClure. **Motion passed.**

Attorney LaChance will hold open meeting law training in August.

Motion was made and second (Davis, Heck) to adjourn at 9:42 PM. **Motion passed.**

Respectively submitted by,

Tracy L. Kapusta
City Clerk