

**Board of Aldermen Minutes
City of Rutland
Monday, June 3, 2024**

Members present: President Talbott, Aldermen Heck, Barbagallo, Savage, Whitcomb, McCann, Adams, Gillam, McCure & Davis (*Aldерwoman Tadio was absent*)

Others present: Mayor Doenges, City Attorney LaChance & Susan Clark (Deputy City Clerk)

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

President Talbott called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting; May 20, 2024

President Talbott stated the first order of business is to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and asked for a motion for the approval. Alderwoman Savage so moved and Alderwoman Davis seconded. President Talbott asked if there are any additions or deletions to the minutes. Alderman Gillam asked for an addition to the minutes under "Public Comment" to include he had called a point of order stating the public meetings on July 18, July 25 and August 14, 2023 were properly warned and under "Special Event Permits" he commented he had a conflict but still wanted to vote and stated he belonged to those groups (Crowley Road Race and Memorial Day Ceremony). President Talbott asked if the maker of the motion and the seconder is ok with the additions, in which they said they were. President Talbott then asked if there were any additional changes or correction to the minutes, there were none and the motion to approve the minutes passed.

Public Comment

President Talbott stated if there were any members of the public that wished to address the board on matters that were not on the agenda to approach the podium and state their name and town of residence for the minutes. The following people addressed their comments:

Beth Farra; Rutland City

Ms. Farra spoke of the uncleanness and pigeon excrement at the Marble Valley Transit Center and offered to help clean the area. Alderman Gillam stated the company that runs the parking deck is supposed to be maintaining the area and made a motion to move maintenance issues of the parking deck to the Parking Committee. Alderwoman McClure seconded and the motion passed. President Talbott stated he will make sure Ms. Farra will be notified of the meeting.

Pam Pariseau; Business Owner on Woodstock Avenue

Ms. Pariseau stated she has been using Woodstock Avenue for over thirty years and spoke in favor of the "Road Diet".

Don Pariseau; Owner of Champlain Valley Eye Care on Woodstock Avenue

Mr. Pariseau spoke in favor of the "Road Diet" reconfiguration and stated he is a survivor of a left-hand turn accident that occurred on Woodstock Avenue and spoke in favor of making Woodstock Avenue safer and thanked the people who voted in favor of the making the changes.

Chris Wideawake; Edgerton Street & Business owner of 110 Woodstock Avenue

Mr. Wideawake spoke in favor of the changes to be made to Woodstock Avenue and speeding that is occurring on Woodstock Avenue.

Andy Olanoff; Hillside Road

Mr. Olanoff spoke in favor and looking forward to the "Road Diet".

Larry Walter; Belmont Avenue

Mr. Walter spoke of the similarity of Ogunquit and Wells Maine road configuration to the proposed "Road Diet" and spoke in favor of the proposed reconfiguration of Woodstock Avenue being safer.

Lopi LaRoe; local artist

Ms. LaRoe spoke of living on the West and East Coasts, bike safety and in favor of the "Road Diet" and also traffic going too fast on Woodstock Avenue.

Chris Barnett; Oak Street

Mr. Barnett spoke of safety and speed of traffic on Woodstock Avenue and in favor of the changes to be made on Woodstock Avenue.

Dave Coppock; Rutland City

Mr. Coppock spoke in favor of making Woodstock Avenue safer and says the term "Road Diet" isn't the best description, rather a "Road Buffet".

Leonard Bernstein; Rutland City

Mr. Bernstein spoke in support of the "Road Diet" and the lack of crosswalks in the city.

Communications from the Mayor

Mayor Doenges stated the theme for Woodstock Avenue is safety, spoke of outreach that has been going on; housing, Boys & Girls Club teen center opening, Dismas House, VFW Memorial Day Ceremony and being on the radio talking and advocating for Rutland and thanked all those who were involved. Mayor Doenges stated Police officers Olson and Falco graduated from the Rutland Police Academy. Alderwoman Davis asked about the Police Union and negotiations. Mayor Doenges stated they are waiting for the process of switching unions to be complete and stated DPW negotiations will begin this week.

Additions and Deletions to the agenda

President Talbott stated he would like to move the Special Event Permit to the top of the agenda and Alderwoman Davis moved to add an executive session for Ed Bove of the RRA to give an update on a potential TIFT district in which Alderman Gillam seconded all were in favor and the motion passed.

Petitions, Letters, Miscellaneous Communication

Special Event Permit: Boys & Girls Club Summer Kick Off Event, June 14, 2024, from 5:00PM–7:00PM

Alderwoman McClure asked if there was a representative of the Boys & Girls Club present to speak on the issue (there was not). Alderwoman Davis moved to suspend the rules. Alderman Heck seconded and the motion passed. Alderwoman Davis moved for the approval of the Boys & Girls Club Summer Kickoff Event to be held on June 14. Alderman Gillam seconded. Alderwoman McClure requested a representative from the Boys & Girls Club get back in touch with the board after approving this permit and brought up the issue of garbage and trash onsite after events, which is in the Environmental Sustainability Committee, and wants to be sure areas stay clean after events and to pass that message along to the applicants. President Talbott stated he will have the Clerk's office do that and asked if there were any additional discussion or debate, there was none and the motion passed.

Reports and Letters from Department Heads and Officials

Fire Chief Lovett: Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Award

Fire Chief Lovett stated there were five companies that responded to a RPF for Hazzard Mitigation Plans that were prequalified by the state of Vermont in which he and the Mayor reviewed. Fire Chief Lovett stated the Rutland Regional Planning Commission rose to the top and requested for the board to authorize him to make contact with them. Alderman McCann moved to suspend the rules. Alderwoman McClure seconded and the motion passed. Alderman McCann moved to authorize Fire Chief Lovett to select the Rutland Regional Planning Commission for development of the Hazzard Mitigation Plan. Alderwoman McClure seconded. Alderman Heck asked if the Chief is looking to utilize the entity for grant proposals or seek out grant opportunities. Fire Chief Lovett explained this covers bridges, DPW projects, flood mitigation issues and stormwater issues. Alderman Gillam spoke of materials in East Creek that may cause future flooding and after brief discussion, President Talbott stated the motion to authorize the Chief to select the Rutland Regional Planning Commission for the Hazzard Mitigation Plan via the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant Award. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Barbara Spaulding, RRA: Business Incentive Assistance Program (BIAP) application for DeSilva's Karate LLC

Ms. Spaulding stated the DeSilva's are applying for a \$10,000 BIAP forgivable loan to open a martial art school and fitness center at 41 East Center Street in Rutland and explained the loan will be used to accommodate fitness instruction and purchase necessary equipment and expenses are expected to be approximately \$30,000.00. Ms. Spaulding stated the application meets the criteria of the BIAP by both hiring two new full-time positions as well as personal financial investment of \$10,000 or more. Ms. Spaulding stated the RRA board has reviewed the application and recommend the Board of Aldermen approve the request. Elizabeth & Will DeSilva were present to answer questions from the board. Mr. Silva explained his venture to the board.

Alderwoman Davis moved to suspend the rules and Alderman McCann seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed. Alderwoman Davis moved for the approval of the BIAP loan for \$10,000 forgivable to DeSilva's Karate LLC. Alderwoman Savage seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Barbara Spaulding, RRA: Business Incentive Assistance Program (BIAP) application for Nolan's Auto Repair

Ms. Spaulding stated Michelle Pearson is applying for a \$10,000.00 BIAP forgivable loan and referral to Heritage Family Credit Union for a secured loan to expand Nolan's Auto Repair located at 154 Granger Street in Rutland. Nolan's Auto has been in business since 1986. Ms. Spaulding said the loan will be used to purchase equipment and computers and hire two new full-time positions to better meet the needs of the community. Ms. Spaulding stated application meets the criteria of the BIAP by hiring two new full-time positions. Ms. Spaulding stated the RRA board has reviewed the application and recommend Board of Aldermen approve this request. Ms. Pearson was present to answer questions from the board. Alderman Whitcomb asked if this is a transfer of ownership and are they expecting to tap into new markets. Ms. Pearson said yes and said she has created a Facebook Page. Alderman Gillam stated this is in a properly zoned area for this business. Alderman McCann moved to suspend the rules. Alderwoman Davis seconded and the motion passed. Alderwoman Davis moved for the approval of the \$10,000.00 BIAP forgivable loan to Nolan's Auto Repair and refer to Heritage Family Credit Union. Alderwoman McClure seconded. Alderman McCann asked if there was enough space to operate at the location. Ms. Pearson said yes. The motion to approve then passed.

Assistant Engineer Gillen: GMP Utility Pole Installation Request

Alderman Gillam moved to suspend the rules and take the matter up tonight. Alderwoman McClure seconded and the motion passed. Mr. Gillen was outside the rail and stated Green Mountain Power requested to install a utility pole at 217 Dorr Drive and looked at utility conduits and recommended the approval. Alderman Gillam moved to approve Green Mountain Power request to install a utility pole near 217 ½ Dorr Drive with the seven standard conditions. Alderwoman Davis seconded and the motion passed.

Reports of Standing Committees

There were none

Reports of Representatives

There were none

Reports of Select Committees Environmental Sustainability Committee report from May 28, 2024;

Special Events Permit applications-adding an environmental plan to the application

Alderman McCann read Alderwoman Tadio's committee report in her absence and stated he made a motion in committee to add the following question to the Special Events Permit application pending attorney review: "What arrangements have been made to minimize trash and minimize environmental impact?" The motion in committee passed 3-0. Alderman McCann then stated he realized after re-reading the committee report that a little bit of language was missed to include a question about how the applicant would deal with trash they generated and, if board members were ok, to either move to suspend the rules, adjust the language and propose a slightly different question to be added or leave the issue in committee. Discussion began. Alderman Gillam suggested having the Rutland County Solid Waste District contact information as part of the permit and after brief discussion the issue remained in committee.

(Note: At the 6/17/2024 Aldermen meeting, Alderman McCann stated he would like the minutes to be amended to reflect the motion from committee was voted down on the floor and the issue remains in committee).

Light Ordinance Referral

Alderman McCann read Alderwoman Tadio's committee report in her absence and stated the Light Ordinance would remain in committee for further discussion.

Board of Control Commissioners

There were none

Board of Cannabis Commissioners

There were none

Unfinished Business

There were none

Miscellaneous Motions, Resolutions, New Business

Alderman McCann made a motion to suggest reconsideration of all of the language for consistency and grammatical correctness for the Rules of the Board of Aldermen to the Charter & Ordinance Committee for review. Alderman Davis seconded. Alderman McCann stated the intent is not to change any of the rules, just a cleanup. The motion then passed.

Alderman Heck stated he has two items; the first being the referral he made to City Attorney LaChance a few weeks ago regarding the Zoning Ordinance change whether it was properly documented and warned to make sure the process was followed properly and the second item being GovPilot for Special Event Permits versus the paper form application for Special Event Permits stating it is a big chore for the Clerk's office try to eliminate duplicate things that may not be up to date on GovPilot. President Talbott stated Clerk's office informed him the old form is still available online to accommodate those who are not comfortable filling out the online form; it allows the applicant to fill out the paper form then the Clerk's office enters the information into GovPilot because GovPilot makes it easier to gather the necessary signatures from the department heads. Alderman Heck said if the Clerk's office is responsible for transferring information, they should be transferring the proper information or if questions aren't being filled out, they need to go back to the applicant. President Talbott asked Alderman Heck what information he felt did not get transferred. Alderman Heck referred to the collection of waste or the clean up after the event. Alderman McCann and President Talbott explained the Environmentally Sustainability Committee reviewed an older version of the Special Events Permit that was reported out tonight. President Talbott stated the legacy paper form has been used for over the past decade and what currently is used by the Clerk's office is the GovPilot form online and clarified the question about waste removal is on GovPilot but not the paper form and doesn't believe the Board of Aldermen has to vote on adding a question to the form but could if the board chooses to do so. City Attorney LaChance stated any information that is not on the paper form is requested from the applicants on Gov Pilot and Department Heads do a follow up. Alderman Adams stated he didn't feel this is a relevant topic to be taken up by the Board of Aldermen. Alderman Heck stated he has a problem with multiple forms and if ordinances aren't properly recorded downstairs (in the Clerk's office), President Talbott interjected stating there is no motion on the floor and asked if Alderman Heck would like to put a motion on the floor, in which he stated not at this time. Alderman McCann made a request for the Mayor to work with the Clerk's office to ensure the print form questions match the questions that are approved in GovPilot for Special Event Permits. Alderman Gillam said he feels one step is missing from the process when a Special Event Permit comes to the Board of Aldermen meeting, the applicant does not know when the meeting is and to follow up with the applicant when the permit gets approved. Mayor Doenges agreed with the requests. Alderman Heck asked again for a timeline from City Attorney LaChance regarding the ordinance change. Attorney LaChance stated it was properly warned in the newspaper according to the Herald. Alderman Heck again stated the ordinances should be updated in the vault to reflect that. President Talbott stated the online version of GovPilot ordinance is up to date and then asked if there were any other miscellaneous motions, resolutions or new business to come before the board. There was none.

President Talbott stated a motion is needed to go into executive session and asked City Attorney LaChance for the language to enter executive session. Alderwoman Davis stated executive session is an update on a TIFT District from the RRA director Ed Bove. City Attorney LaChance stated the necessary motion for this would be *"a motion to find that premature general and public knowledge regarding the negotiation of a contract would clearly place the city at a substantial disadvantage because the discussion would divulge the board's position on the contract provisions to the negotiated"*, in which Alderwoman Davis so moved. Alderman Gillam seconded and the motion passed. President Talbott asked for a motion to go into executive session, in which Alderman Davis so moved and Alderwoman McClure seconded. City Attorney LaChance asked for the motion to enter into executive session with the inclusion of the Mayor, Clerk, City Attorney and Ed Bove. President Talbott asked if the seconder was ok with the amendment. All were in favor and the motion passed; the meeting went into executive session at 8:09 PM and at 8:40 PM, Alderwoman Davis moved to go out of executive session. Alderman McCann seconded and the motion passed. Alderwoman Davis moved to adjourn the Board of Aldermen meeting. Alderman Whitcomb seconded and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan A. Clark

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Deputy City Clerk