

Board of Aldermen Minutes

City of Rutland

Monday, June 17, 2024

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

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (June 3, 2024)

A motion was made and seconded (Savage, Barbagallo) approving the minutes from the previous meeting. President Talbott asked if there were any additions or deletions to the minutes. Alderman McCann asked for an addition to the Environmental Sustainability committee report. When the committee report was read, the minutes did not reflect a vote being turned down. President Talbott then asked if there were any other additional changes or corrections, there were none. **Motion passed.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Amila Merdzanovic, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants spoke about the program in Vermont and the many successes. There were also businesses in attendance that spoke about employing refugees and the great work ethic they bring. It is anticipated that for a 12-month period starting October 1, Rutland should receive another 100 refugees or 15-20 families.

Michael Daly, Turning Point Recovery Center Rutland spoke about how the center helps people deal with addiction. On August 31st they are looking to hold an overdose awareness event at Depot Park and on September 7th the Stomping Out Stigma event at Meadow Street Park.

William Fourney-Mills and Sam Davis-Boyd reminded the Board about the 2nd Annual Rutland County Pride Festival that takes place this Saturday, June 22nd. In addition, on June 21st there will be a Youth Pride Prom that will be held at the Rutland Boys and Girls Club.

Susan Schreibman on behalf of the Rutland Creek Path invited the Board and public to the installation of the new bicycle and pedestrian bridge at Meadow Street Park and East Creek, on July 1 around 11AM.

Lopi LaRoe read a letter from Bianca a Rutland City resident who is in favor of the “road diet”. Ms. LaRoe also asked about the entrance at Wales Street to the Center Street Market Park. Ms. LaRoe said that it is always locked on Wales Street. President Talbott informed Ms. LaRoe that the reason it is locked on the Wales Street side is because that side is private property.

Patrick Griffin a licensed professional engineer put his support behind the trial period for the “road diet”.

Larry Walter, Theresa Haywood, and Gina Grove all spoke in favor of the “road diet”.

Dave Coppock provided some crash data from 7/2010 to 6/2024 on Woodstock Avenue and how the “road diet” will help with safety.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Doenges alerted the public to an official notice of a rabid racoon in the City and asked that everyone take precautions when coming in contact.

The City is at the end of the fiscal year and Mayor Doenges has discussed with Department Heads about keeping within budget. The Police Department will be over budget, and this will be the first time in many years.

H.687 was vetoed by the Governor and Mayor Doenges just learned that the Legislature overrode the veto as this bill will be a great benefit for Rutland City.

Mayor Doenges would like to refer to the Public Works committee water and wastewater permits and incentives for discussion. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) to refer water and wastewater permits and incentives to the Public Works Committee. **Motion passed.**

Mayor Doenges will be at the Pride Festival this weekend and will read a proclamation for the event.

Mayor Doenges would like the Board to send discussion of a hotel that Belden wants to build on Center and Wales Streets to committee. Talks with the Belden's have accelerated in the past two weeks. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, McClure) to refer discussion of a potential Berwick Hotel to the Community and Economic Development Committee. **Motion passed.**

Mayor Doenges made a request to add an executive session to the agenda to discuss a matter of security, that falls under 1 V.S.A. Section 313(a)(10) security or emergency response measures, the disclosure of which could jeopardize public safety.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

President Talbott made a motion to add an executive session to the end of the agenda to discuss a matter of security. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and seconded by Alderwoman Savage. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Assistant Engineer Gillen: Resolution of Support – VTrans Small Scale Bicycle & Pedestrian Grant

Assistant Engineer Gillen introduced the request. Public Works has plans to make improvements to the sidewalk network in the neighborhood surrounding the Rutland Intermediate School. The scope of the work includes replacing and installing new sidewalks in the areas of Church and Seabury Street. The preliminary cost estimate for the proposed sidewalk project is \$225K. The maximum award for this grant is \$75K, which requires a 50% match. The match can be paid for through in-kind services, such as labor and equipment hours provided by DPW staff, which is the majority of the project cost.

A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Savage) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Savage) to circulate for signatures a Resolution of Support for the VTrans Small Scale Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Application. **Motion passed.**

Police Chief Kilcullen: Police Department RFP replacement of rooftop HVAC units

Chief Kilcullen introduced the request to issue an RFP for HVAC Systems at the Police Station. System controls were upgraded last year at a cost of approximately \$60K. A Level 2 Energy Assessment was performed in 2023 as part of the City's Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP). This assessment included a detailed building survey and energy analysis of the building systems to identify and quantify savings opportunities. The building's roof top units (RTU's) are at the end of their useful life. Recent failures with the RTU's have caused significant repair expenses over the past couple of months.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to suspend the rules. **Motion passed.** A motion was made and seconded (Davis, McClure) to issue a "Request for Proposals" to replace the roof top units at the Police Station. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer Markowski: Treasurer's Report for City and RRA period ending May 31, 2024

Treasurer Markowski was not in attendance but had requested that the report be received and filed. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to receive and file the Treasurer's Report for City and RRA period ending May 31, 2024. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman McCann: Charter & Ordinance Committee Report from June 4, 2024

Alderman McCann read the committee report from the Charter & Ordinance meeting on June 4, 2024. The first order of business was the listing of agenda items for the Board of Aldermen. Rule 5 of the Rules and Order of Business of the Board of Aldermen (BOA) of the City of Rutland defines the order of business, commonly referred to as the agenda, for BOA meetings. The changes suggested included:

1. Identifying modification of the agenda as the first act of business to ensure compliance with 1 V.S.A. §312 of the Vermont Statutes.
2. Including consideration of special event permits directly after Communications from the Mayor. Currently, this item is considered under Petitions, Letters, Miscellaneous Communications; however, it is commonly moved up in the agenda. Making this change is expected to minimize changes to future agendas.

A motion was made and seconded (McCann, Tadio) to approve a change to Rule 5 such that the Order of Business would be as follows:

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Additions, deletions, or other modifications to the agenda.
3. Amendment and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting or meetings.
4. Public Comment
5. Communications from the Mayor.
6. Consideration of special event permit requests.
7. Reports and letters from department heads and officials.
8. Reports of standing committees.
9. Reports of select committees.
10. Reports of representatives.
11. Petitions, letters, miscellaneous communications.
12. Board of Control Commissioners.
13. Board of Cannabis Commissioners.
14. Unfinished business.
15. Miscellaneous motions, resolutions, new business. All questions on priority will be decided without debate.

Motion passed.

The second order of business related to a Short-Term Rental (STR) Ordinance. Items of concern were presented, and several suggestions were made to improve the process and ensure success. No motions were made, and it remains in committee for further consideration.

Alderman McCann: Charter & Ordinance Committee Report from June 11, 2024

Alderman McCann read the report from the Charter & Ordinance Committee meeting on June 11, 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a green belt parking ordinance as well as a road and driveway ordinance. A motion was made and seconded (McCann, McClure) to amend the Rutland City Ordinances § 5041 Stopping, Standing or Parking Prohibited; No Signs Required. (a) No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with law or the directions of a police officer or traffic-control device, in any of the following places: (15) Between the sidewalk and the traveled portion of the ~~any~~ highway ~~North Main Street, South Main Street and Woodstock Avenue~~, **over the edge of a curb, or within the City's right-of-way inclusive of green space immediately adjoining the traveled portion of the highway**, provided however, that when adverse weather conditions necessitate during the period from the first day of December to the 31st day of March persons may stop, stand or park vehicles in said area with the written permission of the chief of police. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no Reports of Representatives.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Alderwoman McClure: Human Resources committee report from June 13, 2024

Alderwoman McClure read the report from the Human Resources committee meeting on June 13, 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to revisit the Rutland City Aldermen Social Media Guidance policy. It was decided by the committee that the policy was not conclusive enough and the issue remains in committee for further discussion.

PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATION

There were no Petitions, Letters, Miscellaneous Communication.

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 heard from some constituents that road closures for special events are not communicated out to the public. A motion was made and seconded (McClure, Adams) to refer discussion of communication of street closures for special event permits to the Community & Economic Development committee. **Motion passed.**

Alderman McCann read a letter from Carol Wright who is in support of the “road diet”.

President Talbott asked Attorney LaChance to read the motions for executive session. A motion to find that premature general public knowledge regarding security or emergency response measures a disclosure of which could jeopardize public safety. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and seconded by Alderwoman McClure. **Motion passed.** A motion to enter into executive session with the inclusion of the Mayor, City Clerk, Chief of Police and City Attorney to discuss the matter of security under 1 V.S.A. Section 313(a) (10). So moved by Alderwoman Savage and seconded by Alderman Adams. **Motion passed.**

At 8:23 the Board went into executive session.

At 8:41 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Adams) to come out of executive session. **Motion passed.**

At 8:41 PM a motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Adams) to adjourn. **Motion passed.**

Respectively submitted by,

Tracy L. Kapusta
City Clerk