

Minutes from the 09/05/2024 Rutland City Charter and Ordinance Committee Meeting

Committee Members in Attendance:

☐ Board Member
Barbagallo

☐ Board Member McCann

☐ Board Member Tadio

☐ Board Member Savage

☐ Board President Talbott

☐ Board Member Gillam

Others in Attendance: Board Members Davis and McClure, Chief Kilcullen, Attorney LaChance, Legal Extern Katherine Alvarez Rios, Ethan Pepin, and Gordon Dritschilo from the Rutland Herald.

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

The first item of discussion was regarding bicycle use on Woodstock Avenue & Main Street. Board Member McCann shared information he had found with assistance from Police Chief Kilcullen, City Engineer Gillen, and RRPC Transportation Planner Pepin. This included portions of the 2020 Rutland City Master Plan, the Vermont Statutes, and the Rutland City Ordinances. Chief Kilcullen shared an additional component of the Rutland City Ordinance that was germane to the topic. Ultimately, there does not appear to be anything that currently prohibits bicycle use on Woodstock Ave or Main Street. If specific safety concerns come up in areas where bike lanes are not present, the Police Chief has some latitude to put additional controls in place at their discretion.

Board Member Barbagallo made a motion that this item be removed from committee. The motion passed 3-0.

The second item of discussion was regarding the adoption of new parking violation fines. The Committee considered the existing fines identified in Title 27, Chapter 4, §5201(a) of the Rutland City Ordinances, suggestions for updated fines approved by the Parking Committee, additional fine changes suggested by the City Attorney, and additional fine changes suggested by the Mayor in consultation with other members of the City staff. Board Member Tadio made a motion to make the following changes to the parking fines defined in §5201(a):

- The fines for parking in a designated disability zone by someone other than a disabled person or passenger and for parking too near or at a fire hydrant would each be set at \$150.
- The fines for parking on a sidewalk, parking in a crosswalk, and violating the winter parking ban would each be set at \$75.
- A fine for violating the greenbelt parking ban would be added and set at \$30.
- The fine for overparking at a space subject to a parking payment system, would be set at \$30 for the first offense, \$45 for the second offense, and \$60 for each subsequent offense.
- The fine for overparking at a designated time zone, would be set at \$25 the first offense, \$35 for the second offense, and \$50 for each subsequent offense.
- The fine for all other violations would be set at \$25.

The remainder of §5201 would be unchanged. The motion passed 3-0.

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It should be noted that the \$30 fine for violating the green belt parking ban is intended to be an introductory fine with the Charter and Ordinance Committee considering an increase in the fine after the ban has been in place for about a year.

The third item of discussion was regarding an update to the Board of Aldermen Rules and Order of Business. The Committee reviewed changes proposed by Board Member McCann. The majority of the changes are intended to correct grammatical mistakes and increase consistency. Other changes were suggested to improve clarity of meaning. Substantive changes included:

- An amendment to Rule 8 that better defines the timeframe in which the City Clerk will provide referral language to appropriate committees and officers.
- An amendment to Rule 8 that allows the City Clerk to provide digital or hard copies of pertinent documentation to new Board Members, per the new Board Member's preference.
- An amendment to Rule 9 that provides a definition of a Standing Committee.
- An amendment to Rule 10 that provides a definition of a Select Committee.
- An amendment to Rule 10 that clarifies that the presiding officer may also dissolve a Select Committee.
- An amendment to Rule 13 that defines a quorum for committees.

Board member Barbagallo made a motion to accept the changes to the Rules and Order of Business as presented. The motion passed 3-0.

There was additional discussion about a change to the Rules and Order of Business that was approved by the General Committee and the Full Board in 2017, but does not appear to have ever actually been added to the rules. This was in regard to prohibiting "shadow communications". This would include both secretive communications, electronic or otherwise, during public meetings that would sway a Board Member's actions or decisions without making the information public as well as communications during executive sessions that would reveal the content of that session to those not participating in the session.

There was consensus that no additional action was currently needed for the current City Attorney to draft an amendment to the Rules and Order of Business and bring that back to the Board for review to meet the intent of the Board's earlier request.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.