

Board of Aldermen Minutes
City of Rutland
Monday, October 21, 2024

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

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

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

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR OTHER MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

President Talbott asked if there were any additions, deletions or other modifications to the agenda. President Talbott made a request to remove the Special Event Permit Request for Patrick Dwyer, an executive session and Alderwoman Savage's Recreation Committee report. President Talbott then requested that Alderwoman Tadio's committee report be moved up to immediately following Ed Bove's presentation. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and seconded by Alderman Gillam. Motion Passed.

AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S) (October 7, 2024)

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) approving the minutes from the previous meeting. President Talbott asked if there were any changes or corrections, there were none. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Maggie O'Brien: Rutland Regional Planning Commission Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Draft

Maggie O'Brien from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission gave a presentation on the Rutland City Draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). The City of Rutland is accepting the first round of public comments for the working draft of LHMP through November 8th. The Board of Aldermen meeting to be held on November 4th will be the only in-person opportunity to submit public feedback. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/rutlandlhmp25> to view a copy of the draft plan. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) to refer the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Draft to the Public Safety Committee. Motion passed.

Corissa Burnell, Co-Executive Director of the Rutland Parent Child Center (RPCC) of Rutland County was requesting support for an ADA ramp to be built on the Center's property on Chapin Avenue to accommodate a child who uses a wheelchair. Assistant Engineer Gillen had, a couple years ago worked with a previous director who had asked for a ramp and the Board had granted permission with a few conditions that they replace several segments of sidewalk in front of the ramp. Assistant Engineer Gillen stated that in a couple weeks a bid will be going out to replace the water main on Chaplin Avenue. Assistant Engineer Gillen stated that the water main would be fixed this year and the street scape next year which would allow the City to work with RPCC on plans for the ramp. A motion was made and seconded (McClure, Davis) to refer the issue to the Public Works committee. There was discussion about the need and timeframe if referred to committee. Alderwoman McClure withdrew her motion. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Adams) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Heck) to permit the RPCC to construct an ADA ramp within the city right away pending final approval by the Public Works Commissioner. Motion passed.

Karen and Scott McCalla from 26 Hillcrest Road made a request to the Board to consider removing the 10 Commandments monument from Main Street Park. As part or as a convenience for some of the stuff that is already happening there and the reason they are asking is because it is in the fenced area that delineates where the path should go. They had wanted that monument to not be in the Park for some time but for years there were big bushes around it, and they never noticed it or knew it was there. But now it is obvious that the monument might

be better served on an equally visible part of Route 7 that doesn't belong to the City. A motion was made and seconded (McClure, McCann) to refer the request to the Recreation Committee. Motion failed.

Lyle Jepson from CEDRR thanked the City for their support for the Whoopie Pie Festival and stated it would not have gone on as well as it did without the assistance of DPW and all the hours they spent on the festival. Mr. Jepson also gave an update on the Regional Marketing Initiative campaign. A couple weekends ago they welcomed five families for a visit from Virginia, Texas, Illinois, State of Washington and Massachusetts. The last campaign reached over 800,000 people via social media. Wednesday this week CEDRR will hold their annual meeting at the Paramount Theater from 5-7PM, all are welcome to attend.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Un-table Lori Arner, RRA Board of Directors Nominee

Mayor Doenges introduced the request. Alderwoman Davis and Alderman Gillam moved and seconded the removal of the nomination from the table. Motion passed. The nomination the Board will vote on is Lori Arner for the Board of Directors for the Rutland Redevelopment Authority. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Adams) to circulate the ballot box. Motion passed. Clerk Kapusta gathered all the votes and presented them to Attorney LaChance for verification.

Mayoral Proclamation for Daisy Moore

Mayor Doenges recognized Paramedic Daisy Moore, who was awarded the Star of Life award from Regional Ambulance Service. Mayor Doenges read a Proclamation for Daisy Moore.

President Talbott confirmed the appointment of Lori Arner to the Board of Directors for Rutland Redevelopment Authority by a vote of 9 yes votes and zero no votes.

Mayor Doenges announced that Planning and Zoning Administrator Andrew Strniste has given his notice and is taking a position to be the Director of Community Planning in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Mayor Doenges recognized City Attorney Megan LaChance for receiving the Rising Star Award.

Mayor Doenges spoke briefly about Rutland's delegation that visited Hanamaki, Japan as they celebrated 35 years of friendship between the two communities. Mayor Doenges intends on starting a committee to begin planning for the delegation from Hanamaki, Japan who will be visiting Rutland in 2026.

Mayor Doenges spoke about the Creek Path ribbon cutting and the endless amount of people and volunteers and work from City Departments that have been a part of the construction of the path. There is one more segment to be done and that is number 5 and it must be completed by 2028.

With the announcement of Walmart relocating there are two things that need to be done. One is the need for referral to committee for discussion. Mayor Doenges would like to refer the topic of Rutland Downtown Plaza space and the relocation of Walmart to the Community & Economic Development committee. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and Alderwoman McClure. Motion passed. The second topic is starting a task force to look at filling the space after Walmart relocates and what the process will be to reaching out to a new tenant.

Last week a new program started called Roof's Over Rutland and the idea is to build more housing in Rutland. Heritage Family Credit Union (HFCU) will have a total of \$8M to loan out of which 10% of that amount will have a 1% interest rate loan. HFCU will loan out the money for new housing. \$3M will be for four-unit housing units and \$5M for five or more housing units.

Mayor Doenges asked for a referral to the Public Safety committee for a discussion about a truck parade and escorts by Police and Fire for local schools' tournaments. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and seconded by Alderwoman McClure. Motion passed.

Mayor Doenges asked for a referral to the Community & Economic Development Committee for the discussion of Food Truck Vendors operating on City property. So moved by Alderman Adams and Alderman Gillam. Motion passed.

CONSIDERATAION OF SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT REQUESTS

SEP: Lindsey Etcheson, Hallow-Rockin-Ween, Thursday, October 31, 2024, 4PM-8PM

A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Gillam) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Davis) to approve the Special Event Permit for Hallow-Rockin-Ween on Thursday, October 31, 2024, from 4PM-8PM. Motion passed.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Ed Bove, RRA: Stephanie Clarke, White & Burke; TIF District Plan Review and LOI Submission

Ed Bove, RRA introduced Stephanie Clarke from White & Burke. Ms. Clarke spoke about the Rutland TIF District Plan Review and the Letter of Intent (LOI) Submission. Assuming the Board approves the signing of the LOI to apply to the State, the letter will be sent to Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC) for purposes of getting in the "queue" with VEPC.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderwoman Tadio: Community & Economic Development Meeting from September 25, 2024

Alderwoman Tadio read the committee report from the Community & Economic Development meeting on September 25, 2024. Stephanie Clarke from White & Burke gave a presentation on the benefits and how a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District works and the proposed Rutland TIF list of projects that could be included in the TIF.

A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Gillam) to recommend the Board of Aldermen sign the Letter of Intention to form the Tax Increment Finance District. Motion passed.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Barbara Spaulding, RRA: Business Incentive Assistance Program application, Make It Sew

Barbara Spaulding, RRA presented the application for a Business Incentive Assistance Program (BIAP) Forgivable Loan. The applicant is Jennifer Usher and is requesting a \$10,000 BIAP Forgivable Loan to expand her business into 67 Center Street. The application meets the criteria for expansion of an existing business by exceeding the minimum of \$10,000 in personal financial investment and in the creation of two full-time jobs.

A motion was made and seconded (Heck, Gillam) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Heck, Adams) to approve the \$10,000 BIAP Loan to Make It Sew. Motion passed.

Superintendent Peters: Approval for Mayor to sign RAHA Contract for 2024/2025 Season; Ice Rink Program Updates; Halloween Parade update and Public Service Announcement; Facility Rentals & Winter Sports/Opportunities

Superintendent Peters asked for the Board's approval for the Mayor to sign the RAHA contract for the 2024/2025 season. A motion was made and seconded (Adams, Gillam) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Adams) to authorize the Mayor to sign the RAHA Contract for the 2024/2025 season. Motion passed.

Superintendent Peters gave updates on the Ice Rink Program, Halloween Parade, facility rentals and winter sports opportunities. Superintendent Peters also read a Public Service Announcement from the Police Department regarding the Halloween Parade and a show that is being held at the Paramount Theater at the same time.

Assistant Engineer Gillen: Request to Approve Traffic Safety Scoping Study Agreement

Assistant Engineer Gillen introduced the request for the Board to grant Commissioner Protivansky the authority to sign the scoping study contract with Stantec Consulting Services for the intersections of U.S. Route 7 and U.S. Route 4.

A motion was made and seconded (McCann, Gillam) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (McCann, Heck) to grant the Public Works Commissioner the authority to sign the U.S. Route 7/ U.S. Route 4 Intersections Scoping Study Contract Agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, following review and approval by the City Attorney. Motion passed.

Treasurer Markowski: Request for RFP for Financing Johnson Control Energy Performance Contract \$4,900,565 for 20-year term

Treasurer Markowski introduced the request. Back on September 16, 2024, the Board approved the Johnson Control project that included the need to obtain financing for the \$4,900,565 project. Although this is after the fact, Treasurer Markowski would like the Board's authorization to seek proposals for the financing and have the terms outlined in the City records. The RFP went out on Tuesday, October 15th and are due by October 25th and will be presented to the Finance Committee before a recommendation is presented to the Board for consideration.

A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Davis) to table the financing until the Finance Committee meeting on October 29th. There was discussion and debate among the Board members. Alderwoman Tadio rescinded her motion to table and the seconder, Alderwoman Davis agreed. A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, McClure) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. Alderwoman Davis voted no. A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, McCann) to authorize the City Treasurer to seek proposals for tax-exempt lease purchase for an energy performance contract with Johnson Controls in the amount of \$4,900,565 for a term of 20 years. There was more discussion and debate among Board members. Alderwoman Tadio amended her motion to table the financing until the October 29th Finance Committee meeting. The seconder agreed. Motion passed. Alderman Heck voted no.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no Reports of Select Committees.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

There were no Reports of Representatives.

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

Retailers Renewal: Somewhere on the Mountain

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Heck) to enter into the Board of Cannabis Commissioners. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Heck, Davis) to approve the Retailers Renewal for Somewhere on the Mountain. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to go out of the Board of Cannabis Commissioners. Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS. ALL QUESTIONS ON PRIORITY WILL BE DECIDED WITHOUT DEBATE

Alderman Heck stated that a couple folks have reached out to him about vacant buildings and trespassing signs. An individual was told that they needed to register their no trespassing signs for them to be valid against squatters. Mayor Doenges stated that in Rutland City it is a requirement to register vacant properties. So, if the property is vacant the property owner is required to register it. If they want to put up a no trespassing sign there is no registration for that. If a property owner wanted to let the Police Department know that they have put up no trespassing signs that is ok.

Alderman Heck expressed his concern with the upcoming election and there is no left-hand turn lane as you head East on Woodstock Avenue to Deer Street. He asked that the City be proactive and let the voters know that there is no left hand turn there. Mayor Doenges stated that he would work with some City Department Heads to remedy the situation or put out a public service announcement.

Alderwoman Davis made a motion to refer to the Traffic Committee a request for "Slow Children at Play" sign for Cherry Street and that there are also some sight issues concerns on the corner of Cherry and Franklin. Alderman McCann seconded the motion. Motion passed.

At 8:54 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, McCann) to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectively submitted by,

Tracy L. Kapusta
City Clerk