

**Board of Aldermen Minutes
City of Rutland
Tuesday, September 2, 2025**

Members present: President Allaire, Aldermen Cupoli, Clifford, Whitcomb, Talbott, Alderwoman Tadio, Aldermen Donahue, Gillam and Alderwoman McClure. Alderwoman Savage was absent. Also present Mayor Doenges and Deputy City Clerk Clark.

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

President Allaire 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 Allaire asked if there are any changes to the agenda and stated he has two; he would like to move Police Chief Kilcullen's executive session to the end of the meeting and would like to add Treasurer Markowski's engagement letter from the auditors and asked for a motion for those two changes. Alderwoman Davis so moved. Alderman Gillam seconded and the motion passed.

AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (August 18, 2025)

Alderman Talbott moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Alderwoman Davis seconded and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Pearo; 10 Melrose Avenue

Mr. Pearo asked "where do we go from here", referring to a resolution that was voted on at the previous Aldermen meeting and felt it caused division with the board. Mr. Pearo also expressed his displeasure of comments that were made by some board members.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Rutland Planning Commission Appointment; Un-table Clair Purcell

Mayor Doenges stated his first request is to un-table the nomination of Clair Purcell to the Rutland Planning Commission and circulate the ballot box. Alderman Talbott made a motion to un-table and circulate the ballot box. Alderwoman Tadio seconded and the motion passed. The Clerk circulated the ballot box. President Allaire stated Treasurer Markowski will count the results (the result was announced at the end of Mayor Doenges' communications).

JCI (presentation)

Mayor Doenges stated there have been requests to have JCI come to a board meeting for a presentation and said a team member will do so at the next board meeting.

Purdue Settlement & Alvogen Settlement

Mayor Doenges stated Attorney Bloomer has reviewed the settlements and said if the board agrees, a motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the documents. Alderman Gillam moved to suspend the rules and take the matter up tonight. Alderwoman Davis seconded and the motion passed. Alderwoman Tadio moved to authorize the Mayor to execute all documents necessary to participate in the settlements with Purdue and Alvogen. Alderman Clifford seconded. Alderwoman Davis stated an email was sent from Attorney Bloomer stating "execute all documents necessary to participate in the settlements and the eight secondary manufacturers" as a second motion. The motion passed. Mayor Doenges explained there is also a small handful of secondary manufacturers of settlement and if the board would like to do so, a similar motion to participate in the secondary manufacture settlement would be in order. Alderwoman Davis asked if we need to opt in or what does the board need to do. Mayor Doenges stated we are opted in to this, or we can opt out. Alderman Talbott asked if another motion is needed. Mayor Doenges said yes. Alderman Talbott made a motion to suspend the rules and take the matter up. Alderwoman Davis seconded and the motion passed.

Alderman Talbott made a motion to authorize the Mayor to execute all documents necessary to participate in the settlements with the eight secondary manufacturers. Alderwoman Davis seconded and the motion passed.

107 West Street Lease (parking lot-option to purchase)

Mayor Doenges explained the City entered into lease agreement with MKF Properties several years ago and is looking for the board to refer to the Finance Committee, in which Alderwoman Davis so moved with Alderman Gillam seconded and stated the amount is \$117,700.00. The motion to refer passed.

Stephen Box (agreement)

Mayor Doenges said the board had already approved the settlement agreement and needs the board to approve revised language; the amount stays the same. Alderwoman Tadio moved to suspend the rules. Alderman Gillam seconded and the motion passed. Alderwoman Tadio made a motion to approve the updated Stephen Box agreement and release. Alderman Donahue seconded. Alderman Davis stated the motion needs to include authorization for the Mayor to sign. President Allaire acknowledged the friendly amendment. The motion passed.

Rutland Planning Commission Appointment; Un-table Clair Purcell

President Allaire announced the results of Clair Purcell for the Rutland Planning Commission appointment: 3 YES, 7 NO the appointment was not approved.

Legal Service Bids

Alderman Clifford asked Mayor Doenges when the board could see the opened bids and said he will be happy to share the bids that were received.

Consideration of Special Event Permit requests

Walk to End Alzheimer's Rutland; Saturday 9/27/2025 @Meadow Street Park 7:00AM-2:30PM

Jasmine Ferrari, Williston VT, representative for the event, spoke outside the rail about the event inviting everyone to the event. Alderwoman Davis moved to suspend the rules. Alderman McClure seconded and the motion passed. Alderwoman Davis moved to approve the special event permit for Walk to End Alzheimer's for September 27th beginning at 7:00AM. Alderman Donahue seconded. Ms. Ferrari said technically it starts at 8:30AM (7:00AM is when they start setting up). Ms. Ferrari also said there is an art exhibit open reception Thursday night this week at the Downtown Partnership office. The motion passed.

Whoopie Pie Mile; Saturday 9/13/2025 @Meadow Street Park 11:00AM-12:00PM

President Allaire stated an email was forwarded today from Colleen Shattuck regarding the event. Alderwoman Davis moved to suspend the rules. Alderman Gillam seconded and the motion passed. Alderwoman Davis moved for the approval of the Special Event Permit for the Whoopie Pie Mile. Alderman Gillam seconded and the motion passed.

Reports and Letters from Department Heads and Officials

Tim Smith-Arborist; Emerald Ash Borer in Rutland City

Mr. Smith spoke outside the rail updating the board regarding the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive species that kills trees, explaining over 350 trees have been removed in the City and wanted to give public notice about it and what options people have for trees on their property. Alderman Clifford asked Mr. Smith if information can be put on the City's website, which he said it will. President Allaire is hopeful the local media could write a little something to get the word out.

Barbara Spaulding-RRR: Horizons Early Learning Center BIAP Loan Forgiveness

Ms. Spaulding explained Horizons Early Learning Center has reached the end of the three-year loan agreement and had asked for an extension.

The City attorney reviewed the request and determined a six-month extension as allowable under the loan agreement and it was determined that Horizons Early Learning Center has met the obligations required by the BIAP loan agreement and qualifies for forgiveness of the loan by the city. Ms. Spaulding stated the RRA respectfully requests the board forgive the loan at this time and authorize the Mayor to notify the borrower and Treasurer that the loan has been forgiven as of September 2, 2025. Jody Smith and James Schneider spoke briefly regarding the learning center. President Allaire stated a motion to suspend would be in order, in which Alderwoman Tadio so moved with Alderwoman Davis seconding and the motion passed. Alderwoman Tadio moved to forgive the loan and authorize the Mayor to notify the borrower and Treasurer that the \$10,000.00 BIAP forgivable loan that Beth Towb Rutland Inc. dba Horizons Early Learning Center that the loan has been forgiven as of September 2, 2025. Alderwoman Davis seconded. Alderman Whitcomb, Donahue and Gillam commended Ms. Smith and Mr. Schneider for the work they've done. The motion passed.

Tyler Dahlin-REC Director; Change orders for Main St. Park Project (column ties & concrete slab repair)
Mr. Dahlin explained the Main Street Park project for the gazebo column replacement it was discovered the ties that hold the roof structure to the concrete foundation have failed over the years and two of the headers are rotted. Mr. Dahlin emailed pictures and information to the board and said of the eight column ties, two are completely gone (they were replaced several years ago) and of the remaining six, four have failed and two remain and said he would like to fix all eight. Mr. Dahlin said two repair quotes were received, one being \$7,430.50, and is looking for approval to sign for that amount and currently has \$14,117.53 left in funds that were allocated to the project. Alderwoman Davis moved to suspend the rules. Alderman Gillam seconded and the motion passed. Alderwoman Davis moved for the approval of the change request for the column tie roof framing and finished trim in the amount of \$7,430.50. Alderman Whitcomb seconded. Alderman Gillam commented on the quality of the pictures and information Mr. Dahlin had provided in his email. The motion passed. Mr. Dahlin said a second matter is the concrete pad that was poured needs to be fixed and briefly provided information as to what needs to be fixed, explaining the cost is \$3,008.50 and still has money that was allocated, saying the overall cost to fix everything is \$10,439.00, leaving \$3,678.52 total to finish off the remainder, and was looking for approval to fix the concrete slab wing repair. Alderwoman Davis moved to suspend the rules. Alderman Gillam seconded and the motion passed. Alderwoman Davis moved for the approval of the concrete slab wing repair for a total of \$3,008.50. Alderman Clifford seconded. Alderman Cupoli asked if painting is part of the \$3,000.00. Mr. Dahlin said no, Paul Gallo is doing painting as a gift from his company. The motion passed. Mr. Dahlin said remainder of the project left to do is electrical and said there is \$8,300.00 left in the operational budget line and there is \$1,500.00 in the activities fund for park beautification.

Chief Lovett; Fire Union Request (FYI update)

Fire Chief Lovett said Attorney LaChance briefed the board that the union asked for inclusion of the Lieutenants in bargaining unit and there are ongoing talks with former City Attorney and the Union's attorney.

Treasurer Markowski; Request for referral for City Purchasing Policy (Approved March 2025 ballot item)

Treasurer Markowski explained the Board of Finance has discussed several times to raise the threshold of \$3,000.00 for going out to bid and would like the issue to be referred to committee. Alderman Gillam moved to refer to the Finance Committee. Alderwoman Davis seconded. Treasurer Markowski explained the purchasing policy originally read "purchases in excess of \$3,000.00 shall be awarded upon bids as set forth", now it reads "purchases in excess of the amount identified in the City's purchasing policy". The motion to refer passed.

Treasurer Markowski; Report of June 30, 2025 preliminary financial reports for City & RRA (info. only)

Treasurer Markowski said this is a work-in-progress and is subject to change and spoke of some highlights; a buildings fund (305) was created for the JCI project and Giorgetti project; local option tax for the past two years is 3.2 million in receipts and said of those funds, money was spent on the following: \$303,000.00 for paving, \$66,000.00 for sidewalks/concrete projects, \$675,000.00 towards pension and 1.2 million was transferred to the Capital Reserve Fund.

Treasurer Markowski also spoke of salaries and pension saying 70 percent of the budget goes to salaries and pension and asked for a referral to committee for the June 30th financial reports. President Allaire asked for a motion to refer, in which Alderwoman Davis moved to refer to the Finance Committee. Alderwoman Tadio seconded and the motion passed. Treasurer Markowski said she will post the June 30th report on the City's website.

Treasurer Markowski; Report of July 31, 2025 financial reports for City & RRA (information only)

Treasurer Markowski said the monthly July report was presented as information only and is changing as well as June adjustments flow through. She stated the Building & Zoning department has split into two departments; Building & Zoning Department and Planning & Zoning. Alderman Donahue asked if the Green Mountain Care board decision for fairly moderate increases in healthcare costs would affect us. Treasurer Markowski said she is still waiting for numbers for next year.

Treasurer Markowski; request a motion to allow the Board President to sign the Audit Engagement Letter from Sullivan, Powers & CO. for the FY25 Audit

Treasurer Markowski briefly explained the request. Alderwoman Davis moved to suspend the rules. Alderman Gillam seconded and the motion passed. Alderwoman Davis moved to authorize the Board President to sign the Audit Engagement letter from Sullivan, Powers & Co. for the FY25 audit. Alderwoman Tadio seconded and the motion passed.

Reports of Standing Committees

Alderwomen Davis & McClure; 8/19/2025 Public Safety & Human Resources Committee meeting report (Non-Union, Non-Sworn Longevity for reclassified positions)

Alderwoman McClure read the committee report. Alderwoman McClure read the motion was to approve the request for retroactive pay as presented subject to verification from the Treasurer for the correct dollar amount. Alderwoman Davis said Treasurer Markowski sent an email later today saying we had the Staff Specialist at \$16,340.02 has been recomputed to \$16,031.36 and the Executive Assistant we had at \$9,007.64 has been recomputed to \$8,786.83 so we would amend the motion to reflect that change. Alderwoman McClure said the money to come from the FY26 Police Budget salary line item, in which she so moved with Alderwoman Davis seconding. Treasurer Markowski said this is a FY25 expense. Police Chief Kilcullen spoke regarding the figures. President Allaire said the motion is on the floor to approve those amounts and has been seconded. Alderman Donahue suggested tabling this to the next meeting. Alderwoman Davis moved to table until the Police Chief and Treasurer have an opportunity to make sure they are agreeable on the final amount. Alderman Clifford seconded and the motion passed.

Reports of Select Committees

There was none

Reports of Representatives

Alderman Donahue; Report from the Representative to the School Board (8/28/2025)

Alderman Donahue updated the board from his meeting saying there are two new school board members; Dena Goldberg and Lauren Weiss and said there was a brief presentation for the upcoming TIF bond vote.

Petitions, Letters, Miscellaneous Communication

There was none

Board of Control Commissioners

No report

Board of Cannabis Commissioners

No report

Unfinished Business

There was none

Miscellaneous Motions, Resolutions, New Business

Alderswoman Davis spoke of an article that was in the Rutland Herald regarding a house on Central Avenue that is housing a mental health type of issue overseen by the State and raises great concern as there is an ongoing problem and moved to refer to Public Safety. Alderman Gillam seconded and after brief discussion, the motion passed.

Executive Session

Police Chief Kilcullen; Grievance

President Allaire read a motion to go into executive session saying that any premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or person involved at a substantial disadvantage either contracts, labor relations agreements with employees, arbitration or mediation and believes it comes under labor relations agreements, in which alderman Davis so moved with Alderman Gillam seconding. The meeting went into executive session at 8:10PM and came out of executive session at 8:17PM. Alderman Davis moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the settlement agreement regarding the court rules. Alderman Talbott seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Talbott moved to adjourn. Alderman Davis seconded and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:17PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan A. Clark
Deputy City Clerk