

Board of Aldermen Minutes (revised)
City of Rutland
Monday, October 20, 2025

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

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 & welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR OTHER MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (October 6, 2025)

President Allaire stated the next order of business was to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Alderman Cupoli so moved with Alderman Gillam seconding and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Allaire stated this is an opportunity for members of the public to address the board on an issue that is not on the agenda that pertains to the city to bring to the attention to the Board of Aldermen and asked for those who would like to speak to raise their hand.

Alis Headlam; resident of Rutland City and member of the Rutland City Police Commission

Ms. Headlam spoke in support of the Rutland City Police department by reading a prepared statement on how the department has evolved over the years. Ms. Headlam also spoke of the Rutland City Police Department's gym and ski passes were included in the FY25 approved budget. Alderman Talbott made a motion to suspend the rules and take up the matter. Alderwoman Tadio seconded. President Allaire stated that procedurally, this has been sent to committee and asked for a brief recess, resuming the meeting by clarifying the issue was sent to committee and was not voted on at the last board meeting; the issue was not denied and nothing has been changed, it was an opportunity for members of the board to have a debate at committee level and asked Alderman Talbott if he would still like to make a motion to suspend the rules. Alderman Talbott said yes and Alderwoman Tadio seconded. President Allaire said the motion to suspend the rules is non-debatable and six votes is needed to suspend the rules; he asked for those in favor to say I and those opposed. The motion failed. Alderman Whitcomb said he is in support of gym memberships and wants to discuss this further.

Officer Tim Rice; VT Fraternal Order of Police & employee of the Rutland City Police Department

Mr. Rice said he moved from Maryland to Rutland and said skiing drew him to Vermont and said he is part of the recruiting team and union negotiating team. Mr. Rice spoke on the issue of ski passes and gym memberships for recruiting MOU and requested the board for reconsideration.

Peg Flory; member of Rutland City Police Commission

Ms. Flory echoed statements that were previously made and suggested to leave the issue as is in the budget and set a date next year to discuss the MOU.

Alderman Talbott stated delaying and sending the issue to committee is the wrong move and the last meeting left a bad taste in the officer's mouths and did damage to the city's reputation and we have an opportunity to repair the damage by moving quickly to restore these benefits. Alderwoman Tadio echoed Alderman Talbott saying there is no need to delay and should be voting on the issue tonight and proceed with supporting the police and their recruitment efforts.

Barbara Spaulding; Mentor Connector Haunted House

Ms. Spaulding invited the Aldermen and the public to tour the Bellevue Avenue Haunted House, one night only on Friday October 31st from 5:30PM-8:30PM and all donations support the Mentor Connector Activity Fund.

Ms. Spaulding said the haunted house started in 2003 but in 2016, when she became a Mentor, it was decided to turn the event to a fundraiser for the Mentor Connector and explained it's successes. Ka'marrey Noel spoke outside the rail of the impact Ms. Spaulding and the Mentor Connector has made in her life.

Zachary Pratt; 97 North Street Extension

Mr. Pratt spoke of the TIF vote and said the TIF website summary page was not updated for the date of the vote. Mr. Pratt also spoke of UVM Health assistance for prescriptions, the contractor for the TIF project and a TIF door hanger that was put on his mailbox and wants the board to have that CEDRR pay the federal fine for the flyers on mailboxes.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Un-table Rutland Planning Commission Appointment; Jared Blake

Mayor Doenges requested the board to un-table the nomination of Jared Blake and circulate the ballot box. President Allaire said to suspend the rules and take the issue up tonight. Alderwoman Davis so moved; Alderwoman McClure seconded and the motion passed. Alderwoman Davis moved to remove from the table the nomination for the Rutland Planning Commission Jared Blake. Alderwoman McClure seconded. President Allaire said the motion has been made to circulate the ballot box and remove from the table. The motion passed. The Clerk circulated the ballot box (the result was announced after Communications from the Mayor).

Nomination Appointments; Board of Alderman (Alex Adams) & Rutland Redevelopment Authority (Gina Grove)

Mayor Doenges provided a memo to the board for consideration of the appointments. Alderwoman Davis moved to table the nominations. Alderwoman McClure seconded and the motion passed.

TIF Bond Vote

Mayor Doenges stated the TIF Bond vote passed with 10% of those voting and thanked the community for coming out to vote and said those dollars are going towards to public infrastructure of the development.

Mayor's Task Force for Downtown Plaza

Mayor Doenges said he has reached out to Brixmore regarding the departure of Walmart and knows the board has this issue in committee and encouraged the board to hold another committee meeting soon and said the RRA is now in charge of the task force.

Protest at Main Street Park (10/18/2025)

Mayor Doenges made a shout thank you to the Police Department for their presence making people safe.

Trunk of Treat (10/19/2025)

Mayor Doenges thanked the Police Department, Fire Department and DPW for participating in the event.

Rec Department Events; Running Scared 5k Run & Halloween Parade (10/25/2025)

Mayor Doenges spoke about the Rec Department's two events happening Saturday October 25th. The Running Scared 5k run will start at the Giorgetti Athletic Complex beginning at 9:00am and the Halloween parade starting at 6:30PM (there are 91 entries with approximately 1,700 individuals participating).

Un-table Rutland Planning Commission Appointment; Jared Blake

President Allaire announced the result: 9 Yes 0 No; Mr. Blake's appointment was confirmed to the Rutland Planning Commission.

Plaza Issue

Alderman Gillam moved to refer the Plaza issue to the Community & Economic Development Committee. Alderwoman Davis seconded and the motion passed.

Halloween Parade

Alderman Gillam strongly suggested board members show up to the parade.

Consideration of Special Event Permit requests

10/31/2025 Halloween Street Closures Request; Kris Call (East & Terrill and at East & Edgerton)

Ms. Call spoke outside the rail explaining her request to the board asking for the closures to be from 5:00PM until 9:00PM. Alderman Donahue moved to approve the request based on the department heads' approvals. President Allaire suggested making a motion to suspend the rules and take the issue up tonight, in which Alderman Donahue so moved with Alderwoman Davis seconding and the motion passed. Alderman Donahue moved to approve the permit based on the department heads' approvals and the parameters of the streets. Alderman Talbott seconded. Alderman Cupoli asked if the city has closed city streets on Halloween. President Allaire said yes; Bellevue Avenue, Williams Street and Chestnut Avenue. Alderwoman Davis said Williams Street was closed because of a block party and said she while she doesn't have a problem with this is hesitant because we don't get one for every street because it would be difficult for Public Safety vehicles to work around. Alderwoman McClure said she feels this is a great idea and spoke in favor of closing high traffic streets on Halloween. The motion then passed.

Reports and Letters from Department Heads and Officials

Barbara Spaulding-RRR; Recommendation for BIAP Grant (The Rustic Magnolia Flower Shop Ltd. Co.).

Ms. Spaulding read her memo to the board regarding the application from The Rustic Magnolia Flower Shop Ltd. Co. saying the application met the criteria for the loan. Nicole Powell, owner, spoke outside the rail explaining her business plan to the board and ended with President Allaire stating a motion to suspend the rules would be in order. Alderwoman Tadio moved to suspend the rules and take the matter up tonight. Alderwoman McClure seconded and the motion passed. Alderwoman Tadio moved to approve the \$5,000.00 BIAP Grant to The Rustic Magnolia Flower Shop Ltd. Co. Alderwoman Davis seconded. Alderman Gillam said Ms. Powell is a Scout Master in the region and he works for her. Alderman Donahue complimented the applicant and the Redevelopment Authority on a well thought out business plan. The motion then passed.

Fire Chief Lovett; Final Adoption of the Local Hazardous Mitigation Plan for the City of Rutland

Fire Chief Lovett spoke outside the rail asking the board to adopt the Mitigation plan and authorize the President of the Board to sign the document signifying the adoption of the document on Appendix A. President Allaire stated a motion to suspend the rules is needed in which Alderman Talbott so moved with Alderman Gillam seconding and the motion passed. President Allaire, as asked by Fire chief Lovett, for a motion to adopt the plan, authorize the board President to sign and when voting, to raise your hand because the requestor (Feds) needs exact count on how many people voting for or against the plan. Alderman Gillam so moved and Alderman Talbott seconded. President Allaire asked for those in favor of the motion to raise their hands (8 yes) and those against (0), the motion passed.

Treasurer Markowski; City & RRA Financial Reports for the 1st qtr. ending 9/30/2025 (request for referral to the Finance Committee)

President Allaire stated Treasurer Markowski requested for a referral to the Finance Committee. Alderwoman Davis so moved with Alderman Gillam seconding and the motion passed.

Sean Adkins-RRR Director; New Economic Development Plan Programs (BRE & L.I.F.T. Proposal)

Mr. Adkins spoke outside the rail explaining two programs, one being a business retention expansion program. Mr. Adkins said the proposal for the L.I.F.T. which would potentially replace the \$10,000.00 forgivable loan with a \$10,000.00 reimbursable grant geared towards fixed upgrades instead of equipment but will still leave the \$5,000 for general expenses. Alderman Talbott made a motion to suspend the rules and vote to approve the L.I.F.T. program. President Allaire stated to suspend the rules. Alderwoman McClure seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Talbott made a motion to approve the L.I.F.T. program as presented. Alderwoman McClure seconded and after brief discussion, the motion passed.

Superintendent Cioffi; RAHA & Rutland Rocks Curling Club Contracts

Ms. Cioffi asked for the board to move to authorize the Mayor to sign the Giorgetti Areana Ice Rental Agreement 2025 - 2026 for Rutland Rocks Curling Club and Rutland Amateur Hockey Association respectively. Alderwoman Tadio moved to suspend the rules and take the matter up. Alderwoman McClure seconded and the motion passed. Alderwoman Tadio made a motion to approve the Mayor to sign the RAHA contract for the 2025-2026 season. Alderwoman Davis seconded. President Allaire asked if there was an attorney review.

Ms. Cioffi said Matt Bloomer has reviewed both of the contracts. The motion passed. Alderwoman Tadio moved for the approval of the Rutland Rocks Curling Club Giorgetti Areana Ice Rental agreement for 2025-2026 and for the Mayor to sign. Alderwoman McClure seconded. Alderman Gillam said the new chiller equipment is coming online and Ms. Cioffi encouraged the board to visit to see how well it is working. The motion then passed.

Reports of Standing Committees

There were none.

Reports of Select Committees

There were none.

Reports of Representatives

There were none

Petitions, Letters, Miscellaneous Communication

BROC Community Action; Social Service Article request to be placed before the voters on the Rutland City ballot for the March 3, 2026 town Meeting election.

President Allaire stated there are no changes to the request so it does not need action from the board and the request will be placed on the ballot and asked for a motion to receive and file, in which Alderwoman Davis so moved and Alderman Talbott seconded. Alderman Donahue recused himself. Alderman Gillam explained the policy is if there is an increase in the amount a new petition with signatures is required. The motion then passed.

Board of Control Commissioners

There were none.

Board of Cannabis Commissioners

There were none.

Unfinished / Old Business

Public Works Committee Meeting (9/22/2025)

Alderman Gillam said there was an error at the Public Works committee meeting stating an incorrect number was given; it was supposed to be \$100.00, not \$200.00 for the Public Works Water Department 2025 fire hydrant test fee \$100.00 for the year and the Commissioner thought it was \$100.00 ~~for two years~~ *twice per year (as corrected at the November 3, 2025 Aldermen meeting)*. Alderman Gillam said his motion is needed to suspend the rules and take the matter up.

Alderman Donahue seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Gillam moved to approve to raise the fees to the Public Works Water Department 2025 Fire Hydrant Maintenance Fee to \$100.00 from \$200.00 per year for private hydrants including the outside of the city limits. Alderman Donahue seconded and the motion passed.

Lighting Question

Alderwoman Davis asked the Mayor if the lighting question be put on the city web page and asked for an update at the next meeting on how it was responded to and whether or not they'll be a click up in lighting. Mayor Doenges said yes.

Miscellaneous Motions, Resolutions, New Business

Alderman Donahue commented positively on the new gazebo at Main Street park and complimented the new Rec Superintendent and also spoke of Wheels for Warmth October 23-25th presented by Casella and all proceeds go to the Crisis Fund. Alderman Talbott made a request for the board consider suspending the rules and taking up the matter of extending the recruitment to the Police Department saying it is in this year's budget and no reason the committee still can't meet and come up with a plan to extend gym opportunities at other facilities in response to 19 officers who wrote a letter to the board requesting the benefits be restored and made a motion to suspend the rules. Alderwoman Tadio seconded. Alderwoman Davis said the suspension of the rules failed so it has to be reintroduced by the majority and said he was not in the majority and the issue has been in committee for two weeks and would need to call a meeting to get resolution.

President Allaire said his understanding of the Board rules; we've taken a vote on that tonight and it failed and a motion would be in order to reconsider and would have to be done by someone who was not present or someone that was on the winning side. Alderman Talbott point of clarification asking President Allaire if that is in the Board of Aldermen rules. President Allaire stated it is the way he interprets the rules. Alderman Talbott said according to Robert's Rules you can. Alderwoman McClure made a formal request for a copy of the Rules of the Board of Aldermen as reviewed by the current outside legal counsel before the next meeting and said as point of clarification, she held a HR Committee meeting and felt some members of this board were unwilling to support the recruitment initiatives and after her explanation, President asked for a motion to adjourn in which Alderwoman Davis so moved with Alderman Whitcomb seconding and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:20PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan A. Clark
Deputy City Clerk