

Board of Aldermen Minutes
City of Rutland
Monday, January 5, 2026

Members present: President Allaire, Aldermen Talbott, Adams, Gillam, Davis, Cupoli, McClure, Donahue, Clifford, and Tadio. Also, present Mayor Doenges, Treasurer Markowski and City Clerk Kapusta. Alderman Whitcomb arrived at 7:06PM.

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 and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR OTHER MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

President Allaire asked if there were any additions, deletions or other modifications to the agenda. An executive Session was added to the end of the agenda. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and Alderman Talbott. Motion passed.

AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S) (December 15, 2025)

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Zachary Pratt, 97 North Street Extension requested the budget remain neutral from last Fiscal Year, the budget be posted on the website, and the Alderman who abstained from voting on the Federal Funding Cuts resolution should step down.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Doenges asked to refer the Capital Improvement Plan to the Finance Committee. So moved and seconded (Gillam, Clifford). Motion passed.

Mayor Doenges was contacted by Jade, the Executive Director for Marble Valley Regional Transit (MVRT), regarding their funding shortfall. Right now, MVRT is on the ballot and has not raised that amount in ten years. While MRVT will be looking for an additional share from every community, they are asking the Board to accelerate the process by having a discussion in committee because the Board can vote to put a new amount on the ballot rather than through petition. They also need the funding in the short term and ask that the Board discuss opportunities for short-term funding between now and July. Mayor Doenges asked to have those two items referred to committee.

Alderwoman McClure made a motion to refer the two items to the Community and Economic Development committee. Seconded by Alderman Talbott. There was a brief discussion. Motion failed for lack of majority which is six votes. Aldermen Cupoli, Adams, Clifford, Donahue and Davis voted no.

Mayor Doenges stated the rate study for DPW will be brought to the Board at the next meeting and he asked that it be referred to the Public Works committee. A motion was made and seconded (Donahue, Davis) to refer the rate study for DPW water and sewer rates to the Public Works committee. Motion passed.

CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT REQUESTS

Cold Rolled 2026, Saturday, February 21, 2026, 9AM-2PM, Pine Hill Park

A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Davis) to suspend the rules, Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Davis) to approve the Cold Rolled 2026 special event permit on Saturday, February 21, 2026, from 9AM to 2PM at Pine Hill Park. Motion passed.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Superintendent Cioffi & Allison Vernon, Vermont Foodbank: VeggieVanGo Proposal

A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Davis) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Davis) to approve for signature the partnership agreement for VeggieVanGo and Rutland Recreation Parks Department's role as site partner. Motion passed.

Commissioner Protivansky: Timber Sale

A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, McClure) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Adams) to authorize the Commissioner of Public Works to sell City owned trees harvested from the Rutland City watershed to the highest paying mill at time of delivery:

Commonwealth Plywood, Whitehall, NY

Gagnon Lumber, Pittsford, VT

Allard Lumber Co., Bristol/Pawlet, VT

Canopy Timer Alternatives, Castleton/S. Middlebury, VT

Cersosimo Lumber, Bethel, VT

Colton Enterprises, Pittsfield, VT

Motion passed.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Adams: Charter & Ordinance Committee Meeting from December 5, 2025

Alderman Adams read the Charter & Ordinance committee report from December 5, 2025. A motion was made and seconded (Adams, Gillam) to re-refer the expired issue, "review of Title 9, Buildings of the Rutland City ordinance", (originally referred 9/18/2023), to the Charter & Ordinance committee. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Adams, Gillam) to re-refer the expired issue, "potential ordinance for the Rutland City Hotels", (originally referred 10/16/2023), to the Charter & Ordinance committee. Motion passed.

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, or 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

President Allaire read the motion for executive session. Motion to enter into executive session under 1 VSA 313 to discuss personnel issues that prior public knowledge would put the City at a disadvantage. To include the Mayor, Clerk, Chief Prouty, Police Commissioners Brougham and Romeo. So moved by Alderman Cupoli and seconded by Alderwoman Davis. Motion passed.

At 7:32 PM the Board went into executive session.

At 7:49 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Talbott) to come out of executive session.

At 7:49 PM a motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Donahue) to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectively submitted by,

Tracy L. Kapusta
City Clerk