

Board of Aldermen Minutes
City of Rutland
Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Members present: President Allaire, Aldermen Adams, Cupoli, Clifford, Whitcomb, Talbott, Tadio, Donahue and McClure. Also, present Mayor Doenges and Deputy City Clerk Clark. Alderman Gillam and Alderwoman Davis were 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 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. President Allaire requested to move under Petitions, Letters and Miscellaneous Communications Alderman Talbott's resolution right after Communications from the Mayor. Alderman Adams so moved with Alderman Cupoli seconding and the motion passed.

AMENDMENT & APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S) (January 5, 2026)

Alderman Cupoli moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Alderman Adams seconded. President Allaire asked if there were any changes; there were none and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judy Delpha (Rutland City) and Jessica Harlow (Rutland Town) spoke outside the rail updating on the event of Fireworks over Rutland and stated \$11,300.00 is needed to be raised before June. Ms. Delpha asked for the board to authorize the Mayor to sign the fireworks permit as a symbolic gesture to demonstrate our city cooperation with no legal liability. Ms. Harlow said they are doing bottle redemptions with Olivia's and offered bottle redemption pickup. President Allaire asked if the total amount needed to be raised is \$30,000.00. Ms. Delpha said yes and the community has been very generous. Mayor Doenges spoke outside the rail saying the city will donate \$1,000.00 from the Mayor's Contingency Fund. President Allaire asked for a motion to suspend the rules for the Mayor to sign the fireworks permit. Alderman Talbott so moved with Alderwoman Tadio seconding and the motion passed. President Allaire said a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the permit for the fourth of July. Alderman Talbott so moved with Alderwoman Tadio seconding. Alderman Adams abstained as he is involved with the event. The motion passed. President Allaire asked if there was anyone else that would like to speak outside the rail, there were none.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Doenges announced Alis Headlam retired from the Police Commission and commended her service. Mayor Doenges stated he has nominated Melinda Humphrey as an appointee for Ms. Headlam's seat on the commission and asked for a motion to table the nomination. Alderman Clifford so moved with Alderwoman Tadio seconding and the motion passed. Mayor Doenges provided a quick update for the cold weather shelter stating there were eight people that have used the shelter and has good staffing. Alderman Donahue asked how will the board be notified. Mayor Doenges said he or Chris Louras will email the board. Mayor Doenges stated he would like to go out for an RFP for IT services and asked the board for a suspension of the rules and authorize City Hall to put out an RFP for IT services which Alderman Adams moved to suspend the rules with Alderman Talbott seconding and the motion passed. Alderman Adams moved to authorize the City to reach out for RFPs for IT services. Alderman Talbott seconded and the motion passed. Mayor Doenges said Rutland City's Municipal Plan is being worked on currently by the Planning Commission and said on February 11th at 5:30PM the Planning Commission will be discussing the Municipal Plan. Mayor Doenges said he has two items he would like referred to Charter and Ordinance Committee; City Owned Properties Process and Certificate of Occupancy for home sales (clean CO's).

Board of Aldermen 1/20/2026

Alderman Talbott made a motion to refer the City Owned Properties Process and Certificate of Occupancy to the Charter and Ordinance Committee. Alderwoman Tadio seconded and the motion passed.

President Allaire then moved up **PETITIONS, LETTERS, MISCELLANEOUS**

COMMUNICATION; Alderman Talbott: Resolution Condemning the Fatal Use of Force by Federal Immigration Agents and Reaffirming Constitutional Accountability and Local Authority

Alderman Talbott read the resolution aloud and moved to adopt the resolution. Alderwoman Tadio seconded. Alderman Talbott clarified to make a motion to suspend the rules Alderwoman Tadio seconded. President Allaire said there are eight members voting and need 6 affirmative votes to suspend the rules and asked for those in favor to say "I"; the chair was in doubt and asked for those in favor of suspending the rules to raise their hands; five were in favor (Aldermen Whitcomb, Talbott, Donahue and Alderwomen Tadio, McClure). President Allaire asked for those opposed to raise their hands; three were opposed (Aldermen Adams, Cupoli, Clifford) and the motion failed. President Allaire said there will be no further debate on the issue.

CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT REQUESTS

There was no consideration of Special Event Permit Requests.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Barbara Spaulding, RRA: Set Public Hearing; Templewood Court VCDP Application

Ms. Spaulding asked for the board to set the hearing tonight and said there is a correction to the date for the hearing; it will be February 17th as opposed to February 16th being a holiday. Ms. Spaulding said the actual amount of the grant agreement is up to \$350,000.00 as opposed to \$650,000.00 and said there are other minor word changes in the description of the funding. President Allaire said the request is to set the public hearing for February 17th. Alderman Donahue made a motion to set the public hearing for the VCDP application for the proposed Templewood Court project on Tuesday February 17th at 6:45PM. Alderwoman Tadio seconded and the motion passed

Director Coyle: RFPs for Recruitment Firm Services

Ellen Coyle updated the board regarding the process of finding a City Attorney and spoke outside the rail asking for permission to put out an RFP to work with an executive recruiting firm to find a candidate through a dedicated source. President Allaire said this will take a suspension of the rules in which Alderman Donahue so moved with Alderman Clifford seconding and the motion passed. Alderman Donahue moved the request for the Board of Aldermen to authorize the HR Director to seek proposals for qualified recruitment firms to provide professional services related to recruitment for the City Attorney position. Alderman Clifford seconded and the motion passed.

Treasurer Markowski: Financial Reports for City & RRA ending December 31, 2025

President Allaire said Treasurer Markowski is not present tonight and will need a referral of the documents to the Finance Committee in which Alderman Whitcomb so moved with Alderman Clifford seconding and the motion passed.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Clifford: Public Works Committee Meeting from January 13, 2026

Alderman Clifford read Alderman Gillam's committee report; issues are Water & Sewer Rate Study for FY 27 and Transfers for Water & Sewer fund to General Fund.

Alderman Clifford read the motion he made in committee is for the approval to the full Board of Aldermen to set the water rate for FY 27 (effective July 1, 2026) new City Water Rate \$3.737 per 100 cubic feet; the motion agreed to a vote of 4-0-1 and he so moved with Alderman Cupoli seconding and the motion passed. Alderman Clifford continued reading the committee report and read the motion he made in committee is for the approval to the full Board of Aldermen to set the sewer rate for FY 27 (effective July 1, 2026) at the same rate of FY25 for the following rates:

Rutland City Sewer Treatment: \$6.212
Rutland Town Sewer Treatment: \$6.212
Rutland City Sewer Collection: \$2.197
Rutland Town Sewer Collection: \$2.197
Rutland Town Business Rate: \$24.847
Alpine Pipeline Sewer Treatment: \$6.212
Alpine Pipeline Sewer Collection: \$2.197
REDC Sewer: \$6.212
REDC Business Rate: \$12.423
Fixed Rates: Sewer Service Fee: \$17.55 and Meter Service Fee: \$29.05

President Allaire said the motion is to approve the afore mentioned rates in which Alderman Clifford so moved with Alderman Cupoli seconding and the motion passed.

Alderman Clifford stated there are eleven more motions from committee and asked to make one motion for all of the motions. President Allaire said he has no objections and asked the board if there were any. There were no objections; Alderman Clifford read the following motions from committee:

Alderwoman Tadio moved for the approval to the full Board of Aldermen to transfer from Water Fund of \$180,172.00 to transfer out to City Treasurer of General Municipal Budget for FY27 (effective July 1, 2027). The motion agreed to a vote of 4-0-1.

Alderwoman Tadio moved for the approval to the full Board of Aldermen to transfer from Water Fund of \$39,635.00 to transfer out to City Attorney of General Municipal Budget of FY27 (effective July 1, 2027). The motion agreed to a vote of 4-0-1.

Alderwoman Tadio moved for the approval to the full Board of Aldermen to transfer from Water Fund of \$307,654.00 to transfer out to City Administration DPW of General Municipal Budget FY27 (effective July 1, 2027). The motion agreed to a vote of 4-0-1.

Alderwoman Tadio moved for the approval to the full Board of Aldermen to transfer from Water Fund of \$198,683.00 to transfer out to City DPW Equipment Maintenance of General Municipal Budget of FY27 (effective July 1, 2027). The motion agreed to a vote of 4-0-1.

Alderwoman Tadio moved for the approval to the full Board of Aldermen to transfer from Wastewater Treatment Funds of \$180,172.00 to transfer out to City Treasurer of General Municipal Budget for FY27 (effective July , 2027). The motion agreed to a vote of 4-0-1.

Alderwoman moved for the approval to the full Board of Aldermen to transfer from Wastewater Treatment Funds of \$39,635.00 to transfer out to City Attorney of General Municipal Budget for FY27 (effective July 1, 2027). The motion agreed to a vote of 4-0-1.

Alderwoman Tadio moved for the approval to the full Board of Aldermen to transfer from Wastewater Treatment Fund of \$235,868.00 to transfer out to City Administration DPW of General Municipal Budget of FY27 (effective July 1, 2027). The motion agreed to a vote of 4-0-1.

Alderwoman Tadio moved for the approval to the full Board of Aldermen to transfer from Wastewater Treatment Fund of \$158,946.00 to transfer out to City DPW Equipment Maintenance of General Municipal Budget of FY27 (effective July 1, 2027). The motion agreed to a vote of 4-0-1.

Alderwoman Tadio moved for the approval to the full Board of Aldermen to transfer from Wastewater Treatment Fund of \$178,329.00 to transfer out to SAS Meters to Water Fund City DPW of General Municipal Budget FY27 (effective July 1, 2027). The motion agreed to a vote of 4-0-1.

Board of Aldermen 1/20/2026

Alderwoman Tadio moved for the approval to the full Board of Aldermen to transfer from Wastewater Collection of \$58,967.00 to transfer out to City Administration DPW of General Municipal Budget of FY27 (effective July 1, 2027). The motion agreed to a vote of 4-0-1.

Alderwoman Tadio moved for the approval to the full Board of Aldermen to transfer from Wastewater Collection Fund of \$39,736.00 to transfer out to City DPW Equipment Maintenance of General Municipal Budget of FY27 (effective July 1, 2027). The motion agreed to a vote of 4-0-1.

Alderwoman Tadio moved for the approval to the full Board of Aldermen to transfer from Wastewater Collection Fund of \$44,583.00 to transfer out to SAS Meters to Water Fund City DPW of General Municipal Budget of FY27 (effective July 1, 2027). The motion agreed to a vote of 4-0-1.

Alderman Clifford moved all of the motions with Alderman Cupoli seconding. Commissioner Protivansky briefly spoke outside the rail saying Lynne Holmquist sent out the revised list today that Treasurer Markowski had updated. The motions then passed.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

There were no Reports of Select Committees.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Alderman Donahue: Traffic Safety Committee January 16, 2026

Alderman Donahue read his committee report for information only.

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

Alderwoman McClure stated she saw two individuals who seemed to have wanted a chance to speak on the resolution and asked if she could inside the rail to allow them to speak or advise them to speak outside the rail at the next Board of Aldermen meeting. President Allaire said he would prefer the latter.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Doenges stated outside the rail as Aldermen, Mayor and officers of the City, we have all sworn an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and state of Vermont.

President Allaire asked if there were other miscellaneous motions, resolutions or new business to come before the board. There were none and said a motion to adjourn would be in order, in which Alderman Clifford so moved with Alderman Adams seconding and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:40PM

Respectively submitted by,

Susan A. Clark
Deputy City Clerk