

Board of Aldermen Minutes
City of Rutland
Monday, February 2, 2026

Members present: President Allaire, Aldermen Talbott, Adams, Gillam, Davis, Cupoli, McClure, Donahue, Clifford, Whitcomb, and Tadio. Also, present Mayor Doenges and City Clerk Kapusta.

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. A possible executive session was added to the end of the agenda, Alderwoman Tadio's resolution was moved up to after Communications from the Mayor, and Alderwoman McClure's Human Resources Committee report was removed and will be presented at the next Board of Aldermen meeting. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and Alderman Clifford. Motion passed.

AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S) (January 20, 2026)

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Talbott) approving the minutes of the previous meeting. President Allaire asked if there were any changes. Alderman Gillam had two changes under Reports of Standing Committees; Alderman Clifford's name should be in the header and there was a misspelling of Gillam in the first sentence. There were no other changes. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rutland Neighbors, Inc.: Petitioned Article for March 3, 2026, Ballot

Jennifer Yakunovich, Board member for Rutland Neighbors, Inc. informed the Board of Aldermen (BOA) and public about requesting \$15,000 on the upcoming March 3, 2026, ballot. Rutland Neighbors, Inc. has the privilege of serving some of the most vulnerable members of the Rutland community, neighbors experiencing homelessness, food insecurity, and deep economic hardships.

Peter Franzoni, 87 Edgerton Street spoke about what is happening in Minneapolis and that a year ago at this time there was pretty much a zero percent chance that vulnerable people in our community were going to have to worry about being wrongfully detained. Now should anyone from our community be wrongfully detained, abused, or killed by a federal agent, any of that could be avoided directly or indirectly by just having a quick conversation here. After ten months the BOA has demonstrated to the vulnerable people in our community that there have been too many promises made. The Declaration of Inclusion and the resolution signed last April have prepared the BOA to do absolutely nothing regarding the vulnerable populations' fears and their safety in this country. They deserve a voice.

Sara Doenges, Killington Avenue spoke about Alderman Talbott's resolution that was voted down without a conversation. It was a resolution which is a statement. A simple way to tell people that we see what is going on in the country, we talk about it and have a strategy of how it will be addressed. While Aldermen work on their re-election campaigns, remember that this community in Rutland, VT is part of a bigger community, what happens in Minneapolis, Los Angeles, Texas, Maine, Florida, Michigan, and anywhere in the United States happens to all of us.

Alexandria Perone, 214 State Street understood that campaign signs were not to be put out until three weeks before the election and asked for clarification. Clerk Kapusta stated that she sent an email to all

candidates with the ordinance language that states three weeks before the election campaign signs can be put out and then taken down the day after the election.

James Haff, Shepherd Lane explained that he is not an absent landowner and intends on building on the land and will be a Rutland resident within the next twenty-four months. Mr. Haff reminded the Aldermen that you don't vote for personal reasons, you vote for all the citizens in your community and wants to see Rutland City move forward.

Robert Reynolds, 32 Elm Street announced that he is running for Mayor.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Doenges asked for a moment of silence for Penny Pollard, a former City employee, who recently passed away.

President Allaire read the memorandum from Matt Bloomer, SP&F Attorneys regarding the vacancy in Office of the Mayor.

Mayor Doenges continued and had a request from Planning Director Bove, to refer the sign ordinance to the Charter and Ordinance committee. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and seconded by Alderwoman McClure. Motion passed.

Mayor Doenges asked that the Board un-table the nomination of Melinda Humphrey for Police Commissioner. A motion was made and seconded (Clifford, Talbott) to un-table the nomination of Melinda Humphrey for Police Commissioner. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Clifford) to circulate the ballot box. Motion passed.

Mayor Doenges made a nomination for Eric Petersen to the RRA Board. A motion was made and seconded (Adams, McClure) to table the nomination until the next BOA meeting. Motion passed.

President Allaire saw the hand of Henry Heck and acknowledged that he probably has something to say about the Mayor's resignation. Henry Heck asked if Attorney Bloomer stated that the election would need to be a special election. President Allaire stated that there was no mention in the memorandum about a special election.

President Allaire announced that Melinda Humphrey for Police Commissioner was confirmed by a vote of six yes votes and four no votes.

Alderwoman Tadio: Resolution Demanding that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Follows the Rules of Law in Rutland City

Alderwoman Tadio read the resolution. A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Talbott) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. Alderman Adams voted no. A motion was made and second (Tadio, McClure) to adopt the resolution. There was discussion among the Board members and members of the public. Members of the public who spoke in support of the resolution were Norm Cohen, Ivo Skoric, Rick Baker, Beth Barra, Dave Coppock, Kevin Kiefaber, Paul Mallet, and Peter Franzoni. Alderman Whitcomb made a motion to refer the resolution and logistics and guidance on Immigration and Customs Enforcement to the City website for a public resource to the Mayor. Seconded by Alderwoman Davis. There was discussion among the Board. A roll call vote was requested.

Alderman Adams – No
Alderman Cupoli – Yes
Alderman Clifford – Yes

Alderman Whitcomb – Yes
Alderman Talbott – No
Alderwoman Tadio – No
Alderman Donahue – Yes
Alderman Gillam – Yes
Alderwoman McClure – No
Alderwoman Davis – Yes
Motion passed.

CONSIDERATAION OF SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT REQUESTS

Winter Fest Street Sledding, Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 11AM-9PM, Center Street

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Donahue) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Donahue) to approve the Winter Fest Street Sledding for Tuesday, February 24, 2026, from 11AM to 9PM. Motion passed.

Wonderfeet Truck or Treat, October 18, 2026, 6AM-6PM

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to suspend the rules. Motion Passed. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Donahue) to approve Wonderfeet Truck or Treat for October 18, 2026, from 6AM to 6PM. Motion passed.

Let's Go Fishing Clinic, Combination Pond, February 19, 2026, 12PM-3PM

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Clifford) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Clifford) to approve Let's Go Fishing Clinic at Combination Pond on February 19, 2026, from 12PM to 3PM contingent on providing a certificate of insurance and using a Charcoal Grill for roasting marshmallows. Motion passed.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Assessor Langlois: Update on Re-appraisal

Assessor Langlois introduced Ryan Sylvestri from New England Municipal Corporation who gave an update on the city-wide reappraisal.

Interim Chief of Police Prouty: e-Cycle

Interim Chief of Police Prouty introduced the request for authorization for the Department to adopt e-Cycle as a certified vendor for the secure disposal, recycling, and resale of outdated cell phones and tablets. This program will allow the Department to reduce equipment storage burdens, ensure compliant data destruction and generate financial returns from reusable devices. e-Cycle's process demonstrates a complete chain of custody and strict data-destruction standards. The process meets security expectations for law enforcement and ensures evidentiary and sensitive data is protected.

A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Gillam, Davis) to adopt e-Cycle as the Department's official vendor for secure disposal, recycling, and resale of mobile devices; create an e-Cycle account for processing Department owned equipment; and apply all revenue generated from resale toward a Verizon Wireless bill credit. Motion passed.

Assistant City Engineer Gillen: Committee Referral; Routes 4 & 7 Traffic Safety Scoping Study Report

Assistant City Engineer Gillen requested a referral of the Routes 4 & 7 Traffic Safety Scoping Study for City review, to the Traffic Safety and Public Works committees.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, McClure) to refer the Routes 4 & 7 Traffic Safety Scoping Study report to the Traffic Safety and Public Works committees. Motion passed.

Sean Adkins, RRA: LIFT Grant Application for 67-71 Center Street

Sean Adkins, RRA introduced the request. The RRA Board reviewed the LIFT application for Patty Ryan's mixed-use property located at 67-71 Center Street. Ms. Ryan is requesting a reimbursable grant of up to \$10,000 for the eligible costs associated with the renovations at the property. Reimbursement will occur upon completion of the project and proof of paid invoices and payments.

A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, McClure) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Tadio) to approve the full \$10,000 grant, or 50% of the final eligible expenses approved by the RRA, whichever is less. Motion passed.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderman Donahue: Community & Economic Development Committee Meeting from January 21, 2026

Alderman Donahue read the Community & Economic Development committee report from January 21, 2026. The committee heard from Kevin Loso, Executive Director of the Rutland Housing Authority, on the details and merits of the project at Templewood Court.

A motion was made and seconded (Donahue, Tadio) to authorize the City of Rutland to apply to the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The proposal is to apply for up to \$350,000 in CDBG funds to be used to accomplish the following activities: replacement of electrical service to buildings at Templewood Court in Rutland, a 60-unit very low-income senior living community owned by the Rutland Housing Authority. Motion passed.

Second was the status of the directional / point of interest street signage at South Main Street and Madison Street. The signage is currently being addressed by the Downtown Rutland Partnership in communication with the Giancola Company. There is no further action necessary at this time however this item will remain in committee until such time as installation of the desired signage is complete.

Last the committee heard a presentation from developer Clair Purcell on the details of the proposed two buildings: twelve-unit commercial housing development and the merits of the project at 101/103 Franklin Street.

A motion was made and seconded (Donahue, Tadio) pursuant to Title 24: Municipal and County Government, Chapter 075: Economic Development, Cited as V.S.A., Sub Section 2741, Letter A, Number 3 and as authorized by the City voters in 2012; the Community & Economic Development committee recommends the Board of Aldermen enter into a ten-year stabilization contract with Sussera Properties, Inc. for the commercial development of a two building, twelve unit multi-family dwelling at 101/103 Franklin Street by fixing the amount of money which shall be paid as an annual tax upon such property for the municipal portion only (and not the education portion) according to the following schedule commencing April 1st:

Year 1-5: \$10,000 annually (2026-2030)

Year 6-10: \$15,000 annually (2031-2035)

The tax rate being normalized year 11 (2036)

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

Alderwoman Davis received an email from a resident that would like to see a breakdown on the City website of how social services items on the ballot affect the tax rate. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) referring the issue to the City Clerk. Motion passed.

Alderman Adams made a referral of the permitting process for taxi drivers to the Charter and Ordinance committee. Seconded by Alderwoman Davis. Motion passed.

At 8:56 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Clifford) to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectively submitted by,

Tracy L. Kapusta
City Clerk