

Board of Aldermen Minutes
City of Rutland
Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Members present: President Allaire, Aldermen Talbott, Davis, Cupoli, McClure, Donahue, and Tadio. Also, present Mayor Doenges, Treasurer Markowski, and City Clerk Kapusta. Absent: Aldermen Clifford, Whitcomb, and Gillam. Alderman Adams arrived at 7:05 PM.

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. Alderman Clifford's report and Commissioner Protivansky's announcement were removed from the agenda. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and Alderman Talbott. Motion passed.

AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S) (February 2, 2026)

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Donahue) approving the minutes of the previous meeting. President Allaire asked if there were any changes. There were no changes. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nick Santoro, 129 Church Street was looking for clarification on why the resolution of Alderwoman Tadio was tabled. President Allaire stated that Mayor Doenges would address the issue during his communications.

Christopher Constantinos Louras, 24 North Street expressed that the legal opinion given by outside counsel regarding the March election has disenfranchised the voters, destabilized city government, and is a disservice to the residents of the community. Mr. Louras then read a resolution that he prepared. Alderwoman Davis made a motion to suspend the rules and take the matter up tonight. Alderman Adams seconded the motion. Motion failed. There were five yes votes and two no votes.

Henry Heck, Rutland City read a prepared statement and then announced his candidacy for Mayor.

Jamie Watkins, Rutland City expressed her displeasure with the resolution not passing and had strong words for the Board members regarding their conduct in meetings and on social media.

Lopi LaRoe, Granger Street expressed her disappointment that the resolutions were tabled repeatedly. President Allaire stated that the Mayor will be addressing the resolution during his communications.

Kevin Loso, Rutland Housing Authority spoke about a small but impactful kitchen fire that occurred on the 6th floor of Sheldon Towers, that affected 74 residents. Mr. Loso thanked Rutland City Fire, Rutland City Police, Rutland Town Fire, Regional Ambulance, and others that addressed the immediate need. Community partners who stepped up were Rutland Regional Medical Center, Vermont Life Safety, The Pines, The Bus, American Red Cross, Open Door Mission, GW Savage, Stubbins Electric, The Best Western Hotel and the Hampton Inn. Naylor and Breen from Brandon Vermont responded within a couple days and sent a team down to assess the damage and came up with a plan to fast track the repairs. In addition Mr. Loso wanted to thank Carpet Warehouse, Clay Point Environmental, Rutland City Building and Zoning, VT Division of Fire Safety, Rutland County Humane Society, Eastwood Animal

Clinic, WSYB Christmas Fund, Mentor Connector, Mission City Church, Christopher Louras, Project Vision, Community Response Team, the Mayor's Office, Grand Union, Price Chopper, Hannaford's, Rick Gallo, Olivia's, Maple Angus, and Trio Community Foods. Mr. Loso wanted to remind us all that we live in a very special community and when things get tough, the folks of Rutland take care of themselves.

Terry Gildersleeve, Morse Place has been told many times that Morse Place is on the top of the list to be fixed. Commissioner Protivansky spoke up and stated that Morse Place is on the schedule to be done this summer.

Sean Adkins announced the meet the candidate's event being held tomorrow night at Treviso.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Doenges asked that the Board un-table the nomination of Eric Petersen for the RRA Board. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Talbott) to un-table the nomination of Eric Petersen for the RRA Board. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Talbott) to circulate the ballot box. Motion passed.

State Treasurer Pieciak held a conference at the Paramount and announced, for the second time in the three-year period, have committed another \$8M to Rutland in the form of a low interest loan for the Belden's hotel project.

President Allaire announced that Eric Petersen was confirmed by a vote of eight yes votes and zero no votes, to the RRA Board.

Mayor Doenges, along with Planning Director Bove made a nomination for Morgan Via to the Rutland City Planning Commission. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Tadio) to table the nomination of Morgan Via to the Rutland City Planning Commission until the next Board of Aldermen meeting. Motion passed.

Mayor Doenges read a statement on Immigration and Customs Enforcement Activities that he put together after much input that clearly defines Rutland's role and where we are and what we can and cannot do. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, McClure) to refer the statement to the General Committee. Motion passed.

The RFP for IT received three responses and only one fits the primary criteria, Silloway Networks a local business in Rutland. A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Donahue) to suspend the rules, Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Donahue) to award the Rutland City IT services RFP to Silloway Networks to allow City Hall to enter into contract negotiations with Silloway Networks and to authorize the Mayor to sign any related contracts pending attorney review. Motion passed.

Some Hotel owners have not been paying the Rooms, Meals, and Entertainment tax to the City. During the initial part of the COVID response some of the hotel vouchers issued may or may not have been exempt from taxes. Any other forms of payment, private and or State vouchers are not exempt from tax. The City Clerk and the Treasurer's Office will work together to send out letters to the hotel/motels giving them a timeframe to respond and if not, their Business License to operate will be rescinded. It is the responsibility of these owners to file returns with the Treasurer's Office.

Mayor Doenges requested that the Capital Improvement Plan be referred to the finance committee. So moved by Alderman Cupoli and Alderwoman Tadio. Motion passed.

Mayor Doenges has been working with Lopi LaRoe about doing art projects on traffic cabinets. A motion was made and seconded (Donahue, McClure) to refer the issue to the Community and Economic Development Committee. Motion passed.

A local proprietor would like to take down the burnt-out house behind MSJ on 63 Forest Street.

Mayor Doenges gave a goodbye speech and thanked many.

CONSIDERATAION OF SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT REQUESTS

Tracy Adams, HFCU: Heritage O'Family Shiver Me Shamrocks, Saturday, March 14, 2026, 1PM-3PM

A motion was made and seconded (McClure, Donahue) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (McClure, Donahue) to approve the Heritage O'Family Shiver Me Shamrocks on Saturday, March 14, 2026, from 1PM to 3PM. Motion passed.

RAVE Annual Car Show, July 11-12, 2026, from 7AM-3PM each day at the VT State Fairgrounds

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Tadio) to suspend the rules. Motion Passed. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Cupoli) to approve the RAVE Annual Car Show on July 11-12, 2026, from 7AM-3PM each day at the VT State Fairgrounds. Motion passed.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Barbara Spaulding, RRA: Resolution to Apply for VCDP Grant

Barbara Spaulding, RRA introduced the request. The RRA, on behalf of the City, is working with Rutland Housing Authority and Liz Curry to apply for a VCDP grant in the amount of \$385,000 for mandated electrical upgrades at Templewood Court. The application requires that the Board of Aldermen sign a resolution in support of the application.

A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Donahue) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, McClure) to circulate the resolution for signatures. Motion passed.

Sean Adkins, RRA: LIFT Grant; 26 Center Street (formerly Giuseppe's Italian Market)

A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Davis) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, McClure) approving a LIFT Grant to John J. Sabatase for up to \$6,583.75 or 50% of the total eligible expenses associated with the renovation and construction at 26 Center Street. Motion passed.

Director Dahlin: Sell/Trade Two Trucks; Trade will be applied toward a New Truck and the sale of the other to be put in the Recreation Equipment Replacement Fund

Director Dahlin introduced the request for the Recreation Department to either sell or trade a couple of older vehicles. One is a 1997 Ford F250 and the other is a 2004 F250 XL. A quote was received for a trade in on the 2004 for a truck that's under contract price for the State and the 1997 truck would like to sell outside of a dealership. The money from the sale of the 1997 truck will go back into the Recreation Department Equipment Replacement Fund and the sale of the 2004 will go to the trade in value towards the purchase of a new truck.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, McClure) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Tadio) to use the trade in value of the 2004 Ford F250 XL for trade in value for the purchase of a new vehicle. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Tadio) for the revenue produced by the sale of the 1997 truck to go back into the Recreation Department Equipment Replacement Fund. Motion passed.

Planning Director Bove: Update of ACT 250 Tier 1A Application and Rutland City Municipal Plan

There was a municipal plan meeting last week and Michael Allen a consultant from Regrowth Planning gave a great presentation. QR codes on the flyer have a link to the presentation and there is a survey and questionnaire that people can fill out.

Another big project for the Planning and Zoning Department is the ACT 250 Tier 1A application. The application from the land use review board isn't out yet. So, the department is working off of a guidance document, but the City can not apply until the future land use map from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission is approved along with the regional plan. The department is not sure if the zoning LDR will need to be opened because of what might be required in that application. There might be some things that will need to be added if essentially the City is going to be taking over all ACT 250 permitting. There may be some amendments to ACT 181 coming out of the legislative session and there is also a sign ordinance that has been referred to committee. The end goal is to get Tier 1A designation for the city so that there are no more ACT 250 permits in the city.

Treasurer Markowski: Financial Reports for the City & RRA, January 31, 2026

Treasurer Markowski spoke about delinquent taxes. At the start of the fiscal year on July 1st, there were \$1.4M in delinquent account balances. At the end of January 2026, delinquent account balances are \$976,000. The Treasurer's Office is always working with taxpayers on delinquencies as they want to hear from the taxpayer rather than send them a tax sale notice. The Treasurer's Office mails out more than 6,000 tax bills, of those 314 accounts are delinquent.

Business registration of all businesses would really be helpful with making sure the City has the contact information, which would be really helpful in the collection effort.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

There were no Reports of Standing Committees.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Alderswoman McClure: Human Resources Committee Meeting from January 26, 2026

Alderswoman McClure read the Human Resources committee report from January 26, 2026. This meeting was to discuss the first three pages of the document. No action taken.

Alderswoman McClure: Human Resources Committee Meeting from February 10, 2026

Alderswoman McClure read the Human Resources committee report from February 10, 2026. This meeting was a discussion to send the document back to internal City Hall for Department Head review.

A motion was made and seconded (McClure, Donahue) to receive and file the two Human Resources Committee reports. Motion passed.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Alderman Donahue: School Board

Alderman Donahue took a moment to recognize that the month of February as School Board Appreciation month, and Alderman Donahue thanked the School Board for their service.

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

Alderwoman Tadio: Updates for City Website about ICE Activities

Alderwoman Tadio compiled resources that community members can find on the Rutland City website under announcements.

MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS, NEW BUSINESS

Chief Lovett: (2) Executive Session, Airport Contract & Union/City Labor Board

President Allaire read the motions for the first executive session regarding the Airport contract.

A motion to find that general public knowledge regarding the negotiation of a contract specifically relating to a contract between the City and the Rutland Fire Department and Rutland Regional Airport would clearly place the City at a substantial disadvantage because the discussion will divulge the Board's position on the contract provisions to be negotiated. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and seconded by Alderman Talbott. Motion passed.

Motion to enter into executive session with the inclusion of the Mayor, Treasurer, Clerk, Fire Chief to discuss the negotiation of a contract as allowed under Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A). So moved by Alderman Cupoli and Alderman Adams. Motion passed.

At 8:44 PM the Board entered into executive session.

At 8:55 PM the Board came out of executive session. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and seconded by Alderman Talbott. Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Tadio) approving the airport contract. Motion passed.

President Allaire read the motions for the second executive session regarding Union/City Labor Board. A motion to find that general public knowledge of confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services would clearly place the City at a substantial disadvantage because it would violate statutes protecting attorney-client privilege and divulge the Board's position on legal risks and strategies pertaining to ongoing legal matters. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and seconded by Alderman Donahue. Motion passed.

A motion to enter into executive session with the inclusion of the Mayor, City Clerk, City Treasurer, Chief Bill Lovett to discuss an ongoing legal matter and be provided with legal advice as allowed under Title 1 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated, Section 313(a)(1)(F). So moved by Alderwoman Davis and seconded by Alderman Donahue. Motion passed.

At 8:57 PM the Board entered into executive session.

At 8:58 a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Adams) to come out of executive session.

At 8:59 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Tadio) to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectively submitted by,

Tracy L. Kapusta
City Clerk