

Board of Aldermen Minutes
City of Rutland
Monday, April 20, 2026

Members present: President Allaire, Aldermen Davis, Cupoli, McClure, Franzoni, Talbott, Beauchamp, Clifford, Gillam, and Tadio. Also, present Mayor Donahue, Treasurer Markowski, and City Clerk Kapusta.
Absent: Alderman Adams

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 added under Communications from the Mayor, the un-tabling of Matt Whitcomb to the Police Commission. President Allaire removed under Reports and Letters from Department Heads and Officials, Director Coyle's Request for donated sick leave. Alderman Gillam added a report from the Rutland County Sold District Waste under Reports of Representatives. So moved by Alderman Gillam and seconded by Alderwoman Davis. Motion passed.

AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S) (April 6, 2026)

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Harper Ennis, 88 Center Street, has come to hold an asset of us.com and is looking to the use the asset to grow business here in Rutland. Mr. Ennis would appreciate any help the Aldermen and Mayor can give as far as references to loans or grants that could be used to grow business in Rutland.

Pastor Susie Dumas and Associate Pastor Mary Bourne spoke about international evangelist Tommy Zito, who visited Vermont on his first stop in the United States.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Donahue asked that the Board table the nomination of Regina Sears for Third Inspector for Ward 4. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to table the nomination of Regina Sears for Third Inspector for Ward 4. Motion passed.

Mayor Donahue reminded the public of the Loyalty Day Parade taking place on May 3rd.

Mayor Donahue requested the un-tabling of Dick Courcelle for the Rutland Redevelopment Authority Board. A motion was made and seconded (Clifford, Cupoli) to un-table Dick Courcelle for the Rutland Redevelopment Board. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Franzoni) to circulate the ballot box. Motion passed.

Mayor Donahue requested the un-tabling of Matt Whitcomb for the Police Commission. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to un-table the nomination of Matt Whitcomb for the Police Commission. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Franzoni) to circulate the ballot box. Motion passed.

Treasurer Markowski tallied the votes, and the results were given to President Allaire. President Allaire announced that Dick Courcelle was confirmed by a vote of 8 Yes votes and 2 No votes. President Allaire announced that Matt Whitcomb was confirmed by a vote of 9 Yes votes and 1 No vote.

CONSIDERATAION OF SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT REQUESTS

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention: Southwest VT Out of the Darkness Walk, Saturday, September 12, 2026; from 9AM-12PM

A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Davis) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Talbott) to approve the Southwest VT Out of the Darkness Walk on Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 9AM to 12PM. Motion passed.

Rutland County Parent Child Center: 3rd Annual Running for Prevention, Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 9AM-1:30PM

A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Talbott) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Franzoni) to approve the 3rd Annual Running for Prevention on Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 9AM to 1:30PM. Motion passed.

Rutland County Farmer's Market: Farmer's Market, every Saturday starting May 9, 2026, through October 31, 2026; from 9AM to 3PM

A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Davis) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Talbott) to approve the Farmer's Market, every Saturday starting May 9, 2026, through October 31, 2026, from 9AM to 3PM. There was discussion among Board members. President Allaire recognized Treasurer Markowski, who made a recommendation to add to the motion that the Farmer's Market needs to provide the Treasurer's Office with a list of the vendors and their contact information for the 1% meals and option tax. The maker of the motion and seconder agreed to the addition to the motion. Motion passed.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Barbara Spaulding, RRA: Grant Agreement Resolution for HTRC and NWWVT Merger

The City has received the grant agreement offer from VCDP for the HTRC and NWWVT Merger planning grant. Melanie Paskevich, Chief Program Officer of Cornerstone Housing, has reviewed the scope of work and budget for accuracy. The resolution allows the Mayor to accept the grant agreement offer on behalf of the City. Therefore, the RRA respectfully request that the Aldermen circulate the resolution for signature.

A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Tadio) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Talbott, Franzoni) to circulate the resolution for signature. Motion passed.

Treasurer Markowski: Report of Financial Reports for City & RRA period ending March 31, 2026

Treasurer Markowski reported on the third quarter financial for the City and RRA for FY26. Treasurer Markowski announced that there will be a pension meeting on May 20, 2026.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to refer the financial reports for the City and RRA for period ending March 31, 2026, to the Finance Committee. Motion passed.

Treasurer Markowski: Lease Proposal for purchase of 2 Police Vehicles – Request for approval of financing

Treasurer Markowski has been working with the Police Department to obtain financing for new police vehicles. The Board of Finance approved the purchase, and the lease expenses will be paid from the Police Department Equipment Replacement Fund. The purchase includes a 2026 Toyota Camry for \$36,664 and a 2026 Ford F150 Responder for \$58,804.15. The Camry will be used for BCI and the F150 for Community Response Team.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Gillam) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Cupoli) to approve the financing proposal from Tax Exempt Leasing for the lease purchase of

the PD 2026 Camry and the 2026 Ford F150 Responder for a term of 3 years and a rate of 5.10% with a total sales price of \$95,468.15. Motion passed.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderwoman Tadio: Recreation Committee Meeting from April 14, 2026

Alderwoman Tadio read the Recreation Committee report from April 14, 2026. First the committee discussed the items that have been referred to the Recreation Committee. There was an update on Winter programming, Spring and Summer plans. Outreach for the department is going well and feedback from the community has been positive. The Maintenance Team has completed the spring cleanup downtown and currently the team is getting Main Street Park ready for the summer concert series that starts June 24th. Last winter was the first with the new cooling system and there was 48% reduction in power, and this saved \$12,646 from Giorgetti's yearly expenses. Indoor sports are starting and a fishing derby will be held this spring. Lastly, the Youth Theater play of Shrek Jr. will be May 8th and 9th at Paramount Theater. No action was taken during this meeting.

Alderwoman Tadio: Charter & Ordinance Committee Meeting from April 15, 2026

Alderwoman Tadio read the Charter and Ordinance Committee report from April 15, 2026. The first topic was moving the DPW Commissioner, Superintendent of Recreation, and Planning Director to contracted positions. This was referred on November 17, 2025, by Alderman Clifford. Alderman Clifford was not present at this meeting and no one on the committee could recall why it was referred. The committee then moved on to discuss the mayoral succession plan language. Attorney Bloomer provided an excerpt from Burlington's Charter regarding a succession plan. There was discussion among committee members and attendees. Last was to discuss consideration of amending the City Charter to make the Attorney's position contracted or hired rather than appointed. The discussion extended to making the City Attorney along with the DPW Commissioner, Superintendent of Recreation, and Planning Director hired or contracted. Alderman Talbott felt that all department heads should be contracted. It was discussed that in the next meeting the committee should come up with language and outline the process for how a change will be presented to the voters. No action was taken during this meeting.

Alderman Clifford clarified why he referred the issue to committee. The fact that department heads are only a two-year term and the first year is getting acclimated to the position and the second year is wondering if you'll be re-appointed even if you're doing your job right.

REPORTS OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Alderman Clifford: Intermunicipal Meeting from April 8, 2026

Alderman Clifford read the Intermunicipal committee report from April 8, 2026. Robert Congdon of the Fair Association stated that the Fairgrounds will be the hub of the activity for the 250th Celebration. A possible parade was discussed beginning on Strongs Avenue, continuing onto South Main Street and ending at the Fairgrounds. It was decided against a parade due to traffic concerns and the holiday weekend.

Vendors for the event would charge for their own items and food and there would be no charge to enter the Fairgrounds. Vendors other than the ones already at the Fairground will need to complete an application provided by the Fair Association.

There was discussion about holding a Friday night event at Northwood Park in Rutland Town.

There was a suggestion of getting the VFW and American Legion to participate, and a suggestion that the Garden Club could dress up some of the flowerpots around the city to reflect the 250th year celebration.

Alderman Adams spoke about the fireworks contribution, and the organization is still short of the \$30,000 goal, but money is still coming in.

Details such as overtime, vendors and event details will need further discussion and Chairman Clifford will schedule a following up meeting.

Alderman Gillam spoke up and stated that Rutland South Rotary is contributing \$500 towards the fireworks.

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES

Alderman Gillam: Rutland City Solid Waste District (RCSWD)

Alderman Gillam announced that Matthew Seager took over RCSWD today. RCSWD will be looking to get two audits done and hire some bookkeepers. There has also been some turnover on the Board of Directors.

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

Alderdwoman Tadio informed the public and Board about a Murder by the Book being held at the Rutland Free Library on May 1st and the cost is \$70 for tickets which supports the library. Tickets can be purchased at the library or online through the library.

At 7:52 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Clifford) to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectively submitted by,

Tracy L. Kapusta
City Clerk