

Board of Aldermen Minutes
City of Rutland
Monday, July 6, 2026

Members present: President Allaire, Aldermen Adams, Cupoli, Clifford, Franzoni, Tadio, Beauchamp, Gillam and McClure. Also present were City Attorney Gustafson, Mayor Donahue and Deputy City Clerk Clark. Alderman Talbott 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 and asked for a moment of silence for two people who have passed; Kim Moriglioni (DPW employee) and Mike Davis (Alderwoman Davis' husband).

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR OTHER MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

President Allaire asked if there were any additions, deletions or other modifications to the agenda. There were no additions, deletions, or other modifications to the agenda. President Allaire asked to move from Communications from the Mayor the tabling of the nomination of Curt Esposito to the Rutland City Board of Aldermen to the very end of the meeting following Alderwoman McClure's farewell resignation speech and asked for a motion in which Alderman Franzoni so moved with Alderman Adams seconding. The motion passed.

AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S) (June 15, 2026)

Alderman Cupoli moved to approve the minutes. Alderman Franzoni seconded and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Superintendent Cioffi (Rutland City) and Mike Rowe (Rutland Town) thanked everyone who came out for the July 3rd Rutland City/Rutland Town event held that was held at Rutland Town pool (Northwood Park) and spoke of continuing the event. Mr. Rowe also thanked the radio station for promoting the event. President Allaire also thanked those putting the event together.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Donahue spoke outside the rail regarding the following announcements:

The City Clerk asked to mention the polls will be open August 11th from 7:00am to 7:00pm for the Primary Election and people can vote absentee and in the Clerk's office. Mayor Donahue thanked the city departments and employees working together and spoke of a swift water rescue that occurred on June 20th in Otter Creek and praised Officer Caravaggio and the Fire Department for their assistance. On July 2nd & 3rd the city launched an emergency cooling center at the Godnick Center and spoke of the City/Town event that was held on July 3rd at Northwood Park and thanked the City & Town's Police, Fire and Recreation departments and the Board of Aldermen and Selectboard's presence at the event. Mayor Donahue also spoke of the July 4th events held at the Vermont State Fairgrounds and thanked the City's Police and Fire department for being at the event. Mayor Donahue also thanked Alderman Clifford for scheduling the Intermunicipal Committee meetings for the ideas for America's 250-year celebration.

Division 4 MSJ/Mill River Vermont State Champion Baseball Team led by Head Coach Nick Davis

Mayor Donahue recognized Vermont Principal's Association Division 4 MSJ Vermont State Championship Baseball Team including baseball players from Mill River Union High School. Mike Audette, Principal of MSJ, spoke outside the rail praising the team and thanked the City of Rutland and introduced two players, Gavin Treanor of MSJ and Carter Robilotto of Mill River, who spoke briefly outside the rail. President Allaire, a MSJ alumni, also spoke in praise of the team's championship. Alderman Gillam stated Alderwoman Davis is also a MSJ alumni.

Table the nomination of John Coffin for 3rd Inspector at Ward 3, American Legion

Alderman Gillam moved to table the nomination. Alderman Franzoni seconded and the motion passed.

Table the nomination of Curt Esposito to the Rutland City Board of Aldermen

This was moved to the end of the meeting

Consideration of Special Event Permit requests

Downtown Rutland Partnership: Friday Night Live, Downtown Rutland, Friday, July 10, 2026, from 5PM-10PM

Downtown Rutland Partnership: Friday Night Live, Downtown Rutland, Friday, July 17, 2026, from 5PM-10PM

Downtown Rutland Partnership: Friday Night Live, Downtown Rutland, Friday, July 24, 2026, from 5PM-10PM

Downtown Rutland Partnership: Friday Night Live, Downtown Rutland Friday, July 31, 2026, from 5PM-10PM

Downtown Rutland Partnership: Friday Night Live, Downtown Rutland, Friday, Aug 7, 2026, from 5PM-10PM

Downtown Rutland Partnership: Friday Night Live, Downtown Rutland, Friday, Aug 14, 2026, from 5PM-10PM

President Allaire asked to consider a motion to suspend the rules for all six events, in which Alderwoman Tadio so moved with Alderwoman McClure seconding and the motion passed. Alderwoman Tadio made a motion to approve the Friday Night Live Special Event Permits starting Friday July 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st, August 7th & 14th all starting at 5:00 PM until 10:00PM. Alderwoman McClure seconded. Hal Issente, Executive Director of the Rutland Downtown Partnership, spoke outside the rail regarding the events. Alderman Gillam asked for those who are attending the events to park at the North End of the plaza parking lot to allow patrons to shop in the plaza and to park in the Parking Deck (LAZ). The motion to approve passed.

Chaffee Art Center: 65th Art in the Park Summer Festival, Main Street Park, August 8-9, 2026, from 10AM-5PM

Chaffee Art Center: Art in the Park Fall Festival, Main Street Park, October 10-11, 2026, from 10AM-5PM

President Allaire asked for a motion to suspend the rules, in which Alderman Adams so moved with Alderman Gillam seconding and the motion passed. Sherri Birkheimer-Rooker spoke outside the rail regarding the events. Alderwoman Tadio moved to approve the Special Event Permit for the 65th Art in the Park Summer Festival and the Art in the Park Fall Festival for August 8th & 9th and October 10th & 11th from 10:00AM to 5:00PM. Alderwoman McClure seconded and the motion passed.

Reports and Letters from Department Heads and Officials

Superintendent Cioffi: Permission for the Mayor to sign the final grant agreement and future agreements as it relates to the Land Water Conservation Fund Grant for the accessible trail at Giorgetti/Pine Hill Park

Ms. Cioffi spoke outside the rail explaining the grant. Alderwoman Tadio made a motion to suspend the rules and take the matter up tonight. Alderwoman McClure seconded and the motion passed. Alderwoman Tadio moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the final grant agreement and any future agreements as it relates to the Land Water Conservation Fund Grant for the accessible trail at Giorgetti/Pine Hill Park. Alderwoman McClure seconded and the motion passed.

Barbara Spaulding, RRA: BRELLA Application – East Creek Commons

Ms. Spaulding explained the city needs to assume this grant so the money can flow through to the project and requested the City to move to submit the application under the city and enable the Mayor to sign any associated documentation including any documents the City Attorney may consider necessary. Alderwoman Tadio moved the suspend the rules and take the matter up tonight. Alderwoman McClure seconded and the motion passed. Alderwoman Tadio made a motion authorize the city to enroll East Creek Commons, in BRELLA, to submit the application under the City and enable the Mayor to sign any associated documentation including any documents the city Attorney may consider necessary. Alderwoman McClure seconded. Mary Cohen said they are closing on this August 11th and to start on August 12th. The motion then passed.

Barbara Spaulding, RRA: Conveyance Authorization – 200 Columbian Avenue

Ms. Spaulding said the City Attorney required a resolution to be read into the record. Ms. Spaulding then read the resolution. Alderwoman Tadio moved to suspend the rules and take the matter up tonight. Alderman Gillam seconded and the motion passed. Alderwoman moved to authorize the conveyance of 200 Columbian Avenue in Rutland City and authorize the Mayor to execute any document required to perfect the conveyance and circulate for signature. Alderwoman McClure seconded. Alderman Gillam stated this is the white house by GE. The motion then passed.

Sean Adkins, RRA: LIFT Application – VFW

Ms. Spaulding briefly explained the grant. Alderwoman Tadio moved to suspend the rules and take the matter up tonight. Alderwoman McClure seconded and the motion passed. Alderwoman Tadio made a motion to approve the LIFT Grant to John Pisanelli/VFW Post 648 for up to \$10,000.00 of the total eligible expenses associated with the renovations at 15 Wales Street in Rutland. John Pisanelli and Tom Rounds of the VFW briefly spoke outside the rail explaining the renovations that are needed. The motion passed.

Engineer Gillen: Center Street Revitalization Project – Selection of Preferred Alternative

Mr. Gillen spoke outside the rail stating there were two public meetings regarding the project that has three alternative concepts and said Alternative #2 (Chicane One-way) emerged as the preferable concept and provided background to the board. Mr. Gillen said at the Board of Highway Commissioners meeting a motion was made for the City to advance Alternative #2 as the preferred alternative and sought the board's support. Alderman Gillam moved to suspend the rules and take the matter up tonight. Alderman Franzoni seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Gillam moved to enter into design development phase selecting Alternative #2 (Chicane One-way) as preferred alternative for the Center Street project. Alderman Franzoni seconded. President Allaire stated he is on the Board of Highway Commissioners and after hearing from the engineering staff and others this is the safest alternative and esthetically pleasing. Alderman Gillam said this is a big job to begin next spring. After brief discussion and comment the motion passed.

Planning Director Bove: City Owned Property Committee Recommendation for 56 Cleveland Avenue

Mr. Bove spoke outside the rail saying the City Owned Property Committee made its recommendation for 56 Cleveland. Alderwoman Tadio moved to suspend the rules and take the matter up tonight. Alderwoman McClure seconded and the motion passed. Mr. Bove stated the motion needs to switch out Heatly to Bigelow. Alderwoman Tadio made a motion that the Board of Aldermen hereby approve the conveyance of 56 Cleveland Avenue by Quit Claim Deed to Diane Bigelow, or her successors and assigns Mayor Tom Donahue as the duly authorized agent of the City under Section 9-6.2 of the Charter is hereby authorized to execute and deliver a Quit Claim Deed and any related documents necessary to effectuate said conveyance and to take any and all actions reasonably necessary to carry out the intent of this motion. Alderwoman McClure seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Gillam opposed.

Chief Prouty: Sale and Transfer of Ownership of PD Firearm (this item was withdrawn)

Treasurer Markowski: Request approval of Proposed contract for annual OPEB (other post employee benefits) valuation services for fiscal year 2026

Treasurer Markowski spoke outside the rail explaining this goes along the City audit; the contract amount is \$12,900.00, an increase of \$400 and is a budgeted expense included in annual audit fees. Treasurer Markowski said she is looking for the board to approve the contract. Alderwoman Tadio moved to suspend the rules. Alderwoman McClure seconded and the motion passed. Alderwoman Tadio moved to approve the proposed service agreement with Nyhart & Company for services related to the Fiscal 2026 GASB 75 OPEB report for the contract amount of \$12,900.00. Alderwoman McClure seconded. Alderwoman Tadio added to authorize the Treasurer to sign. The motion passed.

Treasurer Markowski: Request for approval of Grant Anticipation Note with Community Bank NA for short-term borrowing related to the \$7.2M CSO grant

Treasurer Markowski stated this will provide the cash flow needed to pay vendors for the Connor Park Storage project. Alderwoman Tadio moved to suspend the rules and take the matter up tonight. Alderwoman McClure seconded and the motion passed. Alderwoman Tadio moved to approve the loan agreement with Community Bank for the \$4,000,000.00 grant anticipation note and authorize the Mayor to sign. Alderwoman McClure seconded. Treasurer Markowski added to authorize the board of Alderman to sign and for the Treasurer to draw from the line of credit. Alderwoman Tadio added "authorize the Board of Alderman to sign and for the Treasurer to draw from the line of credit" to her motion. After brief discussion, the motion passed.

Treasurer Markowski: Request for approval of interfund borrowing for cash flow purposes

Treasurer Markowski said this is typical for this time of year when we are between collections and have a lot of expenses totaling \$1.5 million and requesting to use funds in the Capital Reserve Fund as needed to cover cash flow needs. Alderwoman Tadio moved to suspend the rules. Alderman Gillam seconded and the motion passed. Alderwoman Tadio moved to authorize the Treasurer's office to transfer funds from the Capital Reserve Fund to support the General Fund cash needs. Alderman Franzoni seconded. President Allaire asked if this borrowing effects the tax rate. Treasurer Markowski said not at all. The motion passed.

Treasurer Markowski: Preliminary discussion of the FY26 tax rate, year-end adjustments and fund balance changes

Treasurer Markowski provided preliminary information: approved FY27 budget \$27,490,094.30 (6.4% increase) social agencies \$362,243, debt service \$1,012,703 (estimate), estimated revenues \$3,500,000, estimated surplus or deficit (TBD), transfers in \$1,454,469, net amount to be raised 23,910,571.30 (9% increase before adjustments), grand list has not been finalized and the municipal tax rate to be determined. Alderman Adams asked if there is any more information about JCI. Treasurer Markowski said she does not have updated information regarding that. Treasurer Markowski also reported the Education Rates for Homestead is \$1.6422 (increase of 2% and Non-Homestead is \$2.0027 (increase of 3.9%). Treasurer Markowski asked to consider to assign fund balances of \$90,000.00 for the BIAP account and assign fund balance of \$7,500 for the RISE program which these assignments reduce the amount available to offset the FY27 tax rate. Alderwoman Tadio made a motion to suspend the rules and take up the BIAP tonight. Alderwoman McClure seconded. Alderman Gillam point of order said this is in committee. Alderwoman Tadio said this is about assigning the balances. The motion passed. Alderwoman Tadio made a motion to assign the fund balances of \$90,000.00 for the BIAP account. Alderwoman McClure seconded and the motion passed. Treasurer Markowski said \$7,500 was in the budget for RISE and this needs to be rolled into the FY27 budget. Alderwoman Tadio made a motion to suspend the rules. Alderwoman McClure seconded and the motion passed. Alderwoman Tadio made a motion to assign the fund balance of \$7,500.00 for the RISE program. Alderwoman McClure seconded and the motion passed. Treasurer Markowski said she has three fund balance assignments that were voted on last year and would to have those removed and: Prior Year Fund Balance: \$1,045,979 to offset the FY26 tax rate; Police Salaries \$220,000 to provide additional funding for salaries in the Police Department and Fire Department Salaries \$55,520.58. Treasurer Markowski requested a motion to remove the fund balance assignments from last year including Prior Year fund Balance, Police Department salaries and Fire Department salaries that total \$1,321,499.97. Alderman Gillam so moved with Alderwoman Tadio seconding and the motion passed. Treasurer Markowski said she forwarded preliminary review of the balance sheets and budgets for the General Fund and Water/Sewer Proprietary funds and have had significant overspending because of post-employee payouts. Treasurer Markowski said if anyone has questions to meet with her.

Reports of Standing Committees

Alderman Adams: Charter & Ordinance Committee Meeting from June 22, 2026

Alderman Adams read his committee report; first item considered was changing the noun "fireman" to "firefighter" and read the following motion from Committee: Alderman Gillam moved to change the city ordinances to reflect gender neutral language regarding firefighter's motion in committee passed 4-0, in which he so moved. Alderwoman Tadio seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Gillam moved for the committee to recommend to the full board to amend subchapter 23 of the City Charter to adopt gender neutral language subject to approval by voters and legislature pursuant to 17 V.S.A. section 2645 motion passed 4-0, in which he so moved. Alderman Tadio seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Adams said the second item in committee was a review of requirement that firefighters "shall not belong to any other fire or hose company" as required by The Code Title 15 Chapter 1 Subchapter 1 Section 2701 and read the committee report. This item remains in committee. The third item discussed was the requirement that firefighters must live within a 5-mile radius of the station house to which he or she is assigned as indicated in the Charter Subchapter 23 Section 9-23.4 and Alderman Adams read his committee report. This item was also left in committee.

Alderman Gillam: Community & Economic Development Meeting from June 25, 2026

Alderman Gillam read his committee report regarding the BIAP/Lift Fund stating in committee, Alderman Cupoli moved to the full board that 50% of the solar revenue from the two leases be used to fund the BIAP/Lift programs for five years to be revisited in June of 2031, in which he so moved and Alderman Franzoni seconded. Alderman Gillam said money is not coming from the tax payers, it is coming from the solar fields by the high school and McDonalds (on city property) and after brief explanation, the motion passed.

Reports of Select Committees (there were none)

Reports of Representatives (there were none)

Petitions, Letters, Miscellaneous Communication (there were none)

Board of Control Commissioners (there were none)

Board of Cannabis Commissioners (there were none)

Unfinished Business

Alderwoman McClure read her resignation farewell speech and stated she would not be joining the executive session.

President Allaire said there are two items left; Executive session to discuss records and information exempt from the public records act relating to a retiree pension matter and a motion to the table the appointment of Curt Esposito as nomination to the Rutland City Board of Aldermen. Mayor Donahue spoke outside the rail regarding his appointment of Mr. Esposito (Mr. Esposito was alongside Mayor Donahue). President Allaire stated a motion to table would be in order, in which Alderman Gillam moved with Alderman Cupoli seconding and the motion passed.

Alderman Gillam spoke of the fireworks display and thanked Alderman Adams and everyone who organized the event.

Miscellaneous Motions, Resolutions, New Business

Executive Session: To discuss records and information exempt from the Public Records Act relating to retiree pension matter

City Attorney Gustafson moved to go into executive session to discuss records and information exempt from the public records act relating to a retiree pension matter to include the City Attorney, Treasurer Markowski and Mayor Donahue, in which Alderman Gillam seconded and the motion passed. The meeting stood down at 8:29PM; executive session began at 8:40pm. Alderman Clifford moved to go out of executive session at 8:50PM. Alderman Franzoni seconded and the motion passed. Alderman Adams moved to adjourn. Alderwoman Tadio seconded and the motion passed. The meeting ended at 8:50PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan A. Clark
Deputy City Clerk