



RUTLAND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
CITY OF RUTLAND
1 Strongs Avenue
RUTLAND, VERMONT 05701
(802) 775-2910 spauldingrra@rutlandvtbusiness.com

Regular Meeting / January 27, 2015
Minutes

Attendance: Dave Cooper, Brennan Duffy, Claus Bartenstein, Ed Clark, Barbara Spaulding, Mike Gauthier, Stephanie Peters, Israel Mac and Wendy Wilton.

Absent: William Notte.

Also attending: Susan Schreibman, RRPC and Commander Kevin Geno, Rutland Police Department.

- I. The meeting was called to order at 8:10 am.
- II. Agenda Additions/Deletions – None.
- III. Ed moved to approve the minutes of January 13, 2015. Claus seconded. Motion was approved.
- IV. No one from the public was in attendance to address the Board.
- V. Wendy moved to authorize Dave to sign the warrant for payment of Fund 800 expenses totaling \$2,561.57 and recommend to the City Board of Finance that \$4,650.00 in Fund 100 expenses be approved for payment. Mike seconded. Motion was approved.
- VI. Susan Schreibman and Commander Geno conducted a Speed Limit Presentation. Discussion followed the presentation regarding whether dropping the speed limit to 25mph unilaterally as opposed to just in targeted areas such as the downtown would be a more logical option. There was concern expressed that 25mph was too slow and not reasonable for all areas and roadways in the City. Susan said all comments were being compiled and considered following the presentations.
- VII. Barbara provided the following grant updates:
 - Hickory Street Community Center – The 12/31/14 progress report is due 1/30/15. The final requisition for \$4,650 in administration by the RRA has been submitted.
 - Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy – The 12/31/14 progress report due 1/30/15 was submitted Jan. 19. A pilot project needs to be completed before the grant can close out 12/31/15.
 - Financial Statement Reports – The City has six grants with closeout agreements that require annual reports to the entities' auditors to determine the status of their loans. In

addition, these reports are provided to the Treasurer's office and added to the Quarterly Grant/Loan Status report provided to the RRA Board, Mayor and Aldermen.

Downtown Designation Renewal 2015 – The City's Downtown Designation is up for renewal and the process has new requirements. There are 10 specific elements to the renewal process including a 5-year Strategic Plan. This plan is an extension of the DRP's annual Work Plan and must be approved prior to the application in May. Brennan suggested putting together a committee of members from both the RRA and DRP Boards to work on the plan. The draft renewal is due Feb. 2 with the full application due May 1. A resolution in support of the renewal will be presented to the Aldermen on Feb. 2. Stephanie volunteered to work on the Strategic Plan element and to serve as the RRA Board Liaison to the Downtown Rutland Partnership. A DRP liaison report will be added to the agenda in the future.

VIII. Brennan provided the following project status updates:

SCBC Grant – Brennan followed up with the funders and was told though not able to be funded Rutland's application was strong and that we should reapply next round.

Environmental Tech Initiative – GMP has agreed to partner with the RRA at the Vermont Business Expo booth in May. Expenses for the booth were put in the FY15 budget. A revision of the Industrial/Commercial Tax Stabilization policy to include specific incentives for the environmental tech industry sector is being considered, as well as other tangible financial incentives.

DTF Application – Brennan discussed the DRP's desire to use the funds for lighting on West Street but the budget proposed was \$168,000 and there was no mechanism for the required match. Discussion regarding applying for funds for a Strongs Avenue/Merchants Row project followed. Brennan is meeting with Vermont Railway to discuss their participation on Strongs Avenue. Project is proposed to include bump outs at crosswalks at key intersections in the downtown further tying the project to the Designated Downtown.

60 Strongs Avenue – Mark Foley St. purchased the Mintzer Brothers triangle property. Brennan called to discuss including the property in the SBD and the possibility of closing Prospect Street to through traffic, as part of the Gateway Improvement recommendations.

Center Street Alley – close to final plans with some budget issues. The next meeting is Feb. 12 at 2 pm.

Zamias Funds Application – Alderman Bloomer approached Brennan for assistance in a possible application for future requests.

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College of St. Joseph – A wastewater incentive may be requested for expansion of residence hall and dining hall.

133 Forest Street – Prospective purchaser is still considering acquisition. Brennan met with Act 250 personnel to determine State requirements.

IX. New Business.

Dave asked if the Board would be interested in a future discussion regarding purchasing blighted properties. The Board was in favor of having the discussion added to a future agenda.

The Treasurer's Report for Dec. 31, 2014 FY 2015 was received and will be posted to the RRA website.

X. Adjourn.

Ed moved to adjourn. Claus seconded. Motion was approved. The meeting ended at 9:20 am.

These minutes approved this ____ day of _____, 2015.

Israel Mac, Secretary