

Board of Aldermen Minutes
City of Rutland
Monday, January 6, 2025

Members present: President Talbott, Aldermen Davis, Gillam, Tadio, McClure, Heck, Whitcomb, Barbagallo, McCann, Savage, and Adams. Also present, Mayor Doenges, Treasurer Markowski, and City Clerk Kapusta. Absent: Attorney LaChance.

7:00 PM BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

President Talbott called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS OR OTHER MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

President Talbott asked if there were any additions, deletions or other modifications to the agenda. President Talbott removed the updates on current litigation executive session, and year in review for the Legal Department and the executive session moved to the end of the agenda. So moved by Alderwoman Davis and seconded by Alderwoman Savage. Motion passed. There were no other modifications to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Arwen Turner from Come Alive Outside spoke about the upcoming Rutland Winterfest that will be held February 14-22, 2025. Refer to www.rutlandwinterfest.com for more information.

AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S) (December 16, 2024)

A motion was made and seconded (Adams, Savage) approving the minutes from the previous meeting. President Talbott asked if there were any changes or corrections, there were none. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

The annual report that was printed has some errors that were discovered. Mayor Doenges will have an electronic version available at the end of this week on the City's website. Hard copies will be available at a later date, but paper copies can be obtained in the Clerk's Office starting next week.

The Capital Improvement Program draft is on file in the Clerk's Office and on January 15th there will be a discussion and vote on approving the bond work going with the program.

Mayor Doenges has been invited to the Governors Inauguration on Thursday.

CONSIDERATAION OF SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT REQUESTS

There were no special event permit requests.

REPORTS AND LETTERS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OFFICIALS

Administrator Bove: TIF Resolution and District Plan

Administrator Bove and Stephanie Clarke from White & Burke asked the Board to approve the TIF District Plan and approve the Resolution establishing the District and to authorize the submission of the application to the Sate (VT Economic Progress Council/VEPC).

A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Savage) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Tadio, Savage) to approve the TIF District Plan, circulate the Resolution for Board signatures and authorize the submission of the application to the VT Economic Progress Council/VEPC. Motion passed.

Assistant Engineer Gillen: Wastewater Engineering Services RFQ Recommendation

In 2024, the Board granted the Department of Public Works authorization to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for wastewater engineering services. With the Board's approval of this request, Public Works will begin contract negotiations with Aldrich & Elliot for the "20-year Evaluation of the Wastewater Treatment and Collection Systems and the design of Calvary Combined Sewer Storage Facility.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Tadio) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Heck) to approve the selection of engineering consulting firms for wastewater engineering services as recommended below:

1. Aldrich & Elliot
2. Hoyle & Tanner
3. Hazen & Sawyer

Motion passed.

Assistant Engineer Gillen: Hazard Mitigation Grant – Flood Mitigation Study

Public Works submitted several pre-applications to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program late last year. Since then, the City has been invited to submit full applications for the following projects:

1. Strongs Avenue Culvert Replacement at Moon Brook
2. Flood Plain Restoration at Moon Brook
3. State Fairgrounds Flood Plain Restoration at Mussey Brook

The deadline for these applications is June 2025. To expedite, Public Works recommends entering into an agreement with SLR Consulting. This firm is a local leader in this type of work.

A motion was made and seconded (McCann, Adams) to suspend the rules. Motion passed. A motion was made and seconded (McCann, Adams) to authorize the Public Works Commissioner to initiate contract negotiations with SLR Consulting for a Flood Mitigation Study. Motion passed.

Assistant Engineer Gillen: DPW Committee Referral

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Adams) to refer the following items to the DPW Committee:

1. Moon Brook Flow Restoration Plan
2. Phosphorus Control Plan – Engineering Design Services

Motion passed.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Alderwoman Tadio: Community & Economic Development Committee Meeting from December 12, 2024

Alderwoman Tadio read the Community & Economic Development Committee meeting report that was held on December 12, 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to review the Rutland Downtown Hotel and Living Agreement Letter of Intent to Enter into a Development Agreement.

The motion moved at the committee meeting will be presented at the January 15th Community & Economic Development meeting.

Alderwoman Davis: Public Safety Committee Meeting from December 18, 2024

Alderwoman Davis read the Public Safety Committee meeting report that was held on December 18, 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss equipment replacement funds. First was the discussion of the Fire Equipment fund which currently generates \$175,000 off the tax rate. Chief Lovett is requesting an additional \$50,000 be generated from the fund.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Savage) to change the rate generated into the Fire Equipment Replacement Fund from .0175 to .0225. Motion passed.

Next was the Police/DPW and Recreation current equipment replacement fund that is split among the three. The committee felt it was appropriate to establish a Police Equipment Replacement Fund based on cost and need.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, Adams) to approve the establishment of a new Police Equipment Fund and to generate .018 on the tax rate yearly. Motion passed.

The current equipment fund will remain the same \$120,000 between Recreation and DPW.

Impact on the tax rate will go from 44.25 yearly to 78.75 yearly.

A motion was made and seconded (Davis, McCann) to refer to Charter & Ordinance the question of replacement for Police vehicles to change the language from years to mileage. Motion passed.

Alderman McCann: Charter & Ordinance Committee Meeting from December 19, 2024

Alderman McCann read the Charter & Ordinance Committee meeting report from December 19, 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss competitive bid triggers amounts and the maximum penalty for violations of ordinances defined by the City Charter as well as the development of a short-term rental registration ordinance.

A motion was made and seconded (McCann, Barbagallo) pending attorney review, to remove reference to a specific dollar limit and instead identify that the bid trigger dollar amount would be identified in the City's Purchasing Policy. Motion passed. Alderman Heck voted no.

A motion was made and seconded (McCann, Tadio) to update the City's Purchasing Policy, pending the previously mentioned charter change and attorney review, to require a competitive bid process for purchases in excess of \$10,000. Motion passed. Alderman Heck voted no.

A motion was made and seconded (McCann, Barbagallo) to refer to the Board of Finance adjusting the purchasing policy to include requirement for Board of Finance involvement of anything over \$5,000. Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded (McCann, Barbagallo) pending attorney review, to remove reference to specific fine or imprisonment maximums and instead tier to the associated maximums in 24 V.S.A. 1974 and 1974(a). Motion passed.

The final discussion was for Short-term Rental Registration. A draft of a Short-term Rental Ordinance to address identified tracking and management needs in Rutland City was completed by the City Attorney, Extern Rios and outside counsel. The committee reviewed the draft and there was much discussion. No action was taken on the item, and it will remain in committee.

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, 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. ALL QUESTIONS ON PRIORITY WILL BE DECIDED WITHOUT DEBATE

President Talbott read the motion for executive session.

Motion to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the negotiation of a labor relations agreement would clearly place the City at a substantial disadvantage because the discussion will divulge the Board's position on the agreement provisions to be negotiated. So moved by Alderwoman Tadio and Alderwoman Savage. Motion passed.

Motion to enter into executive session with the inclusion of the Mayor, Commander Whitehead, Police Chief, Treasurer, City Clerk, Human Resources Director, and members of the Rutland City Police Commission: Pat Brougham, Peg Flory, and Alis Headlam to discuss the labor relations agreement as allowed under Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(B). So moved by Alderwoman Savage and Alderman Barbagallo. Motion passed.

At 7:51 PM the Board entered into executive session.

At 8:35 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Adams) to come out of executive session. Motion passed.

At 8:35 PM a motion was made and seconded (Davis, Adams) to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectively submitted by,

Tracy L. Kapusta
City Clerk