

VERGENNES CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 25, 2014
MINUTES

Mayor William Benton called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the City Manager's office at City Hall. Those in attendance were:

Mayor William Benton	Alderman Joe Klopfenstein
Senior Alderman Randall Ouellette	City Manager Mel Hawley
Alderman Renny Perry	City Clerk Joan Devine
Alderman Clara Comeau	Michael Daniels
Alderman Lowell Bertrand	Sierra Bertrand
Alderman Lynn Donnelly	

WARRANTS: The warrant totaling \$888,575.52, which included the 3rd quarter education tax installments, was made available to the Board for review and circulated for signatures of approval.

MINUTES: Minutes to the January 28th meeting were presented for approval. Senior Alderman Randall Ouellette moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Alderman Lowell Bertrand, with all voting in favor.

VISITORS: Michael Daniels advised as co-chairman of the Green-Up Day activities he has received an informational package and they are desperately looking for donations this year. Manager Hawley reported the City has made annual contributions to them to help subsidize the cost of running the program but that we have not been contacted yet this year.

OUTSIDE CONSUMPTION PERMIT: Three Squares Café, Inc. applied for an Outside Consumption Permit to be effective immediately and carry them through April 2014. City Clerk Devine explained the corporation reorganized in 2011. There was an oversight of their Outside Consumption Permit when they applied for their new First Class Liquor License. It was not discovered until now that they did not have a license for outside consumption. Senior Alderman Randall Ouellette moved to approve the application, seconded by Alderman Comeau, with all voting in favor.

FIRE STATION POLICY: Two changes to the Fire Station Meeting Room Policy were proposed adding Vergennes-Panton Water District and Addison County Transit Resources as authorized users of the facility. Alderman Lowell Bertrand moved to approve the changes as presented, seconded by Senior Alderman Randall Ouellette, with all voting in favor.

CERTIFICATE-NO APPEAL OR SUIT PENDING: A Certificate of No Appeal or Suit Pending for the 2013 Grand List was presented. Once signed by the City Council and the Board of Listers, from this date on when offered in evidence in any court in the state, the Grand List shall be received as a legal Grand List and its validity shall not be put at issue by any party to any action in any hearing or trial in any court. The document was circulated for signatures.

CITY HALL SIDEWALK AND CURB PROJECT: Manager Hawley recommended the City apply for \$15,000 from the Vermont Downtown Transportation and Related Capital Improvement Fund grant program to replace the sidewalk and curbing in front of City Hall as part of the City Hall

Courtyard Project. He requested that \$15,000 be allocated from the water tower fund as the required local match. He explained that the City Hall Courtyard Project has been scaled back to include the restoration of the marquee and its base, possible additional lighting on the marquee and the replacement of the sidewalk and curb between the two driveways in front of City Hall. He advised the project was scaled back because a substantial portion of the cost needed for the Friends of the Vergennes Opera House's share of the project would have to be awarded to allow them to follow through with the marquee repair and the brick courtyard fundraising project. Because the brick courtyard and the marquee repair were both specific to the tenant (the Opera House), the courtyard project would not likely qualify for the grant so the committee is recommending a modified version of the third proposal. Manager Hawley explained the three various proposals the committee reviewed before their final decision

Manager Hawley reported that he had obtained an estimate from Champlain Construction on the cost for 108 lineal feet of concrete sidewalk (five feet wide) and granite curbing; that price was \$25,000-\$30,000. He requested approval to apply for a grant for \$15,000 and the remaining half would be the City's responsibility. After providing a report reflecting the current and projected balance of the water tower fund he suggested that the \$15,000 be allocated from that fund. The deadline to apply for that grant is March 10, 2014, he advised, and the Downtown Development Board will meet and make a decision in April. Senior Alderman Randall Ouellette moved to authorize an allocation of \$15,000 from the water tower fund for the City Hall sidewalk improvement project subject to grant approval. The motion was seconded by Alderman Lowell Bertrand with all voting in favor.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: Manager Hawley advised he is feeling good about the budget at this point. Interest revenue is beginning to rebound and the salt and overtime in the Public Works budget is below the mark for now. He went on to say that he will be meeting with Joe Sullivan and Jim Larrow on Thursday to interview candidates for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's position. Also, a ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at the new police station on Friday, March 7th at 2 p.m. Next Tuesday the phones and computer systems will be installed and tested, a State fire inspection will be done on Wednesday, and hopefully operating out of the new station will occur on Thursday. Once landscaping is completed in the spring we will do an open house for the community and a plaque dedication, he advised.

ADJOURNMENT: Alderman Lowell Bertrand moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Alderman Clara Comeau with all voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan T. Devine
Vergennes City Clerk