

VERGENNES CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 13, 2014
MINUTES

Mayor William Benton called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Vergennes Fire Station following the counting of ballots for the VUHS budget re-vote. Those in attendance were:

Mayor William Benton	Alderman Joe Klopfenstein
Senior Alderman Randall Ouellette	Alderman Lynn Donnelly
Alderman Renny Perry	City Clerk Joan Devine
Alderman Michael Daniels	City Manager Mel Hawley
Alderman Lowell Bertrand	Shannon Haggett, Planning Commission Chair

WARRANT: The warrant totaling \$60,267.45 was available for review and was circulated for signatures of approval.

MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE: Shannon Haggett, Chair of the Planning Commission, advised they have been working on the municipal development plan for many months and are almost done with their final review. Once they hold their public hearing, he expects the revised plan will be turned over to the City Council by the end of June.

MINUTES: Minutes to the April 22, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Alderman Lowell Bertrand moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Senior Alderman Ouellette, with all voting in favor.

AMBULANCE SERVICE AGREEMENT: Mel presented a proposed agreement by Vergennes Area Rescue Squad with the City for ambulance service. The agreement proposes an increase from \$5.00 per person to \$6.50 per person for FY2015. He asked if whether the City Council would approve the agreement as presented or if they wished to invite VARS officers to a meeting to discuss the increase. Consensus showed the City Council wanted to request their financial information and invite them to a meeting for discussion.

LICENSE AGREEMENTS – OUTSIDE SEATING: Manager Hawley reported that annually the City Council has authorized him to sign respective agreements with Luigi's Italian Specialties, Park Squeeze, 3 Squares Café, Vergennes Laundry, and Black Sheep Bistro that allows them to use the City right-of-way for outside seating for service of food and beverages. He advised he has current copies of all their certificates of insurance. Alderman Lowell moved to approve the agreements, seconded by Alderman Joe Klopfenstein with all voting in favor.

BUDGET REPORT: Manager Hawley reported the budget is in very good shape at this time. He distributed a report that showed revenues exceeding budget by \$6,812.35 and expenses under budget by \$291,582.32. He pointed out that we still have to cover payroll for the next six weeks, will have monthly operating expenses, and paving in scheduled for June. But overall I felt the budget is in fantastic shape.

The police station project is still projected to be below budget. Of the \$100,000 allocated from the Water Tower Fund, \$27,081.79 was used for the unexpected bond interest. Not all of the remainder

of the funds will get used, he advised. He suggested a date be set soon for the community open house.

COMMUNITY VISIT: Mayor Benton reminded everyone that the next Community Visit meeting facilitated by the Vermont Council on Rural Development is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21st, from 6:30 – 9 p.m. at the Bixby Library. The purpose of this meeting is to move the designated priority projects from the last meeting forward.

RECREATION: Mayor Benton advised he spoke with Terri Arnold, Director of the Middlebury Recreation Department, and she has agreed to meet with him and Mel. He said they give her a tour of City recreation facilities to get her thoughts and recommendations she and also discuss programs.

LIGHTING OF FALLS: Alderman Mike Daniels questioned if the falls were going to be lit again this year and advised that he would be willing to do some fundraising. Alderman Lynn Donnelly stated she thinks the lighting should be done and that Sweet Charity could make a donation towards this effort. Senior Alderman Randall Ouellette also felt it was important to continue lighting the falls. If we were to install permanent lighting fixtures, advised Manager Hawley, the expense might be eligible to come from the Green Mountain Power Co-operative Agreement Fund as it might be considered as an improvement to the basin area. Alderman Renny Perry supported lighting the falls again this year and getting numbers for the cost of permanent fixtures. Manager Hawley will contact Ben Lawrence at VT Audio Visual who installed the temporary set-up in past years.

GREEN-UP DAY: Mike Daniels, Green-Up Day Co-Chair, reported another successful Green-Up Day. He advised they had 137 volunteers that registered with them and they picked up 185 bags of litter.

ADJOURNMENT: Senior Alderman Randall Ouellette moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. The motion was seconded by Alderman Lowell Bertrand with all voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Vergennes City Clerk