

VERGENNES CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 24, 2014
MINUTES

Mayor William Benton called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Vergennes Fire Station. Those in attendance were:

Mayor William Benton	Alderman Lynn Donnelly
Deputy Mayor Randall Ouellette	City Manager Mel Hawley
Alderman Renny Perry	City Clerk Joan Devine
Alderman Michael Daniels	Reporter Andy Kirkaldy
Alderman Lowell Bertrand	Lynnia Pope
Alderman Joe Klopfenstein	

MINUTES: Minutes to the June 17th regular meeting were presented for approval. Senior Alderman Ouellette moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Alderman Bertrand, with all voting in favor except Alderman Klopfenstein who abstained due to his absence at the meeting.

WARRANT: The warrant totaling \$82,439.06 was available for review and circulated for signatures of approval.

TAXICAB LICENSES: Rick Loyer, Jr. and Dana Phillips, d/b/a Small City Taxi, both applied to renew their Taxi License. City Clerk Devine advised a current Certificate of Insurance and their Vermont Operator's Licenses are on file and they have submitted the appropriate fees. Alderman Mike Daniels moved to approve the applications as submitted, seconded by Alderman Bertrand, with all voting in favor.

DOG WARRANT: A Dog Warrant was presented to the Board for approval that would allow our police officers to impound a dog owned by Meryl and Brenda Badger that is not registered. City Clerk Devine advised two previous letters have been sent to the dog owners and she has had no response. The document was circulated for signatures and is recorded as a part of these minutes.

FY2015 CITY BUDGET AND TAX RATE: City Manager Hawley distributed an up-to-date worksheet indicating the fund balance for the General Fund currently at \$161,478.62. He gave a few examples that will increase the fund balance like the successful collection of delinquent taxes and journal entries for grant work. He also reported that will be additional expenses through June 30th that will decrease the fund balance. He also pointed out that when the Fire Department budget was reviewed he was projecting \$15,000 for a fund balance but after processing payroll today the projected fund balance is down to around \$12,000. To adjust for this shortfall the City Council can raise fire assessments to abutting towns and the City or budgeted expenses can be decreased by that amount of money, he advised. It was agreed that proposed expenses be decreased by \$3,000. Mayor Benton advised an executive session will be needed to discuss wage adjustments for the City Manager and City Clerk to determine the final budget number before the City tax rate can be adopted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Alderman Mike Daniels moved to go into executive session at 6:20 p.m. to discuss wage increases for the City Manager and City Clerk. Senior Alderman Randall Ouellette seconded the motion with all voting in favor. Alderman Lowell Bertrand moved to adjourn the executive session at 6:25 p.m., seconded by Alderman Daniels, with all voting in favor.

Alderman Renny Perry moved to authorize raises in the amount of 2.6 percent for both the City Manager and the City Clerk. The motion was seconded by Senior Alderman Randall Ouellette with all voting in favor.

CITY TAX RATE: The 2014 Grand List is now finalized, advised Manager Hawley. The Listers have reached a settlement figure with Green Mountain Power for the hydroelectric plant and the one property tax assessment under appeal with the Board of Civil Authority has been withdrawn. The last grand list value of \$220,451,000 was used when the City Council agreed they would accept a tax rate of 72.5 cents. To get to that rate we will need to use \$110,000 of the year-end fund balance, he advised. There was some discussion of using more from the fund balance and drop the tax rate to 72 cents. Alderman Lowell Bertrand moved to adopt the General Fund budget of \$2,087,959 and set the City tax rate at 72.5 cents. Alderman Joe Klopfenstein seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: At 6:50 p.m. Alderman Bertrand moved to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Senior Alderman Ouellette, with all voting in favor.

Joan Devine, Vergennes City Clerk