

# Angry aldermen argue over library decision

## Plan to hire consultant scrapped

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An ongoing debate over a two-month old vote on the library issue continued to stir up emotions Monday, with aldermen on their feet trying to silence each other and a lengthy staff report going out the window as council decided against hiring a consultant to study impacts of the library move.

Two separate matters, one questioning minutes of the March 22 council meeting and the other a report on hiring a consultant to conduct studies and find consensus on the moving of the

library, combined to test the patience of aldermen on both sides of the issue, ending with four aldermen on their feet arguing procedure while the Lord Mayor pounded his gavel and called for a five-minute recess.

While the discrepancy over the minutes seemed inconsequential to some, it was important enough for Judy Rylands to press for a resolution, only to be shot down in flames by Dennis Dick and Jamie Slingerland, who silenced her midstream.

Rylands, NOTL Conservancy president Laura Dodson and others

fighting to keep the library in the Court House, maintain a motion aldermen voted for March 22 was not to move the library, but to defer the decision while further studies were carried out. Dodson believes that if aldermen have made an irreversible decision that the library is moving when it has not been voted on, they could be considered biased. The Municipal Act, she says, cites that as justification for being removed from office.

The report on hiring a consultant was a result of that deferral, and the question of what aldermen voted on is significant, Dodson

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