

Burlington Department of Public Works Commission Meeting
Draft Minutes, September 16, 2020
645 Pine St. – Main Conference Room

Meeting video link: <https://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/burlington-public-works-commission-151>

Commissioners Present: Tiki Archambeau; Jim Barr; Brendan Hogan (Chair); Peggy O’Neill-Vivanco (Vice Chair); Pablo Bose; Solveig Overby (Secretary)

Commissioners Absent: Chris Gillman

Item 1 – Call to Order – Welcome – Chair Comments

Chair Hogan calls meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and made opening comments.

Item 2 – Agenda

ACTION: Commissioner Barr made a motion to approve the Agenda. Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco seconded. Director Spencer stated that Item 7 can be removed from the agenda as the appeal has been withdrawn. Commissioners Barr and O’Neill Vivanco stated that the amendment to remove Item 7 was friendly. Unanimously approved.

Item 3 – Public Forum

Public Information Manager Rob Goulding provided information on the various ways to participate in the meeting. No one requested to speak at the public forum.

Item 4 – Consent Agenda

- A No Parking Zone at the Locust Terrace Crosswalk
- B AD Space Adjacent to 65 Main Street
- C. Appendix C Ordinance Updates for 194 St. Paul St Parking
- D. Franklin Square Ordinance Revisions

ACTION: Commissioner Barr made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco seconded. Unanimously approved.

Item 5 – Winooski Ave Traffic Regulatory Changes – Nicole Losch

Senior Transportation Planner Nicole Losch provided a presentation on the first phase implementation of the Winooski Avenue Transportation Study and the two proposed regulatory changes necessary to install the recommended complete street design:

-) Removal of parking on South Winooski between Main St and King St (13 spaces)
-) Designation of South Winooski between King St and Maple St as one-way

The Commission discussed the bus stop accommodation, crash data, residential permit parking, work schedule, pre-work notice signs and public engagement. Staff responded. Commissioner Archambeau asked whether the Commission needed to approve the lane reassignment between Pearl and Main Streets. Staff replied that changes to the line and grade of road require Council approval and traffic regulations require Commission

approval, but lane re-assignments in the past have not been determined by the City Attorney to need Council or Commission approval.

Public Comment:

-) James Kelleher – supports proposal
-) Isaac Apberg – supports proposal
-) Michael Setsy – supports proposal
-) Sandy Bender – supports proposal
-) Vikas Mangipudi – supports proposal
-) Kai Forlie – supports proposal

ACTION: Commissioner Archambeau made a motion to approve staff’s recommendation to remove on-street parking on the east side of South Winooski Avenue between Main and King Streets and to designate South Winooski Avenue between King and Maple Streets as a one-way street. Commissioner Barr seconded. Unanimously approved.

Item 6 – North Ave & Cambrian Way Discussion – Norm Baldwin

City Engineer Baldwin summarized his written memo where he outlined the evaluation of a mini-roundabout and the steps that led to the decision to signalize the new North Avenue & Cambrian Way intersection. Due to site constraints including limited right-of-way and existing residential homes on the east side of North Avenue, well locating a full sized roundabout would have been a challenge. A mini-roundabout was determined by the developer’s traffic consultant and by the City Engineer to not have sufficient capacity to handle projected traffic during peak times. Due to these and other factors, a signalized intersection was advanced. City Engineer Baldwin recognized the project’s developer for working for months with DPW’s staff in designing upgrades to North Avenue, finalizing the components of the new Cambrian Way street, and refining the North Avenue and Cambrian Way intersection to well accommodate all modes. The intersection includes full pedestrian signalization, a heated bus waiting area, and continuous bike lanes.

Commissioners Archambeau, O’Neill-Vivanco and Overby asked how come a full roundabout wasn’t studied more thoroughly early on, how the Commission could be engaged earlier before decisions on intersection control are made, how staff considered the input from outside experts such as Clive Sawyers, how traffic experts looking at the same data could reach different conclusions, and how to make this corridor to the high school as safe as possible for all modes. Commissioner Overby stated that she does not agree with the decision to signalize the intersection and a roundabout should have been constructed instead. Director Spencer responded that staff would be willing to work with the Commission to evaluate potential ordinance revisions to provide the Commission a role in reviewing intersection control. Commissioner Barr stated that he’s been involved in multiple planning efforts seeking to locate roundabouts in Burlington and that there are challenges to design them given Burlington’s topography, narrow rights-of-way, diverse uses and limited funding. Nonetheless, he encouraged us to address the challenges so Burlington can install roundabouts where they make sense.

Public Comment:

-) Cambrian Rise developer Eric Farrell stated that he worked closely with Public Works to design transportation facilities in and adjacent to his project. At a

resident's request, he asked his consultant to review the potential for a mini-roundabout. His consultant determined it was not appropriate. He stated his commitment to transit, bikes and a multi-modal design for North Avenue.

-) Resident Lee Terhune submitted a written statement that was read by Public Information Manager Rob Goulding expressing support for a roundabout here and frustration with the decision making that led to a signalized intersection.

ACTION: No action was taken.

Item 7 – Appeal – 31 North Prospect Street – Failed Electrical Inspection

This Item was removed from the agenda at the beginning of the meeting as the appellant withdrew the appeal.

Item 8 – Traffic Calming Program Revisions – Nicole Losch

Senior Transportation Planner Nicole Losch summarized the proposed revisions to the City's long standing Traffic Calming program. Traffic calming seeks to address issues of speeding, traffic volume and/or crashes on residential streets. The revisions propose to:

-) Enhance equity by removing the petition requirement
-) Increase transparency by setting clear thresholds for speed, volumes and crashes
-) Streamline the process by specifying acceptable elements and removing the neighborhood polling

Commissioners expressed support for the equity approach and asked about how to remove the backlog of requests, what requests are currently active, and how to transition out of the 'Local Traffic Only' COVID-19 designated streets.

Public Comment:

-) Jonathan Weber of Local Motion expressed support for the overhaul of the Traffic Calming program as the City needs to advance self-enforcing designs for our streets. He expressed concern about one part of the proposed changes – that of the speed threshold. He suggests measuring actual speeds against the design speed for a particular street is a better threshold for traffic calming eligibility than comparing to the posted speed limit. Commissioner Overby concurred.

ACTION: No action was taken. The Traffic Calming program policies are established by staff. Staff will be reviewing input received from the Commission and the Council's Transportation, Energy & Utilities Committee before finalizing the updated program.

Item 9 – Approval of Draft Minutes 7-15-2020

Commissioner Hogan requested it be noted that Commissioner Bose left the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

ACTION: Commissioner Barr made a motion to accept the minutes with the change requested by Commissioner Hogan. Commissioner Archambeau seconded. Unanimously approved.

Item 10 – Director's Report

Director Spencer referenced his written report and highlighted the following items:

- J Current public engagement for the **Integrated Water Quality Plan** and encouraged Commissioners to get involved and spread the word
- J Upcoming public input on the **University Place design concepts** – this item will be on the Commission’s October agenda
- J The managerial transition of **Parking Enforcement** to DPW would likely happen around the new calendar year and Assistant Director Jeff Padgett will come to a future Commission meeting to get feedback on his Parking Services vision
- J An operational pilot is being considered for **Marketplace Garage** this October to facilitate smooth entrances and exits by raising the gates and having parkers pay with ParkMobile or at kiosks – more news next month
- J The Department’s draft **FY’21 goals and objectives document** is ready for Commission review and it will be posted on the Commission webpage

Item 11- Commissioner Communications

- J Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco supports prioritizing equity in our work.
- J Commissioner Overby wants the Department to look into privacy concerns with the license plate data as more of our platforms require plate numbers to park.
- J Commissioner Overby asked about the water tower repainting. Director Spencer stated that the work is underway and is expected to be complete this season.
- J Commissioner Overby asked about the sewer force main repair on Flynn Avenue and how big the pipe was. Director Spencer stated it was a four-inch pipe, the repair has been completed and a comprehensive rehabilitation of the force main will be completed as part of the Flynn Avenue pump station upgrade.
- J Commissioner Overby asked about signage under stop signs with a warning about the fines underneath the stop sign. Staff is still evaluating the idea.
- J Commissioner Overby asked about parking revenues. Director Spencer stated that traffic revenues are trending low – around 50% of budget – and that staff is monitoring the situation carefully and some initial cost cutting actions have been taken. Others are likely unless revenues improve dramatically soon.
- J Commissioner Overby stated she was elected Secretary of the Board in July but does not know what she is supposed to do. She stated whoever is doing the minutes is doing a great job.
- J Commissioner Archambeau asked about the status of 1 Intervale Avenue for parking change. The spaces are striped too wide and the signs have not been placed in the greenbelt. Director Spencer stated he will get an update.
- J Commissioner Barr is pleased with City Hall Park, the Colchester Ave bike lanes and the Colchester & Chase Street intersection.
- J Commissioner Barr wants staff to look at Grove Street double yellow line. He is not sure it is placed appropriately.
- J Commissioner Hogan requests a pre-winter update on winter maintenance at an upcoming Commission meeting.
- J Commissioner Hogan is pleased with the progress on the five corners project.

Item 12 – Adjournment & Next Meeting – October 21, 2020

ACTION: Commissioner Archambeau moved to adjourn. Commissioner Barr seconded. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.