Commissioners Present: Commissioner Bose, Commissioner Hogan (Chair), Commissioner Kennedy, Commissioner Munteanu, Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco (Vice-Chair), Commissioner Overby

Commissioner Absent: Commissioner Barr

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Hogan called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

ITEM 2 – AGENDA

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco made a motion to approve the agenda
Commissioner Munteanu seconded
Commissioner Bose Aye; Commissioner Kenney Aye; Commissioner Overby Aye; Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco Aye; Commissioner Munteanu Aye; Commissioner Hogan Aye.

ITEM 3 – PUBLIC FORUM

Caryn Long called in about the Great Streets TIF Proposal. Mrs. Long stated that there are two projects permitted Zoning YMCS hotel has been approved and have had two extensions. There are no other projects to help pay for TIF. Is there a need for that much money on Main Street and how much parking would we be using by redoing Main Street?

Maureen Fry stated she has been working since October to have no parking on the residential side of the Lakeside Avenue. Ms. Fry has had letters sent to her for support of the no parking because research states it is not safe. Hula has a number of parking spaces on site for employees to use and people are taking the parking in the Lakeside Neighborhood instead of using parking provided by HULA. Metrics do not support what has been happening. Hula has plenty of parking. There is a lot of activity on the street. There is a sign petition that Lakeside is not safe and single side parking, neighborhood parking only. There is one egress route and the traffic has doubled in the spring and summer with the bike paths open. Please look at this.
Beverly Kehoe lives in Lakeside at Wright Avenue and Central Ave. She believes the parking issues are solvable. The actual metrics are important and she has never not seen a parking spot. The street is busy during the day and one of the greatest impact is when St. John’s Club has event. I consider the most dangerous part of Lakeside Avenue is the underpass.

Jim Dunn lives on Central Avenue stated that when HULA came everyone was excited when HULA came and we knew it would create some traffic issues. The street is awkward, cars are sticking out in road and with cars, and parking on both sides of the street it is tight.

John Caulo is a Central Avenue resident stating that historically this is a factory town created to support Queen City Cotton Company and with Blodgett Oven and then HULA there has been a mixture of truck traffic. When Blodgett Oven was here there was no curb cut, no sidewalk no traffic calming cars exiting at one time. We have worked with DPW in terms of design for improvement and parking on both sides of the street creates a safer environment. It is tight exactly when the design drawing were, it does slow down traffic. It is not the perfect solution and there should be stop signs at all approaches. Sightline would improve with the removal of a parking spot or two.

Maddie Matthew request a stop sign at South Union Street and Adams Street. When coming up Adams Street to go onto South Union Street it is hard to see oncoming traffic on South Union Street because of the cars parked on the street.

ITEM 4 – CONSENT AGENDA

A – Approval of Draft Minutes 12/15/21
B – Parking Removal on Caroline Street

Commissioner Hogan stated there were a few minor edits to the minutes. Robert Goulding, Public Information Manager, stated he corrected Commissioner spelling change

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco made a motion to approve consent agenda with edited draft minutes. Commissioner Kennedy seconded

ITEM 5 – Revised Capital Plan and Main Street Great Street Proposed Ballot Items

Director Spencer stated these are two proposal to invest in city and we wanted the Commission to see this before we brought it to City Council on January 24th.
REVISED CAPITAL PLAN – City Engineer Norman Baldwin stated we are proposing a smaller Capital Bond on Town Meeting Day 2022.

Plan to nearly fully remove Memorial Auditorium from bond (defer decision on building’s future until after BHS decisions.
Defer other items in the original plan to substantially reduce total amount of the bond.
Federal infrastructure plan passed and we anticipate receiving budget-relieving funds (though need for more local match dollars too).
Property tax relief programs for hardest hit property owners will be implemented.

If the Capital bond does not passed here are some of the consequences:

- No local match funding for upcoming federal grants
- No funds for failing emergency radio system
- No fire truck replacements
- No street or sidewalk preventive maintenance
- No enhanced traffic calming
- No plan BTV Walk/bike implementation
- No curb work
- No facilities capital budget
- No parks special projects
- No investment in public art

The updated Capital Bond Approach

- Streets & Bridges $2,000,000 – 1 additional mile per year, funds urgent work and will pursue IIJA funds for additional bridge and paving work
- Civic Buildings $4,300,000 prioritizes urgent facility repairs
- Parks $2,000,000 prioritizes revenue generating Parks investments
- Memorial Auditorium $1,000,000 shift to a temporary stabilizing strategy
- Local Match and Grants $4,500,000 increased local match so City can better leverage Federal IIJA funding
- **35% reduction from vote in December**

There is an attached list on the effect of existing tax payments

Director Spencer stated that we would like a vote of support from the Commission.

Commissioner Munteanu asked if there were more recent cuts from Board of Finance is recommending it to be taken from how it will affect the infrastructure.
City Engineer Norm Baldwin stated with the ability to fully fund, ability to pave, preserve and protect the sidewalk system, bridgework being deferred for federal funding.
Commissioner Bose a chunk of reduction Memorial Auditorium not in this the inability to maintain local match goes further down. Why did this fail? Need an idea of dollar value. A narrative on why you are asking for more money. It would be helpful in making clear on the circumstances and building and facilities repairs on what is being talked about. City Engineer Norm Baldwin stated we are working on that list and identifying specifics – we are trying to fix some things but not everything. Commissioner Bose stated he would like more specificity and he would support.

Commissioner Overby stated there is some confusion between this bond request and on how much TIF bond debt is being requested separately. Lack of specificity on the expenditures, is an open line of credit for the city. I do not want to go to voters in March for this bond when the City might need to spend one hundred twenty million to build a high school, not a good idea to go further until the cost of the high school is known. I will not support going forward for the $25.9 million dollar bond. The details need to be worked out.

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco stated she agrees that clarification is needed on line items. There is uncertainty with the high school, tax bill hit homeowner’s year and the school is a tough pill to swallow. Ten million for Memorial Auditorium to open doors deferred maintenance. Need to communicate return on lack of investment and what happens if the bond is not passed – failing infrastructure affects our everyday life. Specific projects need to be identified and what the money is going for. Are we eligible for $1.4 million for aide for bridge repairs.

City Engineer Norman Baldwin stated there are different levels of bridge repairs. He believes we are eligible under the federal infrastructure bill. Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco stated that a better message needs to go out to the voters explaining where the money is going I do support this.

City Engineer Norman Baldwin stated the facility is leased to BT for servers. It has to be heated while the lease is in place. This building has been on my radar for many years it needs to be secure and safe for the public.

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco stated she does support this, fill in the blanks and push the school district to get a number out.

Commissioner Hogan stated that we have a challenge in front of us. Think about the deferred cost when this catches up with us. We do not have a lot of time to ask the voters for more money and the high school could cost a lot of money.

City Engineer Norman Baldwin stated that they are updating information as we get the new information.

MAIN STREET & GREAT STREETS

City Engineer Laura Wheelock is explaining TIF and did an overview of downtown projects using TIF dollars and reviewing the upcoming Main Street Great Streets Project. City Engineer Wheelock gave an overview of the of the approve TIF projects that have
already taken place downtown – St. Paul Street, Marketplace garage repairs, Browns Court parking lot clean up, storm water upgrades Main Street adjacent to City Hall Park. We are looking for approval for the repair or replace of ravine sewer, Main Street Upper block and Main Street lower block. For more information go the Public Works website to see the information provided in the Commission packet.

Commissioner Kennedy stated she likes the project and what changes were going to be made to make it more accessible.
City Engineer Laura Wheelock stated they were going to raise the whole street up for accessibility. She also explained taking parking space in the right of way not being used, we will have more specific information in March.

Commissioner Bose stated this has to be made known to the public. Laura explained that the Main Street initial outreach and design and construction phases. There will be weekly meetings.

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco stated she loves this and that St. Paul Street is pleasing. You mentioned failing trees and worn green belts is that streetscapes trees or Parks and Rec takes care of this. City Engineer Wheelock stated that this was DPW it was us, 8’ wide tree belt, and width on soul pervious paver.
Commissioner O’Neill- Vivanco stated that the parking issue in other town they have signs to let visitors know where the parking is available. She asked about the impacts of the ravine sewer mean for existing businesses during the rehab.
City Engineer Wheelock stated they have to wait for the bond vote to see what is connected to it.

Commissioner Overby stated she does not feel that this will bode well in March. It should be on the November ballot and have more details with it. I am not supporting this I need more work and details. Brian Pine wants to do affordable housing. How long is that ravine sewer?
City Engineer Wheelock did not know exactly but estimated 6’ tall in that area. This resembles tunnel. If we wait until November, it will be scary, as not all these things can wait. TIF has expiration until next March to bond. We need time with the design consultants and the hotel.
Commissioner Overby stated no dollars and no financial numbers to be believable. City Engineer Wheelock stated we do not have all the answers. Details are in the council packet I can send the link to you.

Commissioner Hogan stated there are opportunities to take advantage of, the gateway block is underwhelming. We need to take care of the ravine.

Commissioner Munteanu stated that year-by-year breakdown 2023-2025 what is the period for Main Street sewer project. Engineer Wheelock stated that it does not necessarily change the taxes. Main Street starting September 2023, the lower blocks
which are the simpler part of the street. It will be a minimum of 2 years before ravine sewer added in.

From: "Caryn Long" <carynlongvt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 10:10 AM
To: soverby@s over.net
Subject: Re: PWC minutes for Jan. 19 meeting

Caryn Long stated that she is impressed with this commission. 40 million bond request estimated median house prices $300,000, will pay $15 more. Give realistic price what it will cost people. TIF will not affect property taxes, yes it will. TIF funding is speculative. City Place destroyed hope in Burlington, how much tax money do we have from City Place? There are no permits for VFW site. Memorial is something people would pay for. If you want this to pass, build trust. Timeline 2 years on Main Street, can we survive construction? City Administration, DPW group, like to know how many engineers we have. Stratos luxury condo $429,000.00 for 2 bedroom 1096 sq ft. Used TIF to support this.

Director Spencer stated that given the hour no timeline that works for the Commission to make this work, Action is not necessary but your input is invaluable.

Commissioner Overby stated that she needs more information two plans are really an investment, waiting on school district for money number for cost to build high school.

ITEM 6 – COVID 19 Operations Update

Director Spencer spoke about the impact of the pandemic recently on general operations where a number of our people have been out with COVID or had contact with someone who did. We have been able to maintain our services and keeping critical operations continuing with the help of people from other Divisions within Public Works stepping up and helping us out.

ITEM 7 – Director’s Report –

Please see the Director’s Report in the packet available on the website

ITEM 8 – Commissioner Communication

Commissioner Overby stated the snow fighting effort in the Old North End has been great.
Commissioner Bose seconded Commissioner Overby’s comments for the snow removal. He stated that some of the comments received tonight asking for our trust I took issue with some of the comments. We can disagree about directions.

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco stated as well thank you for the snow removal. Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco stated that some of the comments early in the meeting in elevated tone. We are all volunteers and we do not have magic wands. We rely on data from staff for making our decisions. I took offense that we have been sitting in our hands since October.

Commissioner Hogan stated thanked the department for carrying on. We need to look at the metrics and where we are. A conversation to get additional staff member.

Director Spencer stated we have council support for an engineer. We are hiring for the position. We are looking at hiring a Public Works Transportation Engineer.

ITEM 9 – Adjournment & Next Meeting Date - February 16, 2022

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco made a motion to adjourn
Commissioner Munteanu seconded
Unanimous approval

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.