



**CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
CITY COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY &
UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

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Councilor Maxwell Tracy, Chair *WARD 2*
Councilor Sharon Foley Bushor, *WARD 1*
Councilor David Hartnett, *North District*

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Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council
Wednesday, October 24, 2018 5:30 PM

Burlington Department of Public Works – Front Conference Room
645 Pine Street – Burlington, VT
–MINUTES–

Members Present: Councilor Max Tracy, TEUC Chairperson; Councilor Sharon Bushor, TEUC Member Councilor; David Hartnett, TEUC Member Councilor; Karen Paul, City Councilor

City Staff Present: Norm Baldwin, DPW; Phillip Peterson, DPW; Chapin Spencer, DPW; Nicole Losch DPW; Robert Goulding, DPW; Patrick Mulligan, DPW; Rob Green, DPW; Aaron Collette, BFD

Residents Present: See Attendance Sheet

1. Agenda

- a. Councilor Tracy called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm.
- b. Councilor Hartnett moved to accept the agenda.

2. Minutes of 08/01/2018

- a. Councilor Hartnett moved to accept the minutes. All in favor.

3. Public Forum

- a. Andrea Todd: Thank you so much for all the good roads. Especially on North Ave, the nice bike lanes. I'm worried about all the patches, and I have gone to several committees; there is one in particular on South Prospect Street near an ADA space, which is 8" below grade. I know there are some standard procedures being followed, but they just are not following through. I appreciate the street sweeping, but I would love to see a more regular sweeping plan. I wish the sweeping of the street would happen immediately after a storm event. Those are my main public forum issues. Overall I appreciate the work.
- b. Chapin Spencer: The patches are inspected by our excavation inspector. You should use see click fix, or contact our excavation inspector directly.

- c. Baldwin: We have several projects. It is frustrating that our utilities do not do it right the first time; because it is very expensive to do so.

4. CSWD ReUse Zones

- a. Rob Green, DPW presenting
- b. 10-minute duration
 - i. They will not be reopened by CSWD. There is not enough staff to run them properly. There are scavengers that take all the free stuff and just sell it. CSWD will not keep them open. That does not mean this is the end of it. Can DPW manage it with volunteers? This is a possibility. I would recommend we use our own staff? In order for this to be successful we need to do it right. We need a proper shelter with light and heat. There is a building CSWD was using, we could use. That's my goal. If we have properly trained staff, we will be able to identify what items are good and what will just go into the dumpster. There has to be rules for this to run right. We may need a budget, but I'm not sure what that is yet.
 - ii. Bushor: I use a drop off in South Burlington. There were so many people that are dissatisfied. I think we are supposed to use curbside compost pickup. I just think CSWD is out of sync with the public. There will be abuse, but it does not mean this should just be eliminated. There are a number of people that would use it, we need more staffing. There is a public need for the ReUse Zones. I am disappointed in the CSWD management team, they do not understand what is needed. I am frustrated with the regional solid waste district. We should start small and see if there is motivation, we can invest and expand.
 - iii. Tracy: Are there other opportunities, like on Flynn Ave?
 - iv. Green: There are possibilities. We won't know for a few years.
 - v. Hartnett: I like thinking outside the box. If there is something here where we should just try it. I know you may know that it may or not be feasible. I think we should go for it. I really appreciate you taking the time to present this.
 - vi. Bushor: Is it possible to sign the old CSWD ReZone so folks know where they can go?
 - vii. Green: That is something we can look at.
 - viii. Todd: There are community dumpsters that work well for this kind of thing. They are great.
- c. No action requested, information only.

5. Winooski River Bridge Scoping Study

- a. Nicole Losch, DPW and Peter Keating, CCRPC presenting
- b. 20-minute duration

- c. Presentation information link <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/transportation/current-projects/scoping/winooski-river-bridge-scoping-study/>
- d. Discussion
 - i. Bushor: As a member of the committee. We looked at a separate pedestrian travel way. I think this approach will guarantee we will look at all modes of transportation. This bridge study is connected to the redesign of Barrett and Colchester Ave, this is something which is very important to the City of Burlington. I am excited to continue the growth of new businesses on Mill Street, it's a wonderful new spot. I want to let people know, I was looking at the big pieces and protecting smaller interests as well.
 - ii. Losch: All of the alternatives of intersection designs will work with the preferred alternative.
 - iii. Tracy: Will the Ped Bridge be maintained after demolition?
 - iv. Losch: It will be closed for a short time during the demo phase.
 - v. Tracy: Does the bike Ped Bridge become a part of the new bridge?
 - vi. Losch: Yes it does.
- e. Action: Bushor motion to recommend approval to City Council. All in favor.

6. Narrow Streets Recommendations Update

- a. No action requested, informational only.
- b. Discussion
 - i. Phillip:
 - ii. DPW staff working in collaboration w/ BFD. In the past, received several requests to remove parking from some streets. Late 2017, staff worked w/ Commission to develop policy. 116 narrow streets in BTV. Defined as 28' wide or less, curb to curb. 90 of 116 have existing restrictions of some kind. One thing to look at is incremental approach for new restrictions. BFD has determined 14' minimum preferred width for clearance. Looking at two streets w/ 8' for restricted parking: Latham and Germain.
 - iii.
 - iv. Councilor Bushor:
 - v. Hate to drive on Latham Ct, always feel "how am I going to back out of here." Haven't been down since repaved. Have the residents been informed? What's the process? Exists when there are snow-banks?
 - vi.
 - vii. Philip: Yes to snow bank question. Several discussions, but not direct outreach yet. A public meeting before Commission.
 - viii. Norm: Some context and history on these streets and direction for different approach. Traditionally, a case by case basis driven by the public. Members of public very concerned about public safety and access. Others who preferred parking as a priority.

Created divide in neighborhood. Commission directed us to prepare an analysis or structure. What would we need to provide public safety access while still not affecting a neighborhood's need for parking? Looked at the conditions that drove worst to worst to least worst. Width of lanes, absence of greenbelts, conversation with BFD (they have their own challenges). We focused on local nature streets with no transpo need. Concerned that only a select few wanted this access. We feel the approach should be a slow, incremental approach as we learn more about challenges, while not losing credibility with public by impacting their parking. Slowly, over time, achieve access for BFD. We are here to present list, starting point, doesn't mean the conversation is over. Want to address the worst of the worst. Divided on where the needs are. Good starting point, but want to hear it out.

- ix. Councilor Bushor: On Latham, most of the houses have parking for 1-2 vehicles. Where it comes into play, is if you have a visitor. But, at entrance of Latham, you have flower shop and parking at house behind flower shop. On other side, dentist office. Work with property owners on parking agreement. Trying to figure out how to help people who live here, but still provide safe access for Fire or Emergency. On Germain, on west side, there's no parking. On east side, there's no property on either end of street to provide access for overflow parking. I am concerned about that street.
- x. Chapin: Pomeroy has capacity
- xi. Councilor Bushor: If we have a snowless winter, people will have hatchets. Snow lights work when snowing, but not for snow banks.
- xii. Norm: People need to acknowledge there is risk. We point out the risk they are taking, and will make BFD's job hard.
- xiii. DC Collette: At 8 feet, can't even open doors. Heaven forbid you need equipment.
- xiv. Bushor: I understand the need on Latham. On Germain...
- xv. Norm: We are trying to give people the best advice.
- xvi. Bushor: Let's say this happens and people park, what happens? I am concerned
- xvii. Phillip: Out of 116, 90 already have parking restrictions. Others have had to adjust and have figured it out.
- xviii. Bushor: Sections of the city that are new, with more adequate parking. I represent older section, it's not just the ONE (lots of parking). These older sections don't even have driveway. Reality of living in an older city.
- xix. Chapin: Will have public meeting and the Commission meeting. Councilor Paul is here to bring up additional streets where people want it
- xx. Hartnett: What about Dodds Ct and Oakledge Terrace? How close are they?

- xxi. Chapin: Intent is to start with the two.
- xxii. Phillip: Streets are in boxes, able to look at them more closely. Only two are Germain and Latham.
- xxiii. Chapin: You would have opportunity to watch how it works this winter.
- xxiv. Hartnett: Tears community apart when we talk about parking, restrictions, is this a safety issue?
- xxv. DC Collette: 8 feet is narrow
- xxvi. Hartnett: If we are truly talking about public safety, and there's one person on the street who feels strongly it's safety, but others don't, then this is a slippery slope.
- xxvii. Norm: This happened on Germain, where Commission overruled Staff.
- xxviii. Hartnett: But if this is a safety issue at what point is it the city's responsibility, i.e., loss of life potential. With BFD here, and the services they provide, most people would say "if someone may lose life, then i think we need to address it from there."
- xxix. Norm: Point is, in the future we can present any one recommendation, but it is up to the Commission.
- xxx. Hartnett: Did Commission get input from BFD?
- xxxi. Chapin: Indirectly and that's why we've done this larger process, engaged you, we will be underscoring public safety issue and we think it's a stronger case now.
- xxxii. Councilor Paul: Hoover residents and I want you to know you have been extremely responsive and a pleasure to work with. Of the 20 on this list, 7 are in W6. 4 of them are actually a neighborhood. Perotta, Alfred, Ludwig and Hoover. Only people who have come to me are the ones on Hoover. They have done it for two reasons and have sent a number of photos: difficulty for snowplows to get to end of street, elderly person who lives on the street, resident concerns on street. Have not heard from anyone who do not want it. I had hoped, given the fact that we had been at this for some time, that street, and if you will have a test street, they want it, and will not fight it. Other streets might. Some cars have room for 1, some for 2. Cars parked parallel to each other causes problem. Even though this is a normal street, you would consider this a test street. Other streets in W6, like Ludwig, have not approached me. Possibly found other places to park.
- xxxiii. Phillip: Have been approached by folks on Alfred.
- xxxiv. Councilor Paul: more at play on that street. Will leave it there.
- xxxv. Councilor Tracy: I've known several residents on Germain, they have raised this issue to me. I've watched this go down. There are residents and college students who have 4 or

5 cars. Pair Narrow with RPP? Not fair one street causes all that parking pressure. Other thing I've thought about, get a truck out there?

- xxxvi. DC Collette: Absolutely
- xxxvii. Tracy: Difficult to do when there's no snow bank, but we can certainly put together a quick video of truck trying to negotiate.
- xxxviii. Norm: Germain went through transformation in first round. Issues with an event occurring and at a second round of ask due to event. They know what it's like for BFD to respond. Growing population that want prohibition.
- xxxix. Harnett: Going forward, this is going to be an ongoing conversation. Any documentation of certain situations would be valuable to lay out. For instance, if called to Hoover, it would be important to look at and see that this is a real issue. Questions like Why are you starting this now?
 - xl. DC Collette: Thing I struggle with, if there's a problem with it today, my responsibility is to let the public know. I can tell you what's going to happen today. And if you know from past experience, it's not a matter of how, but when.
 - xli. Hartnett: Going through political process, particularly if we go to a street, especially if nothing has happened, it's good to have information. Going forward, if you have any issues, let people know.
 - xl.ii. Bushor: Why did Department choose two streets in W1 - that have the same parking as other streets and have modifiers minus 2 like Hillcrest. Why you did that?
 - xl.iii. Phillip: Factors include Existing available. If there's no greenbelt, snow can take up space. Germain and Latham do not have a greenbelt on either side.
 - xl. iv. Chapin: Why other 8 foot widths not being affected. Memo points out these are streets that already do not have parking on one side. Gives us wiggle room and these streets have no greenbelt so sidewalk is immediately adjacent to road. Allows BFD to get up on sidewalk unlike other streets.
 - xl. v. Bushor: Existing available means what?
 - xl. vi. Phillip: Travel width.
 - xl. vii. Bushor: Did not have a chance to read.
 - xl. viii. Harnett: So there's two streets, both in W 1 (missed this part)
 - xl. ix. Chapin: will have a meeting in early Nov, if Councilors are supportive, we are willing to flyer Hoover to communicate to Phillip their thoughts of supporting or opposing a winter parking prohibition. Based on input via email and public forum, we can modify recommendation to commission. Want to approach this from data driven process. Not opposed to residents driving this. Does this work?

- I. Hartnett and Paul: yes
- li. Hartnett: Flyer is good, but we can be helpful. Can we email or contact? Extra work can go a long way.
- lii. Paul: Yes, I can help
- liii. Chapin: ;we will put this on every street/door. If we hear of only 2 of 40, different than 30 of 40.
- liv. Bushor: not a lot of houses on either street. I'd like to think you will hear from all of occupants.
- lv. Chapin: we understand you are supportive of us proceeding. We will flyer 2 streets being recommended and Councilor Paul's streets, going to Commission with recommendation.
- lvi. Bushor: Open to having this advance, not yet supportive. Need to better understand. To Hartnett's point, I don't want someone to die because you couldn't get access. Weighing relative risk of convenience.

7. Resident Parking Management Plan Update

- a. Phillip Peterson, DPW presenting
- b. 10-minute duration
- c. Discussion
 - i. Hartnett: There is no mention of public parking? That is for a later date maybe.
 - ii. Bushor: I don't think I totally support the cost of a contractor permit.
 - iii. Losch: We may try and set up a different time for all the NPA's. We were unable to get on every wards schedule.
 - iv. Paul: I let people know this is on the agenda, people need an opportunity to have the voice heard.
 - v. Bushor: I am fine with you presenting this, I may have a few things to say about it when you do at my NPA.
- d. Action: Informative, no action needed.

8. Directors update (fall leaf pickup and parks system for municipal gates)

- a. Mulligan: We have developed a small punch list for the parking system. The cards have been issued and everything seems to be working fine.
- b. Bushor: You should try and work with channel 3 on the new system, because there was negative report on the system.
- c. Mulligan: There was a positive report on channel 5. We are putting our best foot forward, and things seems to be working. We are recording data to understand the parking needs.

9. Scheduling Future Meetings

- a. 11/28/18 5:30 pm hard stop at 6:30 pm. Possible 1/8/18 at 5:30 pm

10. Councilors' Update

- a. Hartnett: There are some things that need to be taken care of on any of the paving issues. After the work is done, we need to make sure things get cleaned up. I have been getting several pictures and complaints.
 - i. Baldwin: There are several projects and it makes it difficult to keep track of every contractor. There are occasions when a contractor leaves to work on a project somewhere else, and we struggle to get them to return in a timely manner.
- b. Bushor: I sent out something on pedestrian safety. Is there a focus on ped safety? Residents want to know how we are addressing pedestrian safety.
- c. Tracy: On Green Street there is a pothole, and it needs to be taken care of.

11. Adjourn

- a. Hartnett motion to adjourn, all in favor.