



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

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Councilor Jack Hanson, Chair, *East District*
Councilor Jane Stromberg, *Ward 8*
Councilor Mark Barlow, *North District*

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Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council
Tuesday, March 22, 2022 6:00PM

DPW Front Conference Room
645 Pine St, Burlington, VT 05482

–DRAFT MINUTES–

Call to order 6:02PM PM by Chair Hanson

1. Agenda

Councilor Barlow moved to approve agenda. Seconded by **Councilor Stromberg**. All in favor passed unanimously.

2. Minutes of 3/14/22

Defer.

3. Public Forum

4. 2020 Clean Water Resiliency Plan and Integrated Planning Update

- Megan Moir, Jenna Olson, Martin Lee
- Information

See Presentation.

Councilor Barlow – Concerned about price and amount of work needed. Combined Sewer, how much work is left?

Megan Moir – Prior to the Main Plant upgrade in the early 1990's, the City was discharging around 170M gallons of untreated wet weather flow (mostly stormwater with a wastewater fraction). With past and recent improvements, the City is down to approximately ~1 million gallons of combined sewer overflows (CSO) in a year with intense storm events. State regulators want to see continued reductions – and our Integrated Plan provides the roadmap. The proposed Callahan Park storage tank would allow for capacity for up the 5 year storm event and will reduce the number of CSO events and the volume discharged significantly.

Councilor Barlow – Is phosphorous loading localized or is this impacted by neighboring communities?

Megan Moir – Phosphorous loading is a basin wide issue and everyone will have to do their part. We will have to advocate a push others to do their work through legislature. Coordination handled at state level.

Councilor Barlow – \$175 million is a lot, all revenue bonded so on rate payers not taxes. Best case what would be federal and state funding?

Megan Moir – We are pursuing every opportunity we can to seek other funding and minimize impacts on current ratepayers. Biden Infrastructure funding ~50% goes to loan forgiveness. We still don't know if we will be able to access this based on the criteria they set for this allocation. We have recently submitted a funding request to Senator Leahy.

Councilor Stromberg – Rate payer affordability, are we planning to keep these all in place and or expanding on this?

Megan Moir – Yes, continuing the Water Resources Affordability Program (WRAP). We are coming back in 2023 with next phase of how we may be able to better get affordability passed onto renters.

Councilor Stromberg – We know this will be more expensive if we push this off. Cost reflects the need and scope of doing this work in VT's biggest City. I support asking for as much money as we need.

Megan Moir – We are looking forward to restarting tours at Main Wastewater Treatment Plant

this season if COVID-19 numbers remain low. We want voters to see what work needs to get done.

Chair Hanson – Phosphorus reduction goals - how are we doing? If we weren't moving forward, would we fall short?

Jenna Olson – The Integrated Plan proposal, mainly through tertiary treatment at our Main Wastewater Treatment Plant, would exceed our Phosphorous reduction goal. There will be years when we don't perform well and years when we do better based on levels of precipitation, but with robust tertiary treatment we should comfortably stay within permit compliance.

Chair Hanson – When will we know about federal funding potential?

Megan Moir – We are taking advantage of opportunities as they come. We are unsure about when the Federal infrastructure bill monies will be available. Until we apply for State Revolving Fund monies, we don't know what loan forgiveness (grants) the State will provide.

Chair Hanson – If we get bond money from voters could that hurt chances of getting grants?

Megan Moir – No. If we come in for a bond vote and get loan forgiveness we can either pass that loan forgiveness directly to voters paying or we could increase the bond limits by loan forgiveness amount.

Martin Lee – When we apply for loan forgiveness we get higher ranking when we already have a bond.

Chair Hanson – Stormwater, nature based solutions in the context of climate crisis. What is our progress?

Jenna Olson – We continue to make good progress on developing green infrastructure including bioretention, sand filters, storage tanks, etc. Outfall rehabilitation repair process underway including inspection for invasive species. Buffer restoration when possible.

Councilor Barlow – What is plan for rolling this information out for public?

Jenna Olson – Present to City Council April 11 and then will go to NPAs in May. Maybe a large city wide meeting at end of May depending on how things progress.

Chapin Spencer – Welcome guidance from Councilors for how we can best do this outreach. Item closes at 7:11 PM

5. Director's Report

Chapin Spencer reported on two items:

- Amtrak – State has announced intent to start train service in July. We need to focus on transportation to and from waterfront. Parking on the waterfront is limited. Will keep you engaged.
- Winooski River Bridge Grant Application – State of VT, the City of Winooski, the CCRPC and the City of Burlington are advancing a joint application for Winooski River Bridge under the Federal BUILD grant program. The maximum possible award is \$25 million which was roughly what the replacement estimate had been. The bridge is 50/50 owned by the two cities. Strong federal and state participation will be huge. We are proposing to bring an item to the April 11 Council meeting and will likely request Council action to demonstrate support for this application. Need strong local support for this large grant ask.

Councilor Barlow – Timing for Bridge replacement?

Chapin Spencer – If awarded we will find out in August of 2022. Funds need to be allocated by 2026 and fully expended by 2031. Permitting, design, bidding will take 3-4 years minimum, likely more. We have been trying to encourage the state for years to prioritize this bridge work.

Item closes 7:15PM

6. Councilors' Update

Councilor Barlow – Goodbye and good luck to Councilor Stromberg. Appreciate your positivity and it has been great to work with you.

Councilor Stromberg – Thank you and this whole team.

Chair Hanson – Great working with both of you and the DPW Team.

7. Next Meeting 4/26/22

Defer.

8. Adjourn

Councilor Stromberg motion to adjourn. **Councilor Barlow** seconds. All in favor. Meeting ends **7:18PM**.