Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council
Tuesday, June 21, 2022 – Directly following the 4PM VFH Meeting

--DRAFT MINUTES--

Call to order by Chair Jack Hanson at 5:02PM

1. Agenda
Councillor Bergman moved to approve agenda. Seconded by Councillor Barlow. All in favor passed unanimously.

2. Minutes of 5/24/22
Councillor Barlow moved to approve minutes. Seconded by Councillor Bergman. All in favor passed unanimously.

3. Public Forum
No public comment.

4. FY 23 Fleet
   - Lee Perry, Dave Hammond
   - Action
Lee Perry – This year we identified 19 vehicles that need to be replaced. Overview of fleet needs and plans.

   Councilor Mark Barlow – Differed equipment specifics
Lee Perry – Deferring increases need later for more at once. This adds repair expenses as well.
MB – Deferring increases risk due to supply chain shortages.
LP – Yes, this impacts services.

Chair Jack Hanson – Questions about budget and funding and electric options as well as lease options.
Chapin Spencer – We are looking to purchase some of these vehicles outright now so we are able to trade them in when electric options become available. Interest is high right now. Paying cash may be helpful for this.
JH – From climate perspective it is unfortunate we are reducing electric/hybrid percentage.
Dave Hammond – This is just showing what vehicles are most needed to be replaced from operational perspective.

Councilor Gene Bergman – Ongoing strategy for Fleet and how we can put language into this action for long term. Support push for net zero.
Proposed language:

Recommend the Board of Finance and City Council approve the proposed FY’23 Fleet Purchasing List and have the City Council, TEUC, DPW and CAO office develop a long-term fleet purchasing strategy that ensures the sustainability of all existing vehicles/equipment in Fleet, as well as one that brings the City closer to reaching its Net Zero 2030 goals.
Councilor Berman makes a motion, Councilor Barlow Seconds.

Chair Jack Hanson – Glad to be discussing more than once a year to make more informed decisions. Wants to find a better way to incorporate operational costs. Optimization of sharing existing fleet across departments, what are logistics? UVM hired car share VT to do this and were able to drop vehicles just by better sharing.
Lee Perry – We had those discussions and one result is to not grow our fleet any more. We try to share vehicles as first option.

Item passes unanimously.

5. **Recycling Toter Requirement Roll Out**
   - Lee Perry
   - Information

Chapin Spencer – Hearing about windblown recycling from bins.
Lee Perry – This initiative will help in many ways.

Councilor Gene Bergman – Timeline should reflect public outreach earlier.
Councilor Mark Barlow – What % of residents have this and what about those who don’t need recycling service at all?
Lee Perry - 41% of residents have toters currently. No requirements to buy if resident don’t get recycling picked up.

Chair Jack Hanson – Didn’t the City require this of certain building sizes already?

CS – Yes, based on number of units. Now Universal rule makes it easier.
LP – This could also reduce number of stops needed for trucks if recycling totes don’t fill up as quickly and easier on workers. We can have this messaging to residents with this initiative that they don’t need to put out toters each week if they aren’t full.
GB - Don’t see anything in regards to enforcement in this ordinance, would recommend this be considered.

JH – What will happen with smaller bins.
LP – They are recyclable. We want to get rid of them and repurpose them where we can. Open to ideas.

6. **North Winooski Avenue Update per Resolution**
   - Chapin Spencer
   - Information

Chapin Spencer – Continuing to work on this. In touch with CHCB to advance TDM and parking options off street. We are in contact with CATMA for various TMD initiatives along the corridor. We have requested the CAO make sure there is carry forward from the Council Action in 22 for this $15,000 included in the budget language for FY23.

Councilor GB – Discusses options for getting funding to businesses and possible small scale TDM solutions.

Chair JH – Are businesses able to request or apply for this $15k funding?
CS – Last time we discussed DPW determining scope of available TDM services such as Trolleys and CATMA to get scope and cost and then you could figure out how we could implement.
JH – Based on what we passed I don’t feel it's appropriate to prefer one business over others. Thought the intention was to have this be request based.
CS – At the next meeting we can discuss how we operationalize this process.
GB – CHC is big player here and if we take care of this, we can solve issues through corridor.
Councilor MB – TDM is one element. CHC is one of the big users of parking on corridor so solving this will solve other issues.
JH – Think allocation of funds should be based on demonstrated need and demonstrated outcome. Other entities could be less capable of responding to these changes.

1. **Market Place Garage Assessment**
   - Jeff Padgett
   - Information

See presentation.

Chair JH – This could be a change to repurpose this space in the heart of downtown.

Councilor GB – Provides us chance to have a real conversation of the future of transportation downtown. Parking Division needs to be a participant in the transportation discussions we are having.

Jeff Padget – We have budgeted for planning and visioning study. This is central to downtown so we need a vision for this important space.

JH – it’s another reason for City wide TDM so we can reduce parking by reducing demand ahead of that.

Councilor MB – How would we pay for new garage if we do move forward with that option? With High School needs, funding will be limited.

JP – Parking Garages are self-funded by Charter. We will need to find some financing tool to allow this 265 fund to be fully responsible.

CS – The City could use general funds should they want to.

MB – Usage of garages

JB – Pre covid this garage was fully utilized frequently. Not as much now. Other Garages downtown are underutilized and have more capacity so we are trying to educate users to park here.

7. **Director’s Report**

Chapin Spencer – Parkway. Last week there was a temporary restraining order that has since been lifted. The contractor returned on site today and clearing around Sear’s Ln has commenced. There will be regular updates.

8. **Councilors’ Update**

Councilor GB - Sent an email regarding GMT in light of the last two conversations. We should have bigger conversations with our representatives. Would like to speak to this at the next meeting.

Chair JH – Talking to Jared Wood he raised issues around stop sign compliance.

Chapin Spencer – Enforcement plays a roll along with engineering. Crash data is helpful here to prioritize resources.

9. **Next Meeting 7/26/22**

10. **Adjourn**

Councilor Barlow motions to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Bergman. Passes unanimously. Meeting ends 6:48PM.