



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

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Councilor Franklin Paulino, Chair *North District*
Councilor Jack Hanson, East District
Councilor Jane Stromberg, East District

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Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council

Draft Minutes – Tuesday, September 22, 2020 5:30 PM

Attendees: Franklin Paulino (arrived at 7:15pm), Jane Stromberg, Jack Hanson

1. **Meeting Started at 5:32 PM**
2. **Agenda Amendment: On motion of Acting Chair Hanson the agenda was amended to change item number six to item number 8. Seconded by Councilor Stromberg.**
3. **Minutes of 8/25/2020. On motion of Councilor Hanson the minutes were approved as written. Seconded by Councilor Stromberg.**
4. **Public Forum**
 - There were no public comments made.
5. **Franklin Square Acceptance Proposal**
 - Norm Baldwin (DPW), Phillip Peterson (DPW)
 - History: This is a 45 year unresolved issue. The City Council acted in 1975 to accept the street, but we can't find any record of the street being dedicated by Burlington Housing Authority (BHA). Past Administrations had worked to resolve the issue, but were unable to come to agreement with BHA. After significant effort and productive dialogue with BHA, the staff is proposing a path to accepting Franklin Square as a City street. Staff worked with Parks, BED, our Water Resources Division, and emergency service personnel to assess existing assets and what additional work was necessary prior to acceptance. DPW has had final walk through with Burlington Housing Authority (BHA) and is recommending the Council accept the street on the terms described in the packet.
 - Councilor Discussion
 - Councilor Stromberg – Asked for clarification on two night parking ban. Staff replied that managing snow ban parking was one of the long-term challenges. The proposed solution is a two stage parking ban where half the parking is banned during the city-wide ban and the remainder is banned on the second night. Given the layout of the development, lack of off-street parking, and lack of options beyond the development, this two-stage solution makes the most sense.
 - Councilor Hanson – In support of this. How after 45 years puzzle is unlocked? What changed? Staff replied that this has been a battle for decades. Fundamentally a can do attitude figured it out. Changing the parking from parallel to parallel, creating a two stage parking ban, and having the City willing to consider accepting with street "as is" is what made the big change. Memo states financial responsibility which City will need to reconcile and address. What is the benefit to the City? Staff described the existing liability. We want to keep residents safe. Honoring commitment.
Councilor Hanson – Proposed zoning of additional parking spaces? Staff said we were not changing any green space and only using paved surface.
 - ACTION: Councilor Stromberg move to support the recommendation for full acceptance to BOF and City Council subject to final review. Seconded by Councilor Hanson. All in favor. Passed unanimously.
6. **University Place Conceptual Designs**
 - Laura Wheelock (DPW), Phillip Peterson (DPW), Lisa Kingsbury (UVM), Joe Speidel (UVM)
 - Staff presented on the University Place initiative. It is a collaboration with UVM and Stantec. Staff introduced Lisa Kingsbury and Joe Speidel from UVM. The goal is to make University Place safer for all. Staff presented two concepts: basic and enhanced. Prioritize bikes, pedestrians and shuttles. Improve visibility. Reduce vehicles. Widen sidewalks. Remove parking. Improve streetscape.
 - Basic: Pedestrian safety, accessibility, consolidated crosswalks, bike lanes, one way vehicular travel, food truck accommodations, improved road surface, elimination of long term parking.
 - Enhanced: Basic plus wider sidewalks, place making and aesthetic improvements, green infrastructure, narrower roadway.

- Staff presented the stakeholder engagement schedule.
- Public Discussion:
 - Jonathan Silverman: UVM Student intersections feel unsafe. Likes one way and pervious roads.
 - James Kelliher: Does not matter to get rid of parking. Likes one-way plan.
- Councilor Discussion
 - Councilor Stormberg – Concerned curbless design may be less safe. Laura: Idea behind curbless design is to have people slow down and pay more attention. Good to have straight line for plowing. Norm: Less challenging for people with accessibility issues.
 - Councilor Stormberg – Likes food truck space. Could a survey go out? Staff responded that a survey is out.
 - Councilor Hanson – Prefers curbless design. Are we loosing green space? Staff responded no, it narrows the road.
 - Councilor Hanson – In support. Well thought out. Great public engagement. If TEUC approves what is the timeline? Laura responded that the concept needs to be approved by end of 2020. It will hopefully move forward through design 2021. Bidding and construction 2022.

7. Roadmap for Parking Services Transition: BPD to DPW

- Assistant Director Jeff Padgett presented the current roadmap to define the parking experience in Burlington with an integrated approach to sales, service and compliance.
- Purpose: Integrate parking operations, improve customer experience, increase operational efficiency, redefine traffic ordinance compliance.
- Vision: Convenience, safe, right sized, sustainable. Mission: parking products, which support downtown, create operations and infrastructure to be safe and easy, collect data to match community needs, manage operations.
- Values: Intentionality and inclusion.
- Project Phases:
 1. Administrative Integrations and Reorganization
 2. Operational Integration
 3. Physical Migration
- Timeline: Finalize Integration plan in Fall 2020. Phase 1 by January 2021. Phase 2 and 3 into late FY'21.
- Councilor Discussion
 - Councilor Stromberg – Are there any stakeholders that we need to watch out for? Jeff: reaching out to stakeholders now with BPD and BBA. Is there a plan for broad stakeholders? Jeff: believes stakeholders will be glad to be involved.
 - Councilor Hanson – Describe cultural shift and change from enforcement to compliance. Jeff: Work with the players on how to make compliance favorable and change framing. Goal is not to look at rates and dollars. How to redefine compliance. Councilor Hanson – Are private towing companies part of the conversation. Jeff: They only two from City streets when John King calls them. Contract currently being renewed.
 - Director Spencer: Suggestion to include a cover letter with the presentation to the full council, if the TEUC is in support. Is the TEUC comfortable with the timeline? Councilor Stromberg: Comfortable with timeline. Councilor Hanson: Comfortable with timeline. Recommend to place on Council's Consent Agenda for an upcoming meeting.

8. Traffic Calming Update

- Senior Planner Nicole Losch and Director Spencer provided an overview of the proposed Traffic Calming changes. Time to review the program after two decades. Experiencing long line for requests. Want to make sure that this meets the needs for the public.
- Removes neighborhood partition which creates inequities. Traffic calming requests take years to complete. Seeks to speed processing by removing the neighborhood poll and uses data driven decisions.
- How is this different? Data driven program to determine needs. Advances street design towards established design speeds. Prioritizes traffic safety. Streamlines community process. Focuses on redesigning streets.
- Councilor Discussion
 - Councilor Stromberg: Likes overall effort and creativity. Very supportive.
 - Councilor Hanson: Very supportive. Makes sense. Likes equity approach in not requiring petitions.

9. CSWD 195 – 201 Flynn Avenue

Director Spencer summarized the memo in the meeting packet. Two issues:

- 1. Level of service at 339 Pine, which CSWD only wants to open only for compost needs.
- 2. Long term plan for 195 – 201 Flynn, which CSWD purchased in 2001, with the plan to move the Drop Off Center from 339 Pine.

Need to make a decision on which direction to go, and have three options:

1. Extend the current MOU and go another year.
2. Not extend the MOU and let it expire on November 1st.
3. Have City Council execute option to purchase.

- Councilor Discussion

- Councilor Stromberg: Why are we not planning for an expansion at 339 Pine. Lee: CSWD feels it is not safe to reopen at 339 Pine because of COVID and employee safety. Not a lot of space. Worried about traffic back up.

- Councilor Stromberg: Why is selling 339 Pine a good thing? Moving DOC to Flynn Ave allows an acre of the Flynn Ave site to be used for City purposes and offers the City an opportunity to re-envision the use for 339 Pine in the vibrant South End Arts District.
- Councilor Hanson: To clarify: Administration has publicly urged CSWD to reopen? Director Spencer: Yes. We believe this can be operated safely, but it is CSWD's decision, not ours.
- Councilor Hanson: Are we still feeling like the parkway is going as planned? Director Spencer: Yes. Responding to questions from the Environmental Justice public input and planning for construction next Spring.
- Councilor Hanson: What happens if CSWD sells the property to someone else? Director Spencer: Motivating factor for us to purchase the property. Lee: In the MOU we do have first right of refusal to purchase the property at fair market value.
- Councilor Hanson: If the Parkway is delayed would option three still make sense? Director Spencer: Option one: if we are committed, this gives us time with the community. If option three, they will do a traffic study with and without the Parkway and the SE neighborhood will likely be concerned.
- Councilor Hanson: Does this purchase still make sense if the Parkway is delayed or can't be completed? Director Spencer: They make sense to be done together and we are committed to moving them across the finish line.
- Councilor Hanson: Is it true that there is a risk with option one? Director Spencer: For Option 1, the MOU terms remain valid. It is probably best to move forward with Option 1, but Option 3 could work if the Council is ready to purchase.

ACTION: Motion by Councilor Paulino to direct the Department of Public Works to take next steps regarding 195 – 201 Flynn Avenue to give CSWD Board an update for the progress of the Parkway and request the CSWD board extend the option for a year – and continue to call on CSWD to collect trash and recycling at 339 Pine. Second by Councilor Stromberg. All in favor. Passes unanimously.

10. Director's Report

- There is a VTRANS grant coming up and we are proposing to apply for the multi-use path concept on Intervale Rd. It requires a local match and we wanted to seek the TEUC member's support. Members indicated support.

11. Councilors' Update.

- Councilor Hanson: Any updates on Winooski Ave or Colchester Ave? Director Spencer: Winooski Ave is moving forward. Under contract for late October.
- Councilor Hanson: Is there a sense for process on North Winooski Parking Management Plan? Can we assemble committee for the parking management plan? Director Spencer stated that Council resolution called for a parking management plan. It was postponed due to COVID. We have secured a consultant to do the work and it is appropriate that we look to constitute the committee.

12. Next TEUC Meeting

- October 27, 2020 at 5:30 PM.

13. Adjourn 8:03 PM

- Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.