



Wards 1 & 8
February 10, 2016
McClure Conference Room

Commenced at 7:00

City Councilors' Update

- Adam Roof Ward 8
 - See Supporting Documents
 - Form Based Code:
 - Is a zoning code focused first on the built environment, comparative to the current zoning which focuses first on use
 - Important to keep buildings in-line with the existing environment/neighborhood
 - Zoning Districts:
 - FD1: Environmental section –Natural District
 - FD2: Rural District
 - FD3: Suburban
 - FD 4: Downtown neighborhood – especially important to 1 and 8
 - Is it a downtown neighborhood or not?
 - Pearl and College should be FD3 to reduce the impact on ward 8
 - Zoned for high density residential
 - 3 downtown districts which are all part of the FD 4
 - FD 5: Higher density -- Downtown Center
 - FD6: Dense downtown core
 - Commenter: The Code allows for greater height in more dense areas and can encroach into less dense areas by 50 feet
- Sharon Bushor
 - Ward one is not impacted that much but ward 8 is on the cusp between different zones
 - Future NPA: bring in other councilors who are more versed on Form Based Code
 - Purpose is to get building blocks and having predictability
 - Protect public and private rights
 - More criteria regarding structure

- The public's right to see the project and have a say needs to be protected
 - If the community feels comfortable, it could end in streamline but should not start there
 - Not going to go the ordinance committee, just the city council
 - It is tool, but what is the process and how will the public interface with it
- Commenter: The council seems to really be flying blind without all the details of the plan. It also sounds like this plan may intrude on neighborhoods

North Avenue Pilot Discussion

- Redesign of North Avenue – Ballot question “shall the city council be advised to keep four lanes open to motor vehicles on North Ave”
- Rich Nadworny
 - Pro Pilot Project
 - Was the result of a north avenue study that went on for 18 months.
 - Identified as a street with high traffic accidents and violations
 - Safe Streets
 - The City decided to do a Pilot Program – a testing before full implementation
 - Put 5 crosswalks
 - Two lanes and one middle turn lane – reduces traffic incidents by 50%
 - Increase commute time for cars, decrease time for bikers, decrease time to cross the street
 - If you vote no on the ballot, it means yes to the Pilot and vice versa
 - The New North End needs the City's attention because it is lagging behind in infrastructure
 - Some say that the votes from 1 and 8 should count more than votes from the rest of the city
 - North Ave is a city street and is thus open to all people even if used by some more than others
 - Commenter: a similar process happened on Colchester Avenue and it was a success
 - Avenueforeveryone.com
- Written statement from 4 lane supporter, Eileen Rodgers
 - Friday on Ch 17 there will be a forum on the project
 - Phone calls from the community will be taken

Mayor Weinberger Address

- Town Meeting Day Ballot Items
 - The School Budget: Fully supportive of it, the board and administration worked very hard and it is an impressive end result

- North Avenue Pilot: Will be voting “No” (which mean yes to the Pilot), the task force worked very hard on this plan and there was a unanimous vote by the City Council to try out the Pilot some time ago
- Charter change to increase the board of commissioners for police
- Charter change to increase the Department for Parks and Rec board of commissioners from 5 to 7 (To increase the diversity on both those boards)
 - Question: This is to increase diversity but what is the safeguard that it will remain diversified?
 - Response: There is no rule per se that dictates firmly diversity but there is a protocol to share widely the applications for such positions to reach diverse communities
 - Response: It is also about retention and continuous outreach. Cultural competencies
 - Question: Are political parties part of that diversity?
 - Response: Now most commission applications no longer require people to disclose political party affiliation
 - Comment: One thing some commissions do to increase citizen participation is to implement term limits
 - Response: That has not been seriously committed at this time. Generally, people are reappointed if they express interest
 - Comment: One way to assure diversity is to hold City Councilors accountable and ask “why did you vote for this person over this person”
- Charter change to address the audit
 - A more realistic process
 - Instead of a full report of the audit, a summary of the audit will be published and the full wording can still be found online
- Question: What is going on with the mall?
 - Includes a significant amount of new infrastructure built
 - Request change in zoning to go higher than the current zoning allows
 - Request to use TIF money
 - The plan would reopen St. Paul and Pine (to a lesser degree)
 - The height level now is 110 feet, project proposal is 150
 - Need more information before making a decision on this
 - It would be the tallest building in VT
 - It should at least be considered
 - Would include a public observatory
- Have reached the point where we really need to work on Memorial Auditorium
 - Have not been having many events there because of structural issues
 - Retained a consultant
- Still in discussions with new Moran team

- The team made a major submission last June but the feasibility was questionable
- Getting towards the end of the process to see if a feasible plan comes forward
- Sidewalks
 - We have done a comprehensive analysis – 25% are in poor or worse condition
 - Have increased budget to address issues
 - Data about the condition as well as the use of the sidewalks
 - Committed to putting a comprehensive plan in front of the Council – Five-year plan
- Should build a substantial amount of student beds
 - Better housing for students
 - Bring down housing costs
- Comment: The state has a very aggressive recycling goal but Burlington is overrun with litter. There needs to be a better system to curb this

Jennifer Green, CEDO

- BTV Sustainability – Greenhouse gas emissions
 - It was in 2000 that the first plan was written to look at greenhouse gases
 - Ratified in 2014
 - Plan was to level off emissions by 2016 and we are getting there
 - By 2025, see a reduction in gas emissions
 - Three sections: Community, Government, Airport
 - Plan of 39 strategies in 8 key sectors
 - Burlingtonvt.gov/public/caprogress
 - Biggest issue are emissions from transportation
 - Energy Champ Challenge – Collaborative effort between Burlington electric and VT gas

Announcement

- Teachers are asking 7.6% raise, only offering 1.6% across the board
 - Are at an impasse currently
 - Next step is a mediator and fact finding

Adjourned at 9:08

Minutes submitted by Danielle Mund, Interim Community Engagement Specialist