CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT

CITY COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY & UTILITIES COMMITTEE

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Councilor Mark Barlow, Chair, *North District*
Councilor Gene Bergman, *Ward 2*
Councilor Evan Litwin, *Ward 7*
Councilor Marek Broderick, *Ward 8*

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Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council

Thursday May 23rd, 2024 – 5:00PM

645 Pine St – DPW Front Conference Room

--DRAFT MINUTES--

Chair Bergman calls meeting to order at 5:05 PM

- **Agenda**

Councilor Broderick moves to approve the agenda. Councilor Litwin seconds. All in favor, passes unanimously.

- **Minutes of 4.23.24**

Councilor Broderick moves to approve the minutes. Councilor LItwin seconds. All in favor, passes unanimously.

- **Public Forum**

Steve Goodkind, Burlington resident, spoke about Steam pipe resolution and commitments City has made, including TEUC/BED. Asks for how that will move forward with TEUC action.

Councilor Bergman points to first agenda item of the night which may have information on the study, and that TEUC is prepared to take action.

- **Deliberative Agenda**

4.1 BED Budget Related Updates

BED General Manager Darren Springer summarizes key points on action items from District Energy Resolution: Wood Chip Dryer, Third party study on forestry and TEUC/Electric Commission/BED study on future of McNeil.

Councilor Gene Bergman asks about timing on first item.

DS said some low-cost immediate follow-ups including: coating to apply to boiler which aids efficiency; as well as controls optimization. After budget approval would work on a formal RFP with McNeil engineers to issue RFP in FY 25 – first 6 or 7 months.

GB hopes it will be earlier, and asks about stack emission reductions.

DS looking at efficiencies and how to quantify and document efficiencies.

GB asks is draft RFP for forestry study is ready.

DS – not yet, looking to issue in early FY 25.

GB asks if RFP can be shared with TEUC before issuance due to “broad skepticism.”

DS – atypical, but will do so with Committee and want to ensure that certain pieces/experiences will be included in RFP

DS describes McNeil RFP process.

GB asks about District Energy resolution, lines 120 thru 165, and that it would be helpful to reference those requirements of the resolution in RFP. DS commits and will present draft early to TEUC, BED Commission and Council review.

4.2 Reconnecting Bank and Cherry Concept
Engineer Laura Wheelock gives presentation, including history, concepts and next steps for the Reconnecting Bank and Cherry (RBC) project.

Councilor Gene Bergman asks about Cherry St sidewalk width. LW answers 7’ minimum, depending on storefronts and older conditions.

Councilor Marek Broderick asks if Cherry is already an existing double parking lane. LW answers yes.

GB asks about # of parking spaces lost, and asks to have this ready for future public outreach.

LW highlights “festival space” on stretch of Bank St as direct result of public interest.

GB asks about the driveway out of the garage on new St Paul St and sightlines for bicyclists, which LW clarifies is a relatively open street with slight grade. GB underscores importance of good sight line. LW discusses importance of this as a GMT thru-way which alleviates need to cross Marketplace.

Councilor Evan Litwin asks about the process by which we arrived at Bank St rather than Cherry as a festival space. LW discusses importance of Cherry St as a GMT corridor, which Bank does not have. EL has interest in “reclaiming” Cherry St to create more vibrancy, but understands why Bank is a primary festival space. CS discusses the added vibrancy of CPB as helping aid this on Cherry St.

LW asks for TEUC support to bring forward to City Council on June 24, part of a condition of federal spending.

EL has concerns on construction timing and its impact on Burlington School District, still operating in old Macy’s. LW clarifies that this is a condition of federal spending, and a milestone that needs to be met. However, it doesn’t mean “digging in the ground,” and LW says we would not plan to dig while school is in session. EL asks for school consultation, and that principals be intentionally engaged. LW says we will be meeting with BSD.

EL makes motion to approve request. MB seconds,but asks for clarification on approval before public engagement is finalized; and about process if significant changes are made. MB makes friendly amendment: approves preferred design concept presented to TEUC on 5/23/24. EL accepts amendment. Unanimous approval.

4.3 Champlain Parkway Project – Final Construction Contract
Director Chapin Spencer offers initial remarks about ongoing Parkway project, and bid process that is underway for Phase 2 – planning on going out to bid in mid-June. Wants to answer some of Councilor Gene Bergman's prior questions, offer additional traffic analysis information and go to Council 6/3 with an informational meeting followed by an award of contract later in summer for Council approval.

City Engineer Norm Baldwin summarizes GB's questions: how does traffic modeling change with rezoned parking lot by "Ride Your Bike" and are Parkway volumes being introduced to King/Maple neighborhood the same? CEB gives presentation in response to these questions.

GB asks to confirm documentation re: "internal capture."

CS says that all of this information, along with background info, will be posted online and in full Council packet in June. CS clarifies that the trip generation estimates are "to" and "from" the future redeveloped site.

CS underscores that REP still relevant to help mitigate future traffic generation.

GB suggests that CPB is going to be a significant traffic factor with 2 hotels and housing. Wants to ask consultant Stantec to factor that in as it will be a "straight shot" on the reconstructed Pine St.

CS does clarify that "background growth" is currently part of modeling.

CEDO Director Brian Pine helps offer estimates on how many future individuals may occupy hotels + housing at CPB. 300 units of housing + 400 hotel rooms, approximately.

GB asks about traffic mitigation in King St neighborhood and to do so in detail and sequencing.

Councilor Evan Litwin asks about Pine St details for Parkway which CS clarifies; follows up asking how Parkway alleviates traffic.

CS says that Parkway will bring additional King/Maple traffic, but not to the level projected, hence mitigation efforts within and outside of the project including advancing REP.

CS leaves to attend a Great Streets public meeting, but summarizes GMT financial update and agrees with GB about need to discuss in future.

4.4 Solar Energy Project
Director Brian Pine & Zachary Nersinger from CEDO join.

BP offers introduction and ZN offers presentation on potential to add solar and battery storage to City properties and offer new revenue source for City.

Councilor Gene Bergman asks to remove "Beltline" from Water Reservoir slide, which BP acknowledges is vendor error.

BP discusses going to Council as a next step to provide site control to Encore, solar firm chosen for project.

GB asks about the arrangements Encore entered into with Brattleboro, South Burlington and other landfill/junkyards.

GB asks if wastewater treatment plant is an option.

BP says not included in the study.

Councilor Evan Litwin asks if going to NPA is an option, and to specifically talking about beautification options (like adding planters, public art, etc) and BP commits to going to NPA, but have to be careful about nearby additions to solar arrays.

5. Director's Report

5.1 GMT Update

Councilor Broderick makes motion to accept communication and discuss at June TEUC. Councilor Litwin seconds. Unanimous approval.

6. Councilor Items

Councilor Broderick asks to add emission reductions to future agenda

Councilor Litwin underscores traffic concerns with Parkway. Councilor Bergman describes the potential consequences of yes or no votes and the responsibility of each Councilor to make that decision.

Rob Goulding commits to circulating most recent South End coordination chart.

7. Next Meeting

Councilor Bergman brings up need to have special meeting before 6/13, per Chair Barlow. Offers 6/11 @ 5:30 with potential for virtual. GB asks DPW to confirm with Mark on a location (and whether virtual or not).

Next regular TEUC: June 25th. Time TBD pending DPW discussion with Chair Barlow.

8. Adjournment

Councilor Bergman adjourns at 7:20 PM.