

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
645 PINE STREET
BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05401
COMMISSION MEETING NOVEMBER 20, 2024
DRAFT MINUTES

For video of the meeting, please visit Town Meeting TV's YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0r9VW6DgXY&t=978s>

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Barr, Vice Chair Fox, Chair Damiani, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Munteanu, Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco Commissioner Sears

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

Chair Damiani called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ITEM 2 – AGENDA

Commissioner Barr made a motion to accept the agenda as presented
Commissioner Munteanu seconded

Director Spencer requested that Item 5 come before Public Forum as Assistant Director Moir has another presentation of this item in a half hour
Commissioner Barr was friendly with that
Commissioner Munteanu was okay with this as well.
Unanimous approval

ITEM 2.5 - POTENTIAL WR RATE IMPACT/AFFORDABILITY ITEM

Assistant Director of Water Resources Megan Moir present the numbers that would affect the residents of the city. AD Moir stated that her office did a rate comparison in other Vermont Towns and other states and our bills are less than median a bill due to financing portion of debt rate restructuring. Part of the restructuring is to have the east plant consolidate with the main plant pump stations.

We want to offer credit to renters for water bills as the renters are not billed but the owners of the building are, renters are charged through the

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco asked about if there would be any changes in the EPA funds and if there were any changes anticipating in the rules. She also asked if we factor in the maintenance of the updates.

AD Moir stated that the EPA funds were clean water/clean air. AD Moir stated that the would raise 1.25 million dollars

Commissioner Munteanu asked about the rate increase if it was an equal change every year.

AD Moir explained that no that the rate increase would be 18% for 3 years and then down to 12%

Commissioner Damiani stated affordability is important and asked about the timeline. AD Moir stated that they are working with TEUC and with a financial planner – some people will pay more versus people who are more financially challenged.

ITEM 3 – PUBLIC FORUM

Sharon Bushor called in and stated that the speed bumps on Grove Street were almost dangerous, too high and asked if we could go to the regular speed bumps.

Mrs. Bushor also commented on the proposed rate change for the Wastewater increase reminding everyone that the citizens of Burlington are still facing the school tax increase.

Mrs. Bushor also stated on the Winooski Bridge project the city should hold meeting with the Wards this would affect.

Mrs. Bushor also stated the Main Street closure during the holiday time could have a bad impact on the businesses in the downtown area.

ITEM 4 – CONSENT AGENDA

- 4.1 Approval of Draft Minutes 10-16-24
- 4.2 537 South Willard Street ADA Addition
- 4.3 South Union Street ADA Reallocation
- 4.4 Champlain Parkway Traffic Regulations

Commissioner Munteanu made a motion to adopt the consent agenda as presented.

Commissioner Barr seconded

Unanimous approval

ITEM 6 – WINOOSKI BRIDGE/INTERSECTION

Associate City Engineer Madeline Suender gave a presentation on the proposed work on the Winooski Bridge as well at the intersections of Riverside Avenue, Colchester Avenue and Barrett Street. She advised we do have a concept design and we hope to select a contractor in 2025 and the work to begin in 2027. The project would be a two-year construction project that will end in 2029. We are hoping to merge the projects if the intersection and bridge work for a better flow. She also did an overview of the funding for the project.

Commissioner Davis questioned the ownership structure and is the maintenance 50/50? City Engineer Laura Wheel (via zoom) stated that the City does a full snowplow of the

bridge during the winter but it is 50/50 on other improvements with the City of Winooski.

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco asked about the no left turn off from Mill Street and AE Suender advised that there is a privately owned parking lot that they are looking into to divert the traffic to exit onto Barrett Street.

Commissioner Munteanu asked for clarification on the alignment of the bridge and intersection and AE Suender stated that this was put in our preferred option and the contractor could recommending a curb line. Commissioner Munteanu asked about a roundabout is excluded from design and was informed that yes there is no roundabout at this intersection.

Commissioner Barr asked about the bike flow would it pan out as it moves forwarding coming down Colchester Avenue. City Engineer Wheelock advised they were reviewing traffic numbers and have found that bike traffic is heavier on the bridge – we will be providing bike lanes.

Vice Chair Eliana Fox suggested that shared lane bike marking and signage be included as part of the requirements for the design of the bridge.

ITEM 7 - TACTICAL TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE RECAP

Senior Transportation Planner Philip Peterson stated that the use of the rubber speed humps in the city is a cost effective method of traffic calming and are quickly installed. We installed three speed bumps on three different streets in the city – Gosse Court which is a low volume street – Elmwood Avenue which has a higher volume of traffic – Grove Street which is a high traffic street. Some of the feedback is the noise levels of the vehicles going over the bumps, in particular contractors who have a trailer on the back of their vehicle which are loud when going over the speed bumps. '

Commissioner Sears stated the noise issued. SP Peterson stated a narrow street we can try bollards and paint.

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco stated she has traveled on Grove Street and the speed bumps are acute.

Commissioner Davis asked about a holistic approach is monitoring in place. SP Peterson stated that yes some drivers go around them.

Commissioner Munteanu stated the bumps have the desired effect in speed reduction. The next stage is how to plan how to deploy next year. SP Peterson stated that they are

good for low volume streets and next year this will be less of pilot programs and more of implementation on streets.

Commissioner Barr stated he does understand the noise. This is a cut through street and he has liked seeing the traffic go slower.

SP Peterson stated that the Stanbury Road addressed the gap. In June, we removed parking and have cones 8' from the curb for pedestrians and bicyclist. The feedback has been mixed, walking and biking is safer. Narrow road is not as safe.

Vice Chair Eliana Fox brought up the examples of the horizontal traffic calming devices that have been used across the city – such as planters on Loomis St – and asked what we know about how well those work since they have been around for longer.

ITEM 8 – SIMPLIFYING THE TRAFFIC REGULATION PROCESS

SP Peterson stated this is more efficient delays actions accessibility issues. All commissioners support this

ITEM 9 – DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Spencer stated it has been a busy month working on the FY 26 budget. Main Street is making progress the ravine sewer there is no restriction on time. The contractor will be working through the winter. There are impacts on the business community burdened during holiday season. We met with the contractors and we have an array of promotions for parking in the downtown area.

Commissioner Fox asked about driving into the Courthouse Garage and was informed they would have to get in through King Street.

Commissioner Fox also asked about promotional options for businesses that might be put out in greenbelt, like sandwich board options. Rob stated we are working on different signage options.

ITEM 10 – COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Commissioner Davis traffic issues that do not need commissioner approval – Main Street – subsidizing parking rate, allowing cars to stay longer which makes it harder for others coming into downtown and the impact on the businesses.

Water pump relocation time and impact of rate increases.

Director Spencer stated that opposite each plant has its own limit, this will combine more flexibility and a smaller plant.

Commissioner Davis asked about the staffing implementation and was informed that there would be more staffing at the main plant.

Commissioner Davis asked if there were going to be speed limit signs put up on the Champlain Parkway. Director Spencer stated that we are getting them up 25 mph.

Commissioner Sears asked about the park redesign for Little Rosie to Roosevelt Park how that would affect Willow Street. Director Spencer stated work in progress, mostly a Parks project.

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco asked about the staffing for the winter and Director Spencer stated we are in decent shape. We have one person out on medical leave. Our Engineering Team is at full staff.

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco asked about the proposed traffic regulation no right turn on red at Union could that happen. Director Spencer was surprised that was not implemented and will be looking into it.

Commissioner from Grove Street recently. He advised that he likes the Chase/Colchester reduced traffic back. Could center line on Chase Street.

Commissioner Fox asked about the North Avenue and Plattsburg Avenue build. Director Spencer stated we asked for more time to collect data and make a review. There will be no barriers over the winter.

Commissioner Fox asked about the chicanes near the school on North Street and was advised by Director Spencer that we have no update available as of yet.

Commissioner Fox stated the left turn lane on George Street is gone and a planter is there which is very exciting, dangerous intersection.

ITEM 11 – ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE – DECEMBER 18, 2024

Commissioner Barr made a motion to adjourn
Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco seconded
Unanimous approval

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.