

**Ordinance Committee
Friday, October 3, 2025
Bushor Conference Room Conference Room
or Remote via Zoom. Burlington, Vermont
DRAFT MINUTES**

Members Present: Councilor Bergman (Chair), Councilor Carpenter, Councilor Barlow

Staff Present: Hayley McClenahan (Assistant City Attorney) Kim Sturtevant (Assistant City Attorney), Erik Ramakrishnan (Assistant City Attorney)

Public Present: Sharon Bushor, Josh Kirtlink

Meeting called to order at 2:04 PM.

**1. Adopt the Agenda
1.1 Adopt the Agenda**

Motion to Adopt Agenda.

Motion by Councilor Barlow, Seconded by Councilor Carpenter.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

**2. Adopt Draft Minutes
2.1 Adopt Draft Minutes from September 18**

Motion to adopt the draft minutes from September 18 with the clarification on CivicClerk that the minutes are of the Ordinance Committee and not the Board of Health

Motion by Councilor Barlow, Seconded by Councilor Carpenter.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

3. Public Forum

Sharon Bushor: I was hoping for a statement supporting the retirement change from both the fire and police unions. I only saw one from the fire union. I don't know how this will effect benefits for early retirees and would like to know. On the parking ordinance changes, the DPW Commission allows for public input. Can the public still go to the Commission to address parking issues? I also think that towing for having over \$275 in parking tickets will end up hurting people. I think it's also problematic for having only 24 hours warning to ban parking on a street and it should be a longer time.

Josh Kirtlink: The BFFA supports the retirement ordinance change as written and has submitted a letter to the Committee stating that. The retirement benefits are laid out in the bargaining agreement and are not age-related except that you must be 50 years of age at least to retire. So changing the mandatory retirement age will not affect benefits.

4. Raising the Mandatory Retirement Age for Class A Employees Discussion

Councilor Barlow said that this change was brought up by a firefighter and was approved by the union and administration. This change will not negatively change benefits for firefighters but will allow them to work longer if needed for their own financial security.

Attorney McClenahan said that the actuarial calculations were done for a change from 60 to 63 and so would like to have further calculations if the Committee is thinking of changing it to 65. She continued that this change should not impact the DROP option that the City offers to employees with over 25 years of service.

Councilor Carpenter said she doesn't think there should be a mandatory age of retirement or have it be 67 to align with the full Social Security benefit. She continued that there should be an exemption for non-line staff.

Councilor Bergman asked if there are any statements of support or opposition from the BPOA or the Police Department about this change. Attorney McClenahan said that the BPD is aware of the potential change but has not received any communication about their position on this change. Councilor Bergman asked the City Attorney's Office to ask BPD and the BPOA if they have any comments on the change.

Josh Kirtlink (BFFA) said that he spoke with the BPOA and that they support the ordinance as drafted. Attorney McClenahan asked Josh Kirtlink whether the employees that are approaching age 63 are all union members. He responded that no, only two are union members and the others are appointed and not in the union. He continued that all of the nearly age 63 employees do not have the 25 years of service to be eligible for the DROP.

Motion to refer the draft ordinance back to City Council with the additional condition to consider other matters of age and employment, and to the request the City Attorney's Office to communicate with the BPOA and Chief of Police if they have any comments on the ordinance change, and to resolicit input from the BFFA and Fire Chief about changing the mandatory retirement age to 65 or 67.

Motion by Councilor Barlow, Seconded by Councilor Carpenter.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

5. Parking Ordinance Changes Discussion

Attorney Ramakrishnan shared the current draft ordinance changes. The draft ordinance is available in the agenda packet on CivicClerk.

Councilor Carpenter said that if the process to establish accessible residential parking spaces is sped up, the process to undo those spots once the person leaves should also be quick.

Councilor Bergman said he agrees with added flexibility but that there also does need to be public engagement in the process.

Attorney Ramakrishnan said that the Public Works Commission already has the authority to enact rules with the force of ordinance but for the sake of tradition and clarity the ordinance themselves are updated to reflect that.

Councilor Bergman disagreed, and said there needs to be clearer indication of the guardrails, regulations, and public engagement in this ordinance. Attorney Ramakrishnan said that he can move the language proposed for Appendix C into the draft ordinance.

Councilor Bergman asked for the word “approximate” to be removed from line 45 of the draft ordinance regarding sign location.

The Ordinance Committee will continue review at line 115 of the draft ordinance.

6. Any Other Committee Business

No other Committee business. The next meeting is October 16, from 4:30-6:30 PM.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 PM.