

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
645 PINE STREET
BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05401
COMMISSION MEETING OCTOBER 18, 2023
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, Commissioner Damiani (Vice Chair), Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Hogan, Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco (Chair),

COMMISSIONER ABSENT: Commissioner Munteanu; Commissioner Sears

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco called the meeting to order at 6:32 a.m.

ITEM 2 – AGENDA

Commissioner Barr made a motion to accept the agenda
Commissioner Damiani seconded. Would like to take off Item 4.3 for more discussion.
Unanimous approval

ITEM 3 – PUBLIC FORUM

Mark Stephenson of Tower Terrace came in and requested how he could get guest passes for parking on his street, which is residents only. When we have a guests visit us we have to move our car for our visitors to come to our house. What are the steps needed to get these parking passes.

Sharon Bushor called and wanted to thank Maddie Suender for coming out and start to rectify how property was left, greenbelt and yard, to see how it will be restored. My walkway is still under discussion for repair but I wanted to acknowledge how responsive the department was.

Mrs. Bushor also talked about the holiday parking stating that the 2-hour free parking is inadequate. We should have free parking downtown from December 15 through January 1 as the cost of parking in the downtown area is high.

Dave Conger of Spruce Court stated the whole street requested parking on one side of the street in 2013 as it is a narrow street with parking allowed on both sides on the upper portion of the street. We started getting parking tickets if we parked in the last spot last year and Engineer Peterson said they need to make a parking ordinance on the west side, this was a neighborhood driven exercise and a sign installed in the location past all the driveway. Ordinance needs to be updated.

ITEM 4 – CONSENT AGENDA

- 4.1 Approval of Draft Minutes 9/20/23**
- 4.2 Clarke Street Motorcycle Parking**
- 4.3 2023 Holiday Parking Promotion Plan**

Commissioner Barr made motion to approve consent agenda with Item 4.3 pulled for discussion

Commissioner Damiani again correct the spelling of his name

Commissioner Fox asked about a Clarke Street item, ordinance language had a question on the number. Engineer Peterson stated the numbers in the report were correct.

Seconded by Commissioner Fox

Unanimous Approval

ITEM 4.3 2023 Holiday Parking Promotion Plan

Director Spencer stated that the Downtown Improvement District shall include two hours of free parking in downtown – could do additional parking. We fund the employee free parking in garages and the summer promotion. We do have money from the meters that can be used with more flexibility. The business owners pay some of the money.

Commissioner Damiani asked if this was not used free parking can, it be used more directly than Friday and Saturday parking targeting the downtown parking garage.

Commissioner Barr asked if the vote was on consent or is this informational. Director Spencer stated this was informational. No action is needed.

Commissioner Fox noted to push people towards the downtown garages.

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco asked if we could increase the roles of the Ambassadors to make people feel safer if they park in the parking garages.

ITEM 5 – Wastewater Updates: Winooski Siphon Break, Tertiary (Phosphorus Removal) Treatment, and Plant Upgrades

Assistant Director Megan Moir gave updates on the Siphon Break that occurred in the New North End of Burlington. She went on to explain the timeline of events that have occurred with this issue.

Commissioner Hogan stated work done upstream under and then up. AD Moir stated that water moved up and then under. This is a reverse siphon.

Commissioner Fox asked about the pipe is inconspicuous will it be decommissioned but stay. AD Moir stated we will leave it over the winter to see how the fix holds.

Commissioner Damiani asked about long-term fix and the impact on the city's ability for design. AD Moir stated we would pick one for climate resiliency.

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco stated as a citizen 350 thousand gallons did not hit is astounding impressed with the team. AD Moir stated that we will be working with the engineers on plans. The north plant is not an ideal location; we have no flood insurance for this property.

AD Moir went on to explain the tertiary treatments – can't control calm warm water conditions but we can limit our phosphorus discharge. Looked into what storm water management could meet target at main plant and get the biggest bang for the money.

Commissioner Hogan asked about hydraulic stress. AD Moir gave an explanation and stated the preliminary costs are in the report.

Commissioner Fox stated the Aqua _____ is in place in South Burlington have you been in contact with them to see what their experience has been. Also, a question about the ongoing maintenance.

Commissioner Barr asked about the other cities that border the lake do we get bloom from them. AD Moir stated that plants current levels to .2 upgrades with storm water and sewer erosion along Winooski River basin.

Commissioner Damiani asked about the time line for .20 and AD Moir stated they are hoping for 2026. Questions about funding are we responsible for entire share?

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco asked if this was coming back in front of the commission and was told either late spring or early summer.

City Engineer Martin Lee went on to give a presentation for what would be needed to do at the water plants to bring them up to date.

- Explanation of what will be needed and replaced
- Preliminary engineering stage - update main plant and east plant coming to main
- East Plant – Conversion and north plant updates
- North and Main not in the scope potential 2026-2027 with design and construction 2028

Commissioner Hogan asked about a risk score and Engineer Lee stated the bits risk is system is down for a day. If blower goes down risk is higher consequence of failure.

Commissioner Barr if the pump station will free up land for other things. Engineer Lee stated no frontage is going away the back maybe some.

Commissioner Fox asked about the east plant going to main plant. Engineer Lee stated the pump station and this will be the biggest one, now pipe east to main station going through screening and will free up capacity.

Commissioner Damiani asked how we can support this when you bring it to the public. Director Spencer stated there will be lots of opportunities, talk to councilors and neighbors and be present with staff.

ITEM 6 – DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Director Spencer stated there is an update on the south end construction plan.
Champlain Parkway is ahead of schedule
Working to get ready for the winter weather

ITEM 7 – COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Barr stated kudos for the team in implementing the issues we had in the East End.

Commissioner Fox asked about Great Street Main Street – Director Spencer stated bids came in higher than expected. Director Spencer stated there was a for revenue enhancing,, cut out some stuff and possibly phase out the projects.

Commissioner Hogan stated the flashing pedestrian lights on St. Paul Street and So. Union Street. Bike share our system is 3 times in price. Director Spencer stated we are giving an Update to TEUC on bike share in November there was an increase in bike use when the college students returned

Commissioner Damiani stated an e-mail was sent out for North Winooski Avenue corridor encourage you to fill it out.

Commissioner O’Neill-Vivanco also asked about sidewalks, Overlake Park is terrible, there are chunks of sidewalk and in winter it gets icy and dice, what is the plan for repairs.

Bike share go where users are cost is too expensive.

Staffing in department for street maintenance with winter coming

Director Spencer stated streets is fully staff, water distribution is understaffed and we are working with union for support and trying to recruit additional staff.

Commissioner Fox wanted to remind everyone of the annual Halloween bike ride on October 29th, there is also a walking component this year

ITEM 8 – ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE – NOVEMBER 15, 2023

Commissioner Barr made a motion to adjourn

Commissioner Hogan seconded
Unanimous approval

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.