



CITY OF BURLINGTON

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CITY OF BURLINGTON
Committee of the Whole Minutes
Robert Miller, Mayor
Diahnn Halbach, City Clerk
March 5, 2013

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Bob Miller called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m. starting with roll call. Aldermen present: Bob Prailes, Ed Johnson, Peter Hintz, Ruth Dawidziak, Tom Vos, Steve Rauch, Tom Preusker, and Katie Simenson. Students present: Cullen Vos and Alexa Aguirre.

Also present: City Administrator Kevin Lahner, City Attorney John Bjelajac, Fire Chief Richard Lodle, Police Chief Peter Nimmer, Public Works Director Craig Workman, Public Works Supervisor Dan Jensen, Treasurer Steve DeQuaker, Director of Administrative Services Megan Watkins; Tom Foht, Mike Timmers, Brad Jors, Ryan Cardinal, and Greg Govenatori of Kapur Engineering; Greg Reeseman of Reesman Excavating; and John Wanasek of Wanasek Corporation.

2. Citizens Comments and Questions

None

3. Approval of Minutes from February 20, 2013

A motion was made by Rauch with a second by Simenson to approve the minutes from February 20, 2013. With all in favor, the motion carried to approve the minutes.

4. Discussion regarding the Gateway Technical College referendum

Mayor Miller introduced Jeff Robshaw, Vice President for Learning Innovation and Chief Information Officer for Gateway Technical College. Mr. Robshaw explained the referendum as needed in order to expand and grow for the developing needs of our community. Robshaw gave a breakdown of the \$49 million cost proposal and the various sources it would fund: Academic Programming Expansion, Increased Access/Improved Student Retention, and District Projects and Energy Efficiency. Robshaw further indicated that the annual impact to property owners based on \$100,000 home would be \$9.73 per household with a forecasted twenty year return for the referendum.

5. Presentation by WE Energies regarding the St. Gobain Power Line Project and the Tree Removal Project.

Linda Sodemann and Larry Axlen, Jr. of WE Energies were present to explain both projects. Sodeman stated these projects would happen in two phases. The first phase is the St. Gobain Power Line Project. Sodeman said WE Energies was approached by Air Liquide for an expansion to their facility which would require additional power to be brought in. Sodeman further stated that the best option for this project would be a conduit and manhole system for Air Liquide. The project would begin at Air Liquide's sub-station located off of Calumet Street, through Highway 83 and over to

Market Street down to Kane and continuing West to Air Liquide. The project will require WE Energies to occupy the parking lane of the streets they need to utilize. Sodemann said the project will not interfere with any City projects. Sodemann said the tentative start date for this project will be August and completing it in October and making sure to have everything restored by November. They will be pulling the cable as weather allows, hopefully before Spring for a cutover for Air Liquide in late Spring early Summer. Sodemann stated concern about the congestion of traffic at the intersection of Kane and Market and said WE Energies is working with the schools in order to obtain an easement onto their property so they will be out of the way of traffic. Mayor Miller asked if WE Energies would be laying cable on the North or South side of Market. Sodemann responded that it would be on the North side of Market. Mayor Miller asked if the project would require them to bore under the driveway accesses or if they would trench the whole thing. Sodemann responded they would probably trench the whole thing. Vos urged Sodemann to better analyze the traffic near the schools during dismissal time as it becomes very busy and voiced concern about closing a lane of traffic during this time period. Sodemann responded that they will only be in the parking lane but would observe the area to get a better understanding of how much traffic there while school is starting and ending. There was no further discussion on phase 1.

Sodemann then introduced phase 2 of the WE Energies project that would begin end of May beginning of June. Sodemann stated that WE Energies is retiring their Sheldon Station and will be utilizing the Burlington sub-station. Taller poles and new wires will be installed in order to sustain the power it will need. Sodemann said this project presented some forestry issues and would require some trees to be removed. Sodemann then introduced Larry Axlen, Head Forester, to further explain this project. Axlen stated that six to seven trees will need to be removed in order to move forward with this project and that WE Energies has been in contact with all residents affected. Axlen further stated that these trees were nearing maturation and would be replaced with smaller trees that will reach a much lower maximum height than trees already in the area. Attorney John Bjelajac also added that Linda Sodemann has worked with several other communities and considers her to be a true professional and has the utmost confidence that this project will go well.

There was no further discussion.

6. Resolution 4608(59) to consider approving a final resolution to declare intent to exercise Special Assessments for the reconstruction of sidewalks at various locations in the city.

Mayor Miller introduced Resolution 4608(59) to the Council for discussion.

There was no discussion. This item is scheduled for the March 19, 2013 Common Council meeting for consideration.

7. Resolution 4609(60) to consider approving a final resolution to declare intent to exercise Special Assessments for the construction of a new sidewalk on Pine Street from Dunford Drive to the point lying approximately 150 feet from the southerly right-of-way line of Hidden Creek Lane.

Mayor Miller introduced Resolution 4609(60) to the Council for discussion.

Rauch asked if the construction would affect the oak trees on Dunford & Pine. Craig Workman replied that the plan avoids the oak trees and will not affect them. Rauch then asked how they planned to cross the creek. Workman responded that the sidewalk would be pushed out towards the curb and it would be made a little wider than normal and there are no plans to extend the existing box culvert. Vos asked if there were any updated costs on the crosswalk and what portion Kwik Trip would be paying. Tom Foht responded that the bids came in at close to \$37,000 and there has been no further

conversation with Kwik Trip. Vos asked when would Kwik Trip be contacted. Foht replied as soon as the bid is rewarded. Lahner also replied that in their initial conversation with Kwik Trip, they agreed to pay half but will talk to them again this week before the bid is awarded just to be sure they are still in for half the cost, but does not foresee this being an issue.

There was no further discussion. This item is scheduled for the March 19, 2013 Common Council meeting for consideration.

8. Motion 13-754 to consider authorizing the installation of "Home of Tony Romo" signs at the entrances of the city.

Mayor Miller introduced Motion 13-754 to the Council.

Hintz asked at how many entrances would the sign be posted. Mayor Miller responded that there would be a sign displayed at each of the five main highway entrances. Rauch raised questions about the color of the signs and suggested that it not be associated with a particular NFL team. Rauch suggested the colors be representative of Burlington such as orange and black. Lahner agreed that the sign should not be blue and white and suggested either the black and orange or the Chocolate City colors of brown and white. After some joking about NFL colors, Burlington Chamber of Commerce executive director, Jan Ludkte said she would consult with Burli Signs.

There was no further discussion. Due to the timeliness, this item is scheduled for the same night Common Council meeting for consideration.

11. Adjournment

A motion was made by Simenson with a second by Vos to adjourn the meeting. With all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Diahnn Halbach
Burlington City Clerk
Racine & Walworth Counties