

DRAFT

CITY OF BURLINGTON
Committee of the Whole Minutes
Robert Miller, Mayor
Beverly R. Gill, City Clerk
November 16, 2010

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Bob Miller called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. starting with roll call. Aldermen present: Bob Prailes, Peter Hintz, Jim Prailes, Tom Vos, Steve Rauch, Jeff Fischer, Katie Simenson Excused: Ed Johnson

High School student members in attendance: Ms. Lauren Nadolski, Mr. David Martin

Also present: City Administrator Kevin Lahner, City Attorney John Bjelajac, Police Chief Peter Nimmer, Treasurer Steve DeQuaker, Assistant to the Administrator Megan Johnson, Department of Public Works Supervisor Dick Pieters, Fire Chief Dick Lodle, Department of Public Works Director Connie Wilson, Building Inspector Patrick Scherrer, Tom Foht of Kapur Engineering

2. CITIZENS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

None

3. MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 3, 2010

A motion was made by Rauch with a second by Jim Prailes to approve the November 3, 2010 Committee of the Whole Minutes. With all in favor, the motion carried.

4. DISCUSSION REGARDING CONVERTING EAST STATE STREET FROM PINE STREET TO DODGE STREET TO ONE-WAY, TO RELOCATE THE DODGE STREET POST OFFICE DROP BOXES

Mayor Miller opened the topic for discussion among the aldermen. Vos stated that he thought it was a great idea. Simenson was not in favor of relocating the boxes between the two driveways but thought they should be moved nearer to Dodge Street. Lahner referred council to the memorandum prepared by Kapur Engineering and distributed to council members.

Tom Foht of Kapur Engineering discussed the following five options:

- Check with the police department to see if any disturbances/accidents had occurred at the current location. If no reported incidents of safety or disturbances, then it would not be necessary to move the boxes.
- Add an island or curb/bollards between the parking lane and driving lane heading east on State Street.
- Relocate one of the mailboxes on Dodge Street to the south end of the current post office building. This would be the preferred recommended option from Kapur Engineering.
- Change State Street to a one-way street which is something that Kapur Engineering would not recommend.
- Find a suitable location nearby in a shopping plaza area.

The mayor reminded council members that the preferred option offered by Kapur had already been discussed with post office officials and they were not in favor of relocating the mailbox to the south end of their property.

Bob Prailes questioned if Sentry had been approached to have the mailboxes in their parking lot? Tom Foht replied that not to his knowledge had Sentry been contacted. Rauch stated that he thought the post office workers were against moving it to the Sentry Parking Lot because of the distance. Vos did not think Sentry would want to take on additional responsibility of having a mailbox on their property. Bob Prailes then spoke about the drop box that is located in another shopping mall by Kmart. The mayor stated that this shopping mall also had the mailboxes for the businesses in the area.

Simenson favored the return to a one-way street for that section of East State Street as she considered it a dangerous area in trying to either make a left turn onto Pine Street or an attempt to cross Pine Street and continue on to East State Street.

Vos questioned who is responsible for the placement of the mail box? The mayor replied that the post office has that responsibility; the two boxes on Dodge Street are sitting in the street right-of-way. Vos suggested that the city does not have to do anything at this time, but could request the post office to move the two boxes from Dodge Street. Lahner concurred that it is not the city's responsibility. The mayor also stated that he was not in favor of creating a one-way street for a few people; he also did not find the crossing at Pine and East State Street to be much of a problem except at around three in the afternoon.

Hintz thought that the trend was toward less usage of the post office itself and just for convenience sake he didn't think the change was worthwhile.

Simenson said that many people are concerned about the location and it was her suggestion to at least try the one-way and see if it would work, as it was not working where the boxes are now located.

Bob Prailes was more in favor of contacting Sentry for the availability of their parking lot rather than changing any traffic patterns in the city. Jim Prailes was in favor of the post office taking care of the problem. Fischer suggested the post office be given a deadline of January 1st, 2011 to come up with a solution. Rauch was concerned with winter weather approaching and the ability to stripe the street but Foht stated that a temporary striping could be applied.

Lahner stated that there is no perfect solution, as each opportunity presents an obstacle.

This item will be returning to the December 7, 2010 Committee of the Whole for further discussion. At that time, the postmaster will also be invited to attend the meeting.

5. RESOLUTION 4446(30) "A RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE WATER RATES CHARGED BY THE BURLINGTON MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITY"

Rauch questioned if there was any way to stagger out the painting of the storage tanks or if there was a cost savings in doing them at the same time. Wilson replied the painting had been put off for many years and that the last painting had taken place in 1984. She thought there might be some cost savings in having them both done at the same time and it would be a possibility to put off the painting until 2012 which would tie in with the next DNR inspection.

Simenson was still concerned that the increase of 27% would not be enough of an increase. The mayor stated that the 27% as discussed at the last meeting is predicated on the idea that the city would be back requesting a simplified rate increase in the year 2013. Lahner explained that the city must qualify for this and the qualification is the rate of return from the PSC.

This resolution is scheduled for this evening's Common Council meeting.

6. RESOLUTION 4448(32) "A RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER APPROVING A THREE-YEAR CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH NATIONAL APPRAISAL CORPORATION"

Simenson questioned the increase in the contract of five-hundred dollars. Lahner explained that other bids received had been considerably higher and the increase in cost from National Appraisal Corporation was reasonable.

This ordinance is scheduled for the December 7, 2010 Common Council meeting.

7. **ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Simenson with a second by Fischer to adjourn the meeting. With all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Beverly R. Gill
City Clerk
City of Burlington
Racine and Walworth Counties