

CITY OF BURLINGTON
Committee of the Whole Minutes
Robert Miller, Mayor
Beverly R. Gill, City Clerk
February 15, 2011

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: Jim Prailes, Steve Rauch, Ed Johnson, Peter Hintz, Tom Vos, and Katie Simenson. High school students present: Lauren Nadolski and David Martin. Aldermen Jeff Fischer and Robert Prailes were excused.

Also present: City Administrator Kevin Lahner, City Attorney John Bjelajac, Police Chief Peter Nimmer, Treasurer Steve DeQuaker, Public Works Director Connie Wilson, Public Works Supervisor Dick Pieters, Fire Chief Dick Lodle, Library Director Gayle Falk and City Engineer Tom Foht of Kapur and Associates.

2. CITIZENS COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 3, 2011

A motion was made by Hintz with a second by Vos to approve the minutes from February 3, 2011. With all in favor, the motion carried.

4. DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED CROSSWALKS ON W. STATE STREET AND MILWAUKEE AVENUE.

Mayor Miller introduced this item and turned the floor over to Tom Foht of Kapur and Associates. Mr. Foht began with an overview of the proposed crosswalks on W. State Street and Milwaukee Avenue. He stated an inventory was done of handicap ramps at crossings, current signage and overall conditions of the crosswalks. He explained that DOT standards for signage and ramps has been upgraded in comparison to what the city currently has and that there is a strong need to enhance the crosswalks. He further stated that a pedestrian crossing study was not conducted at this time but that the proposal is more simply an estimate of where heavy pedestrian traffic occurs.

Foht stated there are different options for the W. State Street crossing. Several locations were analyzed and it was recommended that the intersection of State and Maple was the most appropriate location for an enhanced crossing. He further stated there were two options to enhance the crosswalk, upgrading signage and striping the pavement or upgrading signage and adding a median on State Street.

Vos questioned what the motivator was for this proposal. Lahner stated that concerns from residents to Alderman Simenson are what initially prompted it however it is visually apparent of a problem, especially during school hours. He further stated there is currently a lack of pedestrian awareness with drivers in the area and this would help create a higher level of awareness for the safety of pedestrian.

Vos stated historically he has only seen students crossing safely at intersections where there are crossing guards which this proposal doesn't address. He further questioned how an added median would be effective in slowing down traffic. Lahner responded that it would narrow the four lane road to two. Foht stated the physical presence alone of the median would slow down traffic and well as allow a resting point for pedestrians while crossing.

Hintz suggested using pedestrian crossing signs such as the one placed downtown stating it is ultimately an enforcement issue with safety.

Lahner stated he would like the aldermen's opinions on how to proceed with this issue.

Lori Stonestreet, 348 N. Kendrick Avenue, questioned if there would be signage on the median. Foht responded there would be signs for vehicles such as a "keep right" sign. Ms. Stonestreet further stated she feels it is hard to cross State Street at all times of the day, not just during school hours.

Simenson stated she is concerned with the maintenance issues with a median such as snow removal, which would make the crosswalk unusable.

Dick Pieters stated he feels the current situation on State Street is dangerous and would like to see the crosswalks painted with more signage as opposed to a median, much like what was done on McHenry Street by the hospital. Rauch agreed with Pieters and felt the road should be striped first before investing in a median. Mayor Miller agreed with both Pieters and Rauch stating a study should be done prior to a median installation to see where pedestrians are crossing most often.

Simenson questioned what measures can be taken to bring awareness to vehicle drivers about pedestrians having the right-of-way. Chief Nimmer stated a campaign could be done to raise awareness with added enforcement.

Johnson questioned if the crosswalks were painted without installing a median would the signs still be installed. Foht replied the signs would still need to be upgraded to current DOT standards.

Mayor Miller stated he would like the Council to discuss the Milwaukee Avenue crosswalk proposal.

Simenson stated she felt the proposal at hand seemed to encourage pedestrians to use the Charcoal Grill parking lot and alleys to get to the Milwaukee Avenue crossing. Hintz responded that pedestrians could use the Riverwalk along and behind Charcoal Grill to get to Milwaukee Avenue and avoid the parking lots. Foht stated he recommends directional signage for pedestrians to Veterans Terrace and the downtown area. He further stated he recommends having flashing lights at the crosswalk which would be activated by pedestrians. Vos stated he feels flashing lights are essential for this area due to the volume of traffic on Milwaukee Avenue. Mayor Miller agreed with Vos and further stated the lights would help during evening hours.

A consensus was taken and the aldermen agreed that W. State Street should be striped for a crosswalk at W. State and Maple and W. State and Elmwood with enhanced signage. They further agreed Milwaukee Avenue should be striped by the Veterans Terrace site with warning lights and enhanced signage.

There were no further comments.

5. **RESOLUTION 4465(49) "A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN AWARD OF BID TO MILLER MOTORS FOR A NEW WATER UTILITY SERVICE VEHICLE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$34,053"**

Mayor Miller introduced Resolution 4465(49). Alderman Vos questioned why a 1997 pick-up truck with only 80,000 miles needs to be replaced. Connie Wilson replied that the pick-up truck is being replaced with a utility truck that will have better hauling capability and storage. She further stated that the mileage of the pick-up truck was not the issue but the idling hours and the damaged interior of the vehicle. This resolution is scheduled for the March 1, 2011 Common Council meeting.

6. **MOTION 11-701 "A MOTION TO ACCEPT AN AIRPORT HANGAR LEASE WITH SPECIALTY AERO, LLC FOR 909 & 925 JULIETTE TAXIWAY AND 900 & 916 BRAVO TAXIWAY FOR A TERM OF TWENTY-NINE YEARS"**

Mayor Miller introduced Motion 11-701 to the council for discussion. There were no comments. This motion is scheduled for the February 15, 2011 Common Council meeting.

7. **MOTION 11-702 "A MOTION TO APPROVE A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS APPLICATION AND SIGN PERMIT IN THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OVERLAY DISTRICT FOR 460 N. PINE STREET"**

Mayor Miller introduced Motion 11-702 to the council for discussion. Alderman Jim Prailes stated he would be abstaining from this discussion due to a conflict of interest. There were no comments. This motion is scheduled for the February 15, 2011 Common Council meeting.

8. **MOTION 11-703 "A MOTION TO APPROVE A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS APPLICATION IN THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OVERLAY DISTRICT FOR 388 N. PINE STREET"**

Mayor Miller introduced Motion 11-703 to the council for discussion. Alderman Rauch questioned why the applicant didn't apply for a façade grant and wondered if funding was low. Administrator Lahner stated that there are still funds available but the applicant didn't apply for a grant. This motion is scheduled for the February 15, 2011 Common Council meeting.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Vos with a second by Rauch to adjourn the meeting. With all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Recording Secretary
Megan E. Johnson
Assistant to the City Administrator