



27 WEST ALLEN STREET  
WINOOSKI, VERMONT  
05404

# CITY OF WINOOSKI

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*KATHERINE R. DECARREAU*  
CITY MANAGER

**MAYOR MICHAEL O'BRIEN**  
*Mayor@onioncity.com*

## CITY COUNCIL

**COUNCILOR JODI HARRINGTON**  
**COUNCILOR ERIK HEIKEL**  
**COUNCILOR SALLY TIPSON**

**DEPUTY MICHAEL MAHONEY**

## AGENDA

**Monday, February 1, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.**

Claire Burke Chamber

- I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**
- II. Important Announcements and Good News**
- III. Public Comment Period – Non agenda items (3 minute limit please)**
- IV. Consent Agenda:** None Presented
- V. Action Agenda:**
  - a.** Approval Exit 15 Final Design Plans – S. Palmer  
*(Motion: "I move to approve...")*
  - b.** Spinner Place Refinancing Approval Document – K. Decarreau  
*(Motion: "I move to approve...")*
  - c.** Final Approval FY11 Budget and Capital Plan – K. Decarreau  
*(Motion: "I move to approve...")*
- VI. Discussion Agenda:** None Presented
- VII. City Manager Update**
  - a.** Police Actions – K. Decarreau
- VIII. Executive Session**
- IX. Adjourn**

## MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by the Mayor at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Deputy Mayor Michael Mahoney.

### **Members Present:**

Mayor Michael O'Brien

Councilors: Michael Mahoney, Erik Heikel, Jodi Harrington, Sally Tipson

**Officers Present:**

Katherine R. Decarreau, City Manager; Angela M. Aldieri, Clerk's Office Administration; Steve Palmer, City Engineer

**Others Present:**

Erik Atkins, Green International; Ko Ishikura, Green International; Jim Read; Clement & Florida Boisjoli; Theresa Schwartz; Anthony Augustino, Traffic Advisory Board; Cathy Resmer; David Cutler, Saint Michaels College; David Ryan, Traffic Advisory Board; Sarah Robinson; Judy Lance; Jake Elovirta; Dan Carr; William Fitzgerald; David Storandt; Gary Alarie; Seth Alarie; Ken Upmal, Vermont Agency of Transportation; Michael Decarreau

**II. Important Announcements and Good News:**

Ms. Decarreau announced that an arrest has been made by the Winooski Police Department in the east side burglaries. She congratulated the police on their hard work.

Ms. Decarreau stated that petitions for Council and School Board were due today. There are three candidates for two council seats; John Little, Jeff Myers, and Sarah Robinson. There is one candidate for one school board seat – three year term; Jennifer Corrigan. Finally, there are two candidates for one school board seat – two year term; Douglas Isham, and Robert Millar.

Ms. Decarreau also announced that Cathy Resmer is tweeting the meeting again. There was positive feedback from the community in favor of this method.

**III. Public Comment Period**

There were no items for public comment

**IV. Consent Agenda**

No consent agenda was presented

**V. Action Agenda****a. Approval Exit 15 Final Design Plans – S. Palmer**

Mr. Palmer introduced Kenneth Upmal of Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT). He stated that Mr. Upmal had come to the Council February 23, 2009 to present three alternatives for this intersection. At that time the Council selected a preferred alternative and raised several concerns to be addressed. The state has reached substantial completion on the final design for the project and is looking for final local approval. This project has been fast tracked due to safety concerns so it has taken 16-18 months for preparation rather than the typical 4-5 years.

Mr. Upmal stated that the only concern of the Council not addressed by this project was the Dion Street signal and intersection. This was not addressed because of right of way issues and the uncontrolled access to the middle of the intersection due to open curb cuts of the adjacent service stations. These complications regarding Dion Street would have

delayed project construction, but could be addressed at a later time. AOT does not believe the changes to the Exit 15 intersection will be a detriment to this intersection.

Mr. Upmal outlined the proposed changes that would be made to the Exit 15 intersection. AOT has worked with all adjacent property owners and obtained all required right of way waiver easements. Mr. Upmal introduced Erik Atkins with Green International, a contractor working on the project. Mr. Atkins stated the main concerns of the project were the spillover of the exit ramp onto the interstate, the safety concerns regarding Roland Court, and pedestrian safety. Items included in the project to address these issues include a second lane exiting the interstate eastbound; signal lights for those exiting eastbound; video detection control to adjust exit signal timing if cars back up beyond a certain point on the ramp; a signal light for those exiting Roland Court; pedestrian crossing accommodations across Route 15; and modification to the median island by Florida Avenue to accommodate exclusive left turn lanes from both directions.

Questions and discussion with the Council and public followed. A request was made to have the intersection at Florida Avenue marked to prevent the street from being blocked by those stopped at the light. Mr. Atkins and Mr. Upmal stated this would be possible. Additional items discussed included signage; disturbance of the surrounding trees and hillside, and signal timing.

Mr. Upmal estimated that with approval tonight the state begin construction in June, with completion in late fall. The estimated cost of the project is \$1.4 million with no construction cost to the City. There is a maintenance agreement for the signals the City would be responsible for when signed. This agreement is to be reviewed by the City Attorney and will be brought to the Council at a later date. Mr. Palmer stated that AOT would like to also request a waiver of the noise ordinance for night work on Route 15. The duration of the needed waiver would be 1-2 weeks.

**MOTION** by Councilor Harrington, seconded by Councilor Mahoney to approve the final design of the Exit 15 project with the modification of the striping at Florida Avenue. Voted and passed 4-0.

Mayor O'Brien called for a 5 minute recess at 7:05pm to allow public to exit. Meeting called back to order 7:10pm.

**b. Spinner Place Refinancing Approval Document – K. Decarreau**

Ms. Decarreau informed the Council that the final closing documents are not yet ready. The City should have them next week.

**c. Final Approval FY11 Budget and Capital Plan – K. Decarreau**

Ms. Decarreau stated that the information she is presenting will be available online tomorrow morning. She presented a summary view of the FY11 budget indicating a 2% increase in revenue and a 5% cut in expenditures. Included in the FY11 budget is a \$70,000 payment for borrowing money externally at a 5% rate to cover the deficit with a

ten year payback. If we can get the amount needed under \$500,000 the City can borrow from itself at a 2.5% rate.

Ms. Decarreau went on reviewing the proposed FY11 budget for revenue and expenses by department, highlighting changes from previous years. Included in the presentation was a two cent tax increase which would cover the pay down of the deficit as well as our built in capital increase previously voted on by residents. Councilor Harrington expressed concern over the high cost of the Police Department in comparison to the rest of the City budget as well as other towns. A budgeted saving of \$129,000 was included in the expense side of the proposed budget. Ms. Decarreau stated that the savings could come from various places; but, they will require negotiations with the unions. Potential savings could come from additional changes in insurance; borrowing from ourselves, delinquent tax collection; life insurance; 3% increase in employee payment of benefits; 2% salary reduction. Ms. Decarreau continued by presenting the capital budget plan. She stated that we are working on a tracking system for depreciation and replacement schedule to better budget our capital money. Ms. Decarreau stated she is looking for approval of the bottom line budget from the Council.

**MOTION** by Councilor Heikel, seconded by Councilor Mahoney to approve the budget with expenses to total no more than \$5,585,654 with no more than \$4,088,431 to be raised from property taxes. Voted and passed 3-1 with Councilor Harrington voting no.

#### **VI. Discussion Agenda**

No items up for discussion

#### **VII. City Manager Update**

Ms. Decarreau wanted to announce to the public that the City has no ability to decide when and where someone is released from the criminal justice system. It is unconstitutional to ban someone from living in a specific area. However, the City has a legal obligation to notify residents when a sex offender who has not been treated is living in the City. Ms. Decarreau noted that sex offender status does not necessarily mean the person is a danger or committed a violent crime. She stated that the police are monitoring the situation.

#### **VIII. Executive Session**

No executive session held.

**MOTION** by Councilor Tipson, seconded by Councilor Harrington to adjourn the meeting a 9:20pm. Voted and passed 4-0.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk's Office Administration