

There are other bike share systems that you have to put them in a physical location, a dock that they lock in. We don't want to do that because those don't give you any flexibility as to where you can pick up a bike or park a bike. But we do want to have a designated space within the City that is kind of like preferred parking where people using the dockless bikes can park them. It gives a little bit of order to the bike parking; but it also gives users of the bike share some level of confidence that there will be a bike in a certain location when say they get off the bus.

So the transit station is right there, they can have a relative level of confidence that there will be a bike there available when they get off the bus or they can park it there when they go to take the bus. So it just provides some orderly parking. We also have a space off the corner of the High Street Parking Garage that the Parking Enforcement Bureau has allowed us to use as well. But we are not taking away a parking space from anybody in that case we are just using a public space that is out of the way of the sidewalks and the roadway.

Chairman O'Brien

You did identify yourself before you spoke?

Ms. Chizmas

I'm sorry Julie Chizmas, Transportation and Long Range Planner in the Community Development Division here at City Hall.

Ezra Richardson, VEO Ride Representative

I am the VEO Ride Representative, Manager of the Nashua Fleet. In support of what Julie says, one of the major concerns amongst public citizens is the clutter that results from a dockless bike share. And this is a wonderful way to instill confidence in the users; but keep the streets decluttered and keep the bikes grouped in one place. It's a reliable place to pick up the bike like we know right around the corner from the Transit Center. I know from experience operating since last summer, this would greatly, greatly benefit the program for this coming riding season.

Chairman O'Brien

Very good. I have to say that your idea to have it right next to the Public Transportation is a hand-in-glove type of situation. People can get off the bus and then get back to their route which is enhanced. So I think that's beautiful and particularly to alleviate some of the parking downtown and use the bike and everything. Any question by members of the Committee.

Alderman Jette

Well I support this, I think you've acknowledged a lot of complaints that I've received from people about the bikes just being left anywhere. I mean I understand the concept, the fact that it is dockless means that you can leave it anywhere. The problem with that is that you can leave it anywhere. A lot of people see the bikes, even though they have their own little kickstand, either people leave them down or they get knocked down and it looks bad. So I'm glad that you are doing something to try and remedy that situation.

I know when you park the bike, you just flip the kickstand down and it stays upright by itself, but have you given any thought to putting some bike racks somewhere around the City so that even though you don't have to lock them in like these other bike programs, it would at least give people a place to put them so it would maintain more order. Have you thought about that?

Ms. Chizmas

So Ezra and I have discussed that at length and we recognize that wind is brutal, especially the last few days, the bikes do knock over. And I mean we do have bike racks, we do have bike racks on Main Street and the company does encourage people to use bike racks when available. If there are locations, we have asked people for locations for where they would like to see bike racks; but we haven't necessarily gone out and installed them. Again, we don't want this to become a docked bike share system, you know, we want to encourage and incentivize people to park them in certain places but we don't want to take away the flexibility that the dockless bikes provide.

But if there are locations that you think that bike racks would benefit, certainly let me know and I will work with Public Works to get them installed. We do have the round ones on Main Street but those aren't the right bike racks for these; those you have to lock a bike to with a chain. So they aren't quite the right bike racks for this type of bike share system. And we do encourage people to use them at the Transit Center when they are going there, but then we ran into the problem that we had the VEO Ride bikes using up the bike rack space and people without the VEO Ride bikes, who brought their own bikes, no longer had a bike rack space. So that became an issue. So we have definitely talked about locations to put bike racks but we want to make sure that when we do it, they fit the type of bike that we have and also fit the style that we have in our downtown.

Alderman Jette

This has nothing to do with parking the bikes, but since you are here, how is it going, how is the program going? It is successful?

Mr. Richardson

Very well, successful. We are in the beginning of the ridership season so right now we are averaging about 50 to 100 rides here in Nashua on a good day. We are doing our part to try and this speaks to the cluttering point, trying to make sure that for the riders there aren't too many or too few bikes available. So recently we did agree on a slight downsize in fleet size so that A – my team can better manage the bikes; and B – there aren't bikes being left about that aren't used. It is going very well. I am excited for the season ahead.

Alderman Jette

Well that's good to hear. Thank you.

Mr. Richardson

You're welcome.

Alderman Schmidt

So you'll still have the bikes around the City is that right?

Ms. Chizmas

Absolutely.

Alderman Schmidt

Over in Ward 1 which is over by the Hollis line south of the airport, I didn't see a lot of bikes over there, but then again it is rural-ish out there, so we don't see them very often. But we are close to parks. And I was wondering, you are still going to park them where people may park their car and go into a park?

Ms. Chizmas

We wouldn't take up a parking space other than the one that we are requesting, so we do encourage people not to park the bikes where a car would park. But I think Mine Falls, the entrances into Mine Falls Park is one of the locations that we've identified that a lot of people do pick up and drop off bikes. So they try to maintain a certain number of bikes. One of the great things about the bikes is that they have the GPS in them, so we get the data about where they are picked up, where they are dropped off and where they are ridden. Ezra's team can use that data to position bikes where they are actually being used.

Alderman Schmidt

That would actually be very interesting information for us to have if we could see a map of the usage that you're getting. Could you deliver that to us?

Ms. Chizmas

Sure absolutely.

Alderman Schmidt

That would be terrific, thank you.

Alderman O'Brien

Very good, further questions by the board? I have to say I have seen people use them, it seems to be a great exercise program. I should try it myself. But I do see them along the Main Street and we have a wonderful City to apply that. So thank you for testimony. Seeing that there are no further questions, I'll call for the vote.

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-19-137

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess

AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF TAX DEEDED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 342 MAIN STREET

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman O'Brien

And as we look up on the screen here, the highlighted property that is the property that we are talking about. As you can see here, the owner is listed as us as the owner of 342 Main Street at this particular time. Reading the analysis, this Resolution first resolves the City-owned property acquired by tax deed and surplus and finds that justice requires the manner of disposition via request for proposal second 100 days after passage to allow for notice to the prior owner and mortgage holders under RSA 80:89, it authorizes the Mayor to sell the property by means of a request for proposals and it references NRO 5-116 and RSA 80:80 III. The prior owner has a right to notice, purchase and excess proceeds, terminates 3 years after the date of recording of the tax deed by RSA 80:89 VII. Any questions by the board?

Alderman Jette

Do you know Mr. Chairman, does this method when the City requests or sends out requests for proposals, I am just imagining that means people who are interested in buying the property would then make an offer? Does that obligate the City to sell it to the highest bidder or is it subject to the City considering these proposals and either accepting or denying them?

Chairman O'Brien

Corporate Counsel could probably explain it better and if you don't like my answer, take into account I am not attorney. However, the NRO does allow this and has been designated this is now surplus property and it has gone through the process. In other words, the owner basically is not going to pay any of the back taxes or anything. So being a surplus property, I think the tax payers have the right through the City to act as their agent, to dispose of this property and regain the losses that were acquired by the sale of the property.

Further questions by members of the Board?

MOTION CARRIED

R-19-140

- Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien
- Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
- Alderman Richard A. Dowd
- Alderman Patricia Klee
- Alderman Tom Lopez
- Alderman June M. Caron
- Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
- Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
- Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
- Alderman Jan Schmidt
- Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NASHUA TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH NASHUA POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SCHMIDT TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman O'Brien

Very good. And I'll call up Ms. Chizmas again to I am trying to orientate fly over here to where we are talking about. But this piece of land, well you are here, let me better explain, why don't you identify yourself again, please tell us where the parcel is and I'll try to bring it up exactly on the map and tell us what this would do as far as a garden.

Ms. Chizmas

So I am again Julie Chizmas, Transportation & Long Range Planner with the Community Development Division. We are talking about Parcel 83-155 which is the Heritage Rail Trail Parcel between Ash and Vine Street. This is a parcel that has already been used for community gardens; so our request for you tonight is really just to formalize the use of that property. One of the communications that you mentioned previously was a letter of support from the Nashua Police Athletic Leagues, Executive Director, Shaun Nelson. And his letter gives a little background on this property.

In 2013, Nashua PAL and the City of Nashua Department of Health worked in partnership with funding from Citizen's Bank to transform this parcel. They are doing that through the planting of community gardens and they are supported by Grow Nashua. This all came about through our participatory budgeting project that we did in the tree streets neighborhood.

Community Gardens was one of the projects that was up for a vote through that process and it was the number 2 project. So how that worked was we had \$25,000.00 for a participatory budgeting. The Number One project was \$20,000.00; so the remaining \$5,000.00 went to the Number Two project which was Community Gardens.

When we were looking into this we recognized that we didn't actually have a lease with the City for land or PAL didn't have a lease with the City for that land similar to the lease that Gate City Gardens has farther down the Rail Trail. So we are just formalizing this arrangement with PAL and the City, between PAL and the City.

Chairman O'Brien

That clears it up for me because I thought this was sort of like a renewal or an extension. It sounds like something went through the cracks; you had a wonderful garden last year for the community. You want to do it again.

Ms. Chizmas

Yes and we want to expand. We are providing funding to Grow Nashua who works with the PAL kids in these gardens in the neighborhood. So they will be expanding the gardens with those funds and also improving the whole parcel between the Ash and Vine Street.

Chairman O'Brien

Any questions by members of the Board?

Alderman Schmidt

This is good.

Ms. Chizmas

It's great. It's just fantastic. A fantastic program both PAL and Grow Nashua so super happy to support it.

Chairman O'Brien

So have we passed the last full moon in May? From what old farmers used to say, I'm a city kid from Boston, but I heard somewhere, after the last Full Moon in May, you beat the frost. Time for the gardens.

Ms. Chizmas

Absolutely.

MOTION CARRIED

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

O-19-036

Endorsers: Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Patricia Klee

DESIGNATING AN ADDITIONAL SECTION OF BOWERS STREET ONE-WAY EASTERLY

- Tabled 2/27/2019

Chairman O'Brien

We have also tabled in committee, O-19-036, I have been in some communication. There is some side work going on with that as we speak under the direction with Mr. Cummings. So again one little change to the puzzle, means another change. So they are looking at.

Alderman Schmidt

So we will leave it on the table then?

Chairman O'Brien

So we are going to leave it on the table absolutely unless somebody wants to take it off, but I would encourage not to. We will let the Committee do their function. Thank you very much. Very good.

GENERAL DISCUSSION - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Chairman O'Brien

Well I hope you feel better with the allergies and myself too and everybody else out there suffering.

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN JETTE TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 7:21 p.m.

Alderman Jan Schmidt
Committee Clerk