

**BURLINGTON BOARD OF ABATEMENT OF TAXES
CITY HALL, CONTOIS AUDITORIUM *OR*
REMOTE MEETING WITH CALL-IN
BURLINGTON, VERMONT
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 26, 2024
DRAFT**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Karen Paul
Joan Shannon
Ali Dieng (via Zoom)
Sarah E Carpenter
Zoraya Hightower
Mark Barlow
Joe Magee
Gene Bergman (via Zoom)
Ben Traverse
Tim Doherty
Melo Grant
Hannah King
Miro Weinberger
Joe Turner

OTHERS PRESENT:

Katherine Schad
Jordan Redell
Jared Pellerin
Lori Olberg
Hayley McClenahan

1. CALL TO ORDER AND AGENDA

Mayor Weinberger called the meeting to order at 10:05 PM.

MOTION by Councilor Bergman, SECOND by Councilor traverse to adopt the agenda.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.1 Motion to adopt the consent agenda and take the actions as indicated

2.2 Communication: C/T Office, re: Full Board of Abatement of Taxes Notice – waive the reading, accept the communication, and place it on file.

MOTION by Councilor Bergman, SECOND by Councilor Doherty, to adopt the consent agenda and take the actions as indicated for items 2.1-2.2.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

3. DELIBERATIVE AGENDA

3.1 Request for Abatement of Taxes: Vermont House Condo Association, 120 King Street, 049-3-042-000

MOTION by Councilor Bergman, SECOND by Councilor Doherty, that the full board moves to deny abatement request of penalties and interest in the amount of \$1,373.12 and adopt the findings and reasons for this recommendation.

DISCUSSION:

- Councilor Bergman noted that these two items were heard by the Board of Tax Abatement and that they were split decisions.
- Assistant City Attorney McClenahan said that there was a 2-1 split with Councilor Shannon dissenting, and that there was extensive discussion at the subcommittee level about both of these decisions.
- Councilor Shannon noted that this occurred during Covid and that the taxpayer said that they never received the notice about this and that it was 3 years before a second notice was sent (during which time the taxpayer was making all of their payments, and that they didn't realize that none of these payments were applied to this missed payment).
- Councilor Doherty noted that the notice was sent to the correct address.
- City Assessor Turner said that the notice was not returned (implying that it got where it was intended to go), and that the City is not required to certify these things, and that there is the responsibility on the part of the taxpayer to pay their taxes.

VOTING (by roll call): Councilor Barlow – aye, Councilor Bergman – aye, Councilor Carpenter – aye, Councilor Dieng – aye, Councilor Doherty – aye, Councilor Grant – aye, Councilor Hightower – nay, Councilor King – aye, Councilor Magee – aye, Councilor Shannon – nay, Councilor Traverse – aye, City Council President Paul – aye, Mayor Weinberger – aye, City Assessor Turner – recused (11 ayes, 2 nays, 1 recusal); motion carries.

3.2 Request for Abatement of Taxes: Vermont House Condo Association, 131 Main Street, 049-3-095-007

MOTION by Councilor Bergman, SECOND by Councilor Doherty, that the full board moves to deny abatement request of penalties and interest in the amount of \$257.20 and adopt the findings and reasons for this recommendation.

VOTING (by roll call): Councilor Barlow – aye, Councilor Bergman – aye, Councilor Carpenter – aye, Councilor Dieng – aye, Councilor Doherty – aye, Councilor Grant – aye, Councilor Hightower – nay, Councilor King – aye, Councilor Magee – aye, Councilor Shannon – nay, Councilor Traverse – aye, City Council President Paul – aye, Mayor Weinberger – aye, City Assessor Turner – recused (11 ayes, 2 nays, 1 recusal); motion carries.

4. ADJOURNMENT

3.01 Motion to adjourn

The meeting adjourned without objection at 10:24 PM.