



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT

CITY COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY & UTILITIES COMMITTEE

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Councilor Mark Barlow, Chair, *North District*
Councilor Gene Bergman, *Ward 2*
Councilor Evan Litwin, *Ward 7*
Councilor Marek Broderick, *Ward 8*

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Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council **Tuesday July 22, 2024 – 5:30PM** **--DRAFT MINUTES--**

Chair Barlow calls meeting to order at 5:30PM

Video of this meeting can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/townmeetingvt>

1. Agenda

Chair Barlow moves to amend the agenda. Change item 4.1 wording from Building Emissions Reduction Act to Building Emissions Reduction Ordinances and add 30 minute time limits to Public Forum, Items 4.1 & 4.2.

Chair Barlow moves to approve the agenda as amended. Councilor Bergman seconds. All in favor, passes unanimously.

2. Public Forum (some audio was difficult to hear, please reference video at link above)

Julia Hondal – From Ward 4 –talk about BERO - needs to make a strong building emissions ordinance and elect officials to create this policy to make sure we see how much these buildings are emitting.

Jacob Griffin – Speaking about BERO –Champlain College has already done the work to reach the renewal impact. Burlington has made promise to it citizens about net zero and wants us to commit to it.

Kyr Herschlag - Ward 2 Resident - in reference to BERO - **in audible**

Liz Curry – expert in building rehab. Talks about a broader system – 2014 benchmarking took a long time to get to that. Entities were created to become energy efficient utilities. Burlington opted out of our Emergency efficiency, as a result we have and Electric utility that tries to manage getting incentives- Bond for light bulbs. We don't have comprehensive energy efficiency program design that can work with all sectors of the market. Gas Company works for profit that doesn't engage as it could. BED to deliver a more robust program and incentive design to certain buildings in certain markets, not all. No program design that systematically delivers to the market the effort that we need to get to net zero by 2030. Baseline should be used.

Barbara Headrick – Last meeting comments weren't captured correctly. Chair Barlow indicates changes have been made.

BH - We pay consultants for reports that we already had ideas on. Going forward out all of our ideas that we looked at before in one section and new ideas from consultant in another section along with what we pay that consultant for those ideas. Interesting to see what value the consultants bring in terms of new ideas versus us repackaging out old ideas.

Colin McDermott – Ward one – Employee of the Soda Plant and resident. Here to talk about his recommendation for the city to reduce emissions on buildings. Noticed the owner made more environmental decisions which resulted in the quality of work being better with more suitable work conditions and a difference in cost. Doesn't want to contribute to the carbon foot print but doesn't have a choice and is paying for it. Asking City to make the change for Commission Reduction abilities.

3. Minutes of 7/11/24

Councilor Bergman (GB) -moves to adopt as written with the changes to Barbara Headrick's comments as submitted. Councilor Litwin (EL) seconds. All in favor. Unanimous approval.

04. Deliberative Agenda

- **4.1 Building Emissions Reduction Act**

MB- made motion to change the title Building Emission Reduction Act to Building Emission Reduction Ordinance. To move Zero forward instructed to have ordinance and valid language drafted to the ordinance committee by the last city council meeting in October. Asked to do staffing and administrative work between staff. Open to meetings in September.

GB – Need to talk about this in a large block. Focus on the street areas. Liz raised points the idea of community stakeholders and advisors. Figure out sequence and staff input on what is working and not working and what they have the capacity to do. We are in a climate emergency – use research funds to advance this. Approximately \$50,000 left. Take an item and get a sense of it. A lot of moving parts – timing of what we ask for and when to do in an efficient way.

Councilor Marek Broderick (MBr) – in audible

MB – Specific action needed.

MB- Suggest 1st week of September earlier than 5:30 p.m. to meet. Decided on 6:00 pm Tuesday September 3, 2024

- **4.2 Rental Weatherization Ordinance**

MB -Find out why Ordinance is not working and make recommendations.

DPI Director Bill Ward (BW) stated this has been a slow process. Suggests extending the timeline for compliance would allow staff to focus more on past noncompliance before starting new properties to comply. 3071 Rental Properties, or 10,500 rental units. Of those 733 were using above 50,000 btus per square foot per year. 76% of the rental properties were already in decent shape. Continued evaluation of what works and doesn't work for staff and contractor challenges – Parking tickets & winter parking ban challenges.

Jen Green – Commitment to Equity. Help folks by providing transparent information. Updating FAQ Sheet.

Chris Burns (CB) from Burlington Electric – Finding weatherization contracts is a problem. Burlington rental properties competing with Single family contracting work

MB – asked if there was a form for the data that Bill provided. How can we incentivize work to be done?

GB – Looking for issues form Administrative and State Wide and look for recommendations. Would like to have work that was done broken down with specific policy recommendations.

CB – Contractors competing with jobs that are not as brutal (basement or attic) More federal money and legislative acts are available just not enough trained staff. Longstanding contractors need to extend crews but energy programs can't confirm amount of time money will be available. . BED – 98% of their buildings are naturally gas heated. VGS offers free audits, generous incentives and financing.

BW – Will ask Efficiency Vermont to come to the next meeting.

GB – Heard great things about Capstones in central VT. We should be talking to them.

CB - Champlain Valley Weatherization Services are considered a good operator. BED & VT Gas have a contract with them. They replace and send BED & VT Gas a bill. This system is working well.

EL - Helpful to see what is the backlog, how far behind are we so we can compare when did we start and where should we be. Survey contractors – how long does one need to wait to get work done?

Mbr – in audible

- **4.3 City Transportation Plan Update**

DPW Staff are in the initial phases of securing funding for the development of a new Transportation Plan for the City of Burlington.

CS – Interest in doing a large comprehensive update to our plan.

PP – looking to supplement DPW funds with Federal funds.

GB – 1st part of the motion is the big picture for this physical year.

EL - Didn't think it was necessary to offer an amendment in section 3. Add police Commission and Public Safety Board since it says included but not limited to.

GB – move the motion as stated in civic clerk that is listed as 7.224 GB motion R Transportation Plan Update the Pedestrian bike extension downtown including Bank & Cherry St.

MB – seconded motion. All in favor.

- **4.4 UVM-City Land Swap at Pearl & Prospect Intersection**

DPW Staff are writing to formally request TEUC approval to present a proposed land swap agreement with the University of Vermont (UVM) to the Board of Finance (BOF) and City Council (CC) for their

consideration and approval.

EL – Straight forward. Keep this section.

CS – Key area to be addressed.

Erik Ramakrishnan Assistant City Attorney – Basic problem – UVMs property is non-conforming. City owns a lot of land that Dewey Hall is on. UVM will consent and has waived all objects. Property they are obtaining from us is larger than the one we are swapping for.

City Engineer & Technical Services Assistant Director Laura Wheelock (LW) VTrans projects starts later this fiscal year. They have an amount budgeted to hire a design consultant which we are positioned that this will be 100% federally funded.

EL – What happens with the difference in money that we will get back from UVM?

PP – Goes back to General fund.

MB – when do we think this project will be completed?

LW – Vtrans project is procuring their design in 2025. It is about a 3-5 year window before it goes to actual construction.

GB – Motion to move that we approve proposal and present it to the Board of Finance & City Council for their consideration.

EL Makes amendment to refer question to Board of Finance as to where to reallocate \$113,000 as possible funding for downtown public kiosk.

Assistant City Attorney Erik Ramakrishnan clarifies there is no second on the proposed amendment and with no second, Committee goes back to main motion.

MB seconds initial motion. All in Favor

GB leaves meeting at 7:14pm

- **4.5 FY25 Fleet Replacement & Telematics Update**

Assistant Director of ROW Lee Perry (LP) requesting purchasing 4 assets, 2 vehicles, one piece of heavy equipment and a trailer. None of these purchases are for General fund. We have 943,000 left over from last year's budget to cover leases for FY2025. We do not have enough funding for the general fund. There are 76 vehicles on the deferred list, 7 are urgent. Like to purchase Telematics Software for the Fleet vehicles will offer multiple benefits like tracking plowing, sweeping, idling times, real time diagnostics and maintenance.

Ashley Parker (AP) Capital Program Director – Fleet Study only focuses on a road map for electrification of our fleet.

MB – What is used now for asset management?

LP – Fleet software called RTA. We create work orders, track fuel and do billing through it. Telematics has more accurate reports on Fuel usage, Idling time, driving habits, it will send alerts if a check engine light comes on rather than waiting until the end of the day. An email is sent to the fleet manager who then in turn gets ahold of the mechanics so they can repair it. It also benefits Water Resources for the state with sweeping. Provides a lot of good information for the public and city.

EL – Does the Urgent purchase list come out of Departmental budgets or General fund budget?

AP – Yes.

EL – Mower for 130,000 what goes into the research for the replacement costs? 130,000 the ceiling? When you purchase do you consider gently used?

LP – Cost is quoted based on prior quotes with inflation calculation added in. We purchase new especially emergency vehicles because they are used pretty hard. Gently used would need to be discussed with the Fleet committee.

MBr makes motion to approve. EL seconds the motion. All in favor.

- **4.6 Riverside Avenue Slope Stability – 505 Riverside Ave Potential HMGP Application**

Director Chapin Spencer (CS) – seeking guidance as the DPW evaluates the City's position on how we work with property owners along Riverside Ave. 505 Riverside Ave, City Storm water outfall erosion and site contamination. Brought State Geologist onsite July 2, 2024. Working with State on liability.

MBr – in audible

CM – Minimizing City Liability is a 2 step process.

CS- Asks what is the City's position on it as it relates to property along Riverside Ave?

EL- Riverside Ave properties don't look great. There is a lot of Industrial history. Is there federal support available to us? Worried that it's going to be like Burlington high school issue. Doesn't want City to be out at the bottom of flooding as it starts with Barre and Montpelier – state should be working with us to help protect the river. Buildings are dangerous that are hanging. Wants action, worried about loss of life, jobs, embankment slide, all of which ends up in the river wants more coloration from the state. Emotional attachment sensitivity needs to be taken into consideration.

MBr – Slope failure – depending on how much city take over property that can't be built on. Is there a way to modify the risk to the city?

CS – Will talk to assessor about financial impact.

- **4.7 Champlain Parkway Final Construction Contract update**

CM- Parkway being done in 2 phases. SD Ireland is ahead of schedule. They are finishing up the 24hr closure. As of Friday Energizing signals which are still being tested. Final paving will be the next biggest disruption. More info on website and outreach programs. Final portion - Kilburn St to Main St is out to

bid. On the 31st meeting with King Street Center to discuss final construction contract and impacts people can expect.

EL- asked about the translations for the neighbors.

CM – Working on information in 4 different languages.

CS – If there are specific issues let DPW know before it goes to the board of finance.

EL- Sensitivity – visually show how to mitigate traffic. Do a trial run with King St Youth Center. Find out what people are asking for.

5. Director's Report

NONE

6. Councilor Items

NONE

7. Next Meeting

Joint Meeting with BED 8/22 @ 5:30PM, Sparks Room

8. Adjournment

Chair Barlow adjourns at 8:06 PM.