



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 **Special Meeting: BERO**

Tuesday September 3, 2024 – 6PM
--DRAFT MINUTES--

Chair Barlow (MB) calls meeting to order at 6:04 PM

1. Agenda & Proposal

MB describes special meeting to discuss Building Emission Reduction Ordinance (BERO), passed by City Council. Acknowledges that late posting of material may not allow robust public comment, but also adds that no decisions being made tonight.

Councilor Marek Brodereick (MBr) acknowledges late submission of material and gives overview of BERO.

2. Public Forum

Natalie Braun: shares that they are not a Burlington resident, but is a member of the Essex Energy Committee. Looking to Burlington to lead. All buildings can be improved, and that can be anywhere.

Elizabeth Chant: Shelburne resident with 30 years experience in energy efficiency industry (including helping start Efficiency Vermont). Good first start including best practices, improvements needed including on other best practices. Promulgation and implementation critical.

Jay Griffin: supports BERO effort and warns against “watering down”

Abby: Burlington resident and Ward 1 resident. Appreciates Councilors time. Supports BERO as first step in addressing climate crisis.

Alexander Harrin, Kat Turrell, Lindsay Masher, Elizabeth Stoves, Olivia Geddes, Max Handelman, Ryan Hagen: all speak separately to support ordinance

Remote Participants:

Liz Curry : Points out that other larger markets have had decades of experience in efficiency – along with incentives. Agrees that the ordinance is necessary, a good start and needs to be more robust for terms and conditions to make it successful.

Quinton Zondervan: former Cambridge City Councilor, lead sponsor on similar legislation. Likes Burlington's approach. Offers assistance during policy making.

Kelly Devine: only recently found out about this meeting. Worked in efficiency market in past. Incentives and support are critical. No building owners present and wondering if they are aware of meeting. Bring in major institutions like UVMMC, UVM, Champlain.

Ethan Robbins: good option to move buildings off of fossil fuels.

Jack Hanson: voices support for BERO

Additional In-person participants:

Rob Morrow: asks for clarity that the scope is between 10,000-50,000 square feet. Says that these building owners typically don't have the facility staff to support the requirements in the ordinance.

Annie Jackson: great step forward for businesses and others to take more responsibility.

3. Closing Comments

MBr thanks public commenters and viewers.

Councilor Evan Litwin (EL): says that more process is necessary and appreciates the public commenters who bring expertise to this issue. Having building owners, others at the table a "non-starter," doesn't see this going far without more conversations. Appreciates everyone's care and urgency.

Chair MB – offers thanks to everyone who spoke and care about the topic. Invites public to send in additional written comments and at a future TEUC meeting.

4. Adjournment

Chair Barlow adjourns at 7:08PM