



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 November 26, 2024 – 5:30PM

--DRAFT MINUTES--

Councilors absent: Councilor Litwin

Chair Barlow calls meeting to order at 5:32 PM

1. Agenda

Councilor Bergman moves to adopt the agenda as posted on Civic Clerk.

Councilor Broderick seconds.

All in favor, passes unanimously.

2. Minutes of 10/29/24

Councilor Bergman moves to adopt the minutes as presented.

Councilor Broderick seconds.

All in favor. Unanimous approval.

3. Public Forum

Luce Hillman – Spoke regarding the Benchmarking ordinance. Working on Geothermal exploration on UVM, working on an energy master plan/de-carbonization plan. Central plant – uses natural gas and oil as backup. Looking at energy hubs at Athletic & Trinity campus –hoping to move to geothermal. UVM struggles with meter steam. Offering tours to TEUC members – contact Mike Pelletier. UVM struggles with historic buildings.

Rick Sharp –. Runs Burlington Segway's with wife Ruth which is locally owned and based in Burlington. Pays the City 10% of gross revenues from Waterfront Park. Disappointed with Bird Bikes using Waterfront and don't have to pay for bike racks. Preparing to expand rentals to 50 bikes (Oakledge Park, College St, Penny Lane & Leddy Park). Bikes are left blocking the sidewalk. Would like Burlington to us a bike share system that has racks.

Peter Duval – lives in Underhill – Concerns about McNeil Plant continuing to operate and believes it's a waste of our money.

04. Deliberative Agenda

- **4.1 Great Streets Lighting Assembly Update**

Julia Ursaki, City of Burlington Transportation Engineer updated TEUC members on the Great Streets Lighting Assembly and is respectfully requesting that the Burlington TEUC approve the following motion: To approve and recommends that the City Council approve the use of the lighting assembly as shown in Figure 2 for Great Streets projects in the downtown to meet new lighting standards and further, grants the Burlington Electric Commission the authority to approve changes to the Great Streets lighting assembly that are best practice or safety updates.

Councilors asked questions about how many of the teardrop lights are in the downtown area and where are the Great Street Standards located and to define a “best practice or safety update”.

Councilor Bergman made the motion to move requested action that is found in the memo from Julia & Laura dated Nov 26, 2024 without rereading it that is posted on Civic Clerk.

Councilor Broderick seconded.

All in favor – passes unanimously.

- **4.2 2024 Bikeshare Review**

Chapin Spencer, Director of DPW provide the introduction about the system as it has provided transportation trips for Burlington, South Burlington, Winooski The annual date of renewal is in June so a decision would be needed by March. We can add additional contract provisions to Bird’s contract with needing a more proactive management requirement of bikes in the right of way. Looking for direction from TEUC members.

Katie Martin Program Regional Manager from CATMA spoke about providing transportation options for community and students.

Jeremy Lynch from Bird Bikes – lost a fleet manager in August and that removed 70-80 bikes from the system. Bird has worked on expanding into Winooski and South Burlington this year. Realizes that there has been some issues and will be doing more frequent check-ins. Community pricing program availability.

Councilors asked about nesting incentives and if it can be expanded. A lot of complaints received about improperly parked bikes and are there for weeks. Feels it has gotten worse and not better as bikes sit for long periods of time. How we can de-conflict with local bike shops. Would Bird be willing to stay out of the west side of Battery St? Is there a requirement for the number of fleet managers? Requesting an executive work session in December.

4.3 Water Resources Rate Impact & Affordability Program

Megan Moir Division Director for Water Resources provide an update/presentation for the Rate Impact & Affordability Program. Removed New North End Syphon from the bond to lower the total on the wastewater side in an attempt lower the rate increase. Looking for Guidance from Council on questions that were presented.

Councilors asked questions on how we will help customers understand their bill impact, how we do the analysis, which water users to be impacted in which way, how does this fit into housing costs?

4.4 GMT Update & Special Assessment

Clayton Clark from GMT – spoke about raising fees, possibly as high as 18.2% more due to a special assessment. This would cover costs to meet the moment, driver buyout, assessment reform costs, and ½ of the cost of representation at the state house. Burlington has 54% of fixed route service. ADA assessment change will be 5% more of a charge to Burlington.

Councilors requesting this to be added to the meeting agenda next month, if GMT was going to take it to the legislators and ask for the change in funding, would like to know who is supportive in the legislation and what you will be asking for.

4.5 Revisit FlixBus Property Use Agreement

Chapin Spencer, Director of DPW – we have a revised property use agreement with them. Coach companies carries the required insurance requirements. Adds a 250.00 a month fee payable to GMT. Most of the burden will fall on GMT Customer Service.

Councilor's comments – Will 250.00 cover cost of services being provided, Should the rent be higher, cost for wear and tear?

Councilor Bergman - made the motion to support the property use agreement in general form contingent upon GMT confirming the operational cost for accommodating the carrier is sufficient, and include a short memo for the City Council from the City Attorney protecting the city.

Councilor Broderick seconded.

All in favor – passes unanimously.

5. Director's Report

Director Spencer will follow up with written responses for your questions and request for information on the Winooski Bridge to go over the responses and any questions you all may have.

6. Councilor Items

Chair Barlow – Appreciation for DPW's ability to find satisfaction for the Main Street Closure.

7. Next Meeting

December 17, 2024 at 645 Pine St from 4-5 pm

8. Adjournment

Chair Barlow adjourns meeting at 8:12 pm.