

Ordinance Committee
Thursday, September 18, 2025
Bushor Conference Room Conference Room
or Remote via Zoom. Burlington, Vermont
DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Councilor Bergman (Chair), Councilor Kane, Councilor Carpenter

Staff Present: Kim Sturtevant (Assistant City Attorney), Erik Ramakrishnan (Assistant City Attorney)

Public Present: Sharon Bushor

Meeting called to order at 5:01 PM.

1. Adopt the Agenda
1.1 Adopt the Agenda

Motion to Adopt Agenda.

Motion by Councilor Carpenter, Seconded by Councilor Kane.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

2. Adopt Draft Minutes
2.1 Adopt Draft Minutes from September 5

Motion to adopt the draft minutes from September 5 as drafted.

Motion by Councilor Carpenter, Seconded by Councilor Kane.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

3. Public Forum

No members of the public present. Councilor Bergman said that if members of the public arrive later they will be allowed to speak.

4. Violation Reporting Incentives Ordinance Discussion

Motion to waive the privilege for a September 5, 2025 communication from Attorney Ramakrishnan to the Committee and have the communication posted in the agenda packet.

Motion by Councilor Carpenter, Seconded by Councilor Kane.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

Attorney Ramakrishnan summarized his September 5, 2025 communication. The email is available in the agenda packet.

Attorney Ramakrishnan said that he did as the Committee requested and met with multiple City departments and none were interested in the proposed incentives ordinance.

Motion to table the draft ordinance until a further date.

Motion by Councilor Carpenter, Seconded by Councilor Kane.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

Sharon Bushor: I was happy to hear about the process that the City Attorney's Office completed. I thought that the only helpful situation to incentivize reporting would be for felonies like murder and I hear now that the Chief of Police can already do that if necessary.

5. Fuel Purchase Ordinance Discussion

Councilor Bergman asked the City Attorney's Office to draft a public memo about the authority of the City to enact an ordinance like this one. He continued that the City does not license gas stations so he is unsure of the authority to revoke their ability to operate.

Councilor Carpenter asked who establishes the ability to put a hold on a debit card, the bank or the gas station? She added that she had sent an article from the AARP to Councilor Litwin about this topic.

Councilor Bergman asked for feasibility reports from both the City Attorney's Office and DPI on this draft ordinance. He said after the Committee receives those communications there should be invitations sent out to interested parties to hear more.

Councilor Bergman asked for a report on the authority of the City to regulate this and report back in four weeks.

6. Private Parking Lot Terms and Rates Ordinance Discussion

Councilor Bergman said the two issues he sees are the question of City authority and the DPW construction work.

Councilor Carpenter asked if there is process for a parking lot to go from being a building-associated lot to a public-use parking lot. Attorney Sturtevant said that yes, it is a change of use.

Councilor Bergman asked for an opinion on the relationship between public-use parking lots and zoning law.

Councilor Carpenter said that she would like this research to go before the Fuel Purchase ordinance research as the holidays are approaching.

7. Any Other Committee Business

No other Committee business. The next meeting is October 3, from 2-4 PM.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 PM.

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