



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 Becca McKnight, *Ward 6*
Councilor Marek Broderick, *Ward 8*

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Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council
Tuesday, December 16, 2025 – 12:00PM
--DRAFT MINUTES--

See video for full meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SD24-abUh9c>

Councilors absent: None

Councilors present: Chair Barlow, Councilor Bergman & Councilor Broderick Councilor McKnight via zoom

Chair Barlow calls meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

1. Agenda

Councilor Broderick moves to approve the agenda as posted.

Councilor McKnight seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval

2. Minutes of 11/25/25

Councilor Broderick moves to adopt the minutes.

Councilor McKnight seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval

3. Public Forum

Gregory Unger – West Rd resident – comments about Unaccepted Streets.

Edward & Annelin Winant – Sunset Ct resident – Comments about Unaccepted Streets.

Bob McKearin – here to listen

Bob Warrington - Deforest Heights resident - Comments about Unaccepted Streets.

Jake Schumann - North Cove Rd resident - Comments about Unaccepted Streets.

Ann Rosenbluth - North Cove Rd resident - Comments about Unaccepted Streets.

Ellen Hacker – North Avenue Extension – Comments about Unaccepted Streets.

Bruce Lancer - North Cove Rd resident - Comments about Unaccepted Streets.

Cara Simone (via Zoom) – Chittenden Dr resident - Comments about Unaccepted Streets.

Robert Bristo Johnson – (via Zoom) - North Cove Rd resident - Comments about Unaccepted Streets.

4. Deliberative Agenda

4.1 Unaccepted Streets

Laura Wheelock, City Engineer/Division Director Technical Services & Philip Peterson, Senior Transportation Engineer & Planner, Megan Moir, Water Resources Division Director presented information.

Councilor McKnight doesn't support sending it to council, shares frustration. **Councilor Bergman** asks how we go about it. Wants to schedule decision for a subsequent meeting. **Councilor Broderick** agrees it needs to stay in the committee, item needs more time. **Chair Barlow** feels timeline is too aggressive.

AI generated minutes w/ slight staff revisions: The meeting focused on the city's decision to stop plowing and maintaining certain streets, including North Avenue Extension and Chittenden Drive. Residents expressed concerns about the impact of this change on safety, accessibility, and property values. They questioned whether the city had adequately considered the practical implications of this decision, such as the potential need for residents to form HOAs for street maintenance. Chapin Spencer, Director of Public Works, emphasized the need for clarity on ownership and responsibility, noting that the process will continue through October while engaging the community and council. The conversation ended with plans for an executive session to discuss liability considerations with the City Attorney. The group agreed to continue the conversation and scheduled an executive session to hear from the City Attorney's office on legal liabilities. They also discussed the need to differentiate between private roads with established HOAs and unaccepted streets without such associations. The committee decided to delay taking action and instead focus on further research and discussion, potentially including budgeting for necessary services and infrastructure assessments.

Councilor Bergman moves that at the end of the conversation that we set this for another TEUC meeting and take no additional action here. **Councilor Broderick** seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval

City Attorney Eric Ramakrishnan read the first motion to make a specific finding that premature general public knowledge of confidential attorney client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the TEUC would clearly place the City at a substantial disadvantage by discussing privilege matters and attorney work product in public, which **Councilor Bergman** moved the motion above and **Councilor Broderick** seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval

City Attorney Eric Ramakrishnan read the second motion to move into executive session based upon the foregoing specific finding pursuant to one VSA section 313A1F to confer with the City Attorney regarding liability issues associated with unaccepted streets to include the members of the TEUC, legal counsel and the Director of Public Works and their staff, which **Councilor Bergman** moved the motion above and **Councilor Broderick** seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval

4.2 Proposed Executive Session - Unaccepted Streets

Members of the TEUC, legal counsel, Director of Public Works and their staff Members went into executive session at 1:43 pm.

Executive session ended at 2:20 pm.

4.3 Encore Solar Update

Postponed until next meeting.

5. Director's Report

None

6. Councilor Items

None

7. Next Meeting

Tentative – January 27, 2026, 5:30 pm at 645 Pine St.

8. Adjournment

Chair Barlow adjourns meeting at 2:24 pm.