



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, January 27, 2026 – 5:30 PM

--DRAFT MINUTES--

See video for full meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dz4hCFdw1s>

Councilors absent: None

Councilors present: Chair Barlow, Councilor Bergman & Councilor Broderick Councilor McKnight (arrived during Public Forum)

Chair Barlow calls the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

1. Agenda

Councilor Bergman moves to approve the agenda as stated in Civic Clerk.

Councilor Broderick seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval

2. Minutes of 12/16/25

Councilor Bergman moves to adopt the 12/16/25 minutes as posted.

Councilor Broderick seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval

3. Public Forum

Patty Gillespie – West Rd resident – Comments about Unaccepted Streets.

Greg Unger– West Rd resident – Comments about Unaccepted Streets.

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

Robin McClellan- Volz St resident - Comments about Unaccepted Streets.

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

Pike Porter - (via Zoom) – Update on questions on Valerity report & Solar updates, QC2 report had error and wasn't corrected.

Noah Spokh – in support of cleaner energy solutions.

4. Deliberative Agenda

4.1 Unaccepted Streets

Laura Wheelock, City Engineer/Division Director Technical Services presented information.

Councilor McKnight asked if we all feel that taking care of the roads is the job of the city?

Councilor Bergman stated the details need to be laid out. **Councilor Broderick** question about streets that are labeled as private and enforcement of repairs. **Chair Barlow** agrees we should try to find a way to accept them.

AI generated minutes w/ slight staff revisions: The meeting focused on the city's plan to address unaccepted and private streets and addressing the maintenance and ownership of private streets, with Laura presenting an update on the project. The team removed the October 2026 deadline for ceasing plowing services and introduced a new categorization system for streets: known private, private, unaccepted, and city-owned. They launched an interactive GIS map to help visualize these categories. The team plans to conduct an inventory of street conditions in the spring before beginning consultant work and deed research. The group agreed to categorize streets based on legal status and condition, with plans to prioritize maintenance for streets posing the most risk. They also considered the need to review zoning permits for streets developed under previous regulations. The team outlined a process for maintaining unaccepted roads, including a notification system for residents and a potential discontinuation of services after a certain period if the street remains unaccepted. The council discussed the process of reviewing and accepting private and unaccepted streets, emphasizing the need for clarity in ownership and responsibility. They agreed to provide residents with more information, and involve the full council in future discussions. The next steps include sharing a draft communication letter with the council in March, sending a letter to property owners on unaccepted private streets, and reconvening in late spring to review progress.

4.2 Encore Solar Update

Chapin Spencer, DPW Director, Chad from Encore Solar, Caleb Manna Associate DPW Engineer & Megan Moir, Division Director Water Resources presented information.

Councilor Bergman looking for costs and plans for the next year and a road map for both projects. **Councilor McKnight** asked if there can be an ariel map for residents. **Chair Barlow** asked are there other examples where other reservoirs have been used.

AI generated minutes w/ slight staff revisions: The meeting focused on the status and next steps for implementing solar projects on two city facilities: the main water reservoir and the Manhattan landfill. Chapin explained that while early discussions with BED and CETO led to an RFQ response from Encore, the projects are not economically viable without site control. Chad detailed the engineering complexities and regulatory requirements for the landfill project, emphasizing the need for an assessment of the landfill cap's rehabilitation costs. The group discussed plans for developing a capped reservoir for solar installation, with DPW noting that previous estimates for the work were around \$70,000 and emphasizing the need for city funding. Chad explained that while there are no known examples of capped reservoirs used for solar installations, they would conduct studies to address potential concerns. The team agreed to create a timeline for the project, including studies and other steps, to help keep the work on track. Both projects aim to generate significant solar power, with the landfill project potentially

producing over 2 megawatts and the reservoir project under a megawatt. The city is now working to make both sites solar-ready, with Encore standing aside until the assessment work is complete. The next steps include conducting assessments, securing site control, and negotiating power purchase agreements, with a focus on ensuring safety and compliance with regulations. Once assessments are done, the city and Encore will discuss lease option agreements, after which Encore would handle permitting, design, and construction.

4.3 FY27 UPWP Public Hearing & Application Approval

Julia Ursaki, DPW Transportation Engineer & Laura Wheelock, Division Director of Tech Services/City Engineer presented information.

Chair Barlow is looking for written information that was not in the packet. **Councilor Bergman** wants information posted and noted that it is after the meeting.

AI generated minutes w/ slight staff revisions: The committee discussed two new planning applications for Chittenden County: a technical assistance project to standardize leading pedestrian intervals on Pearl Street, and a road safety audit for Route 127. Julia explained these applications were submitted late on Friday, leading to a delay in providing written materials for the meeting. Laura clarified that while the committee's current vote was informational, a formal approval would be sought at the next meeting, with complete application materials to be posted online afterward.

4.4 99 Intervale Dedication & Acceptance

Julia Ursaki, DPW Transportation Engineer & Laura Wheelock, Division Director of Tech Services/City Engineer presented information.

Councilor Bergman is looking to have a map that shows the current lot line and what the new lot line will be for recording purposes. **Councilor Marek & Chair Barlow** supports it. **Councilor McKnight** has left the meeting.

AI generated minutes w/ slight staff revisions: The DPW Commission discussed a boundary line adjustment for the 99 Intervale Road parcel to accommodate a 10-foot shared-use path, which was approved unanimously.

Councilor Bergman moves that the TEUC approves this plan and recommends that the City Council accept the dedication of a portion of the 99 Intervale Road parcel for the purpose of the bike/shared use path. Councilor Broderick seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval

5. Director's Report

- Recycling decision about what to do with municipal recycling – we have been meeting with Casella to hash out their 7-year bid and to get you all clear terms that you will see in February to see your decision whether you contract or not.
- Local motion reached out about a resolution supporting crossing guards – International Crossing Guard Appreciation Day.

6. Councilor Items

Councilor McKnight asked about the salt shortage issue.

7. Next Meeting

Tentative – February 19, 2026, 12 pm at 645 Pine St.

8. Adjournment

Chair Barlow adjourns meeting at 7:38 pm.