

Ordinance Committee
Thursday, February 19, 2026
Bushor Conference Room Conference Room
or Remote via Zoom. Burlington, Vermont
DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Councilor Bergman (Chair), Councilor Carpenter, Councilor Barlow, Councilor Kane (Arrived 5:05 PM)

Staff Present: Kim Sturtevant (Assistant City Attorney), Bill Ward (Director of DPI)

Public Present: Sharon Bushor, Alicia Estey, Wendy Koenig, Amanda Clayton, James Dobson, Nic Anderson, Alve Yanowitz, Ben Robke

Meeting called to order at 4:30 PM.

1. Adopt the Agenda
1.1 Adopt the Agenda

Motion to Adopt Agenda.

Motion by Councilor Barlow, Seconded by Councilor Carpenter.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

2. Adopt Draft Minutes
2.1 Adopt Draft Minutes from January 15, 2026

Motion to adopt the draft minutes as revised.

Motion by Councilor Barlow, Seconded by Councilor Carpenter.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

2.2 Adopt Draft Minutes from February 6, 2026

Motion to adopt the draft minutes as drafted.

Motion by Councilor Barlow, Seconded by Councilor Carpenter.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

3. Public Forum

Sharon Bushor: It would be useful to know the volume of issues and the timeline for how long different issues take to resolve. I did see that Champlain inspects all of their housing units each year but I didn't see what proportion UVM inspects per year. I wonder if the State would have any role in the inspection of institutional housing.

4. University Exemption for Periodic Minimum Housing Inspection Ordinance Discussion

4.1 Update from Champlain College Administration

Nic Anderson (Champlain College) spoke about Champlain College's maintenance protocol. More information from Champlain College is available in the agenda packet on CivicClerk.

Councilors Bergman and Barlow both wanted more information about the volume of requests and the data on how long requests go before being resolved.

Councilor Kane arrived at 5:05 PM.

4.2 Update from UVM Administration

Wendy Koenig, Alicia Estey, and Amanda Clayton (UVM) spoke about UVM's maintenance and inspection protocols. More information from UVM is available in the agenda packet on CivicClerk.

4.3 Update from UVM Student Tenants' Union

Members of the UVM Student Tenants' Union shared their updates and responded to the updates from the UVM administration.

Alve Yanowitz (UVM Student Tenants' Union): I believe that the City should inspect dormitories like any other housing units to ensure compliance as the university's current practices are not sufficient.

Councilor Bergman said that improving the maintenance reporting system is in both parties' interests and should be prioritized so there is reliable data.

4.4 Update from the City of Burlington

Bill Ward (Director of DPI) said he intends to have draft language for review at the next meeting on this issue. He said that he has ideas about how to facilitate university compliance and to shift the timeframe of inspection compliance toward the summer for ease for both the City and institution.

5. Any Other Committee Business

The next meeting is scheduled for March 6th at 2:00 PM. The next meeting on the institutional exemption ordinance is scheduled for March 19th.

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Bergman, without objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM.

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