

Ordinance Committee
Friday, June 5, 2026
Bushor Conference Room, City Hall
or Remote via Zoom. Burlington, Vermont
DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Councilor Bergman (Chair), Councilor Barlow, Councilor Carpenter (online)

Staff Present: Kim Sturtevant (Assistant City Attorney), Erik Ramakrishnan (Assistant City Attorney), Mike Schramm (DPW), Caleb Manna (DPW), Phillip Peterson (DPW), Megan Moir (Water Resources Director), Seth Kuchenbecker (DPW), Amelia McClure (DPW), Eleanor Walker (DPW), Deputy Chief Jon Young (BPD), Phil Lewis (Parks Director)

Public Present: Sharon Bushor, Jack Evans

Meeting called to order at 2:04 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 May 12, 2026

2.2 Adopt Draft Minutes from May 21, 2026

Motion by Councilor Barlow to adopt both the May 12, 2026 and May 21, 2026 minutes,

Seconded by Councilor Carpenter.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

3. Public Forum

Sharon Bushor: I have three comments. I hope that staff can find the questions posed by the Committee in the collaborative session so that members can refer back to them. The communications sent to the Committee regarding ebikes are from negative encounters. For the water ordinance, I think the 3 day notice period to make a change should be broadened. I am also worried about toxins from places that might not appear as industrial, such as garden centers.

4. Ordinance Chapter 26 Industrial Pollution Prevention Program Discussion

Megan Moir (Water Division Director) gave an overview of the ordinance change. A memo from Megan Moir is available in the agenda packet on CivicClerk.

Councilor Barlow asked about which industries would be subject to the earliest roll out of this ordinance change. Megan Moir said that breweries and wastewater treatment plants themselves both have large volumes of industrial wastewater and would be the first to have the permit process. After that would be bakeries and other food-related businesses. She added that businesses that work with metals are permitted through the state.

Megan Moir said that the changes to the connections portion of the ordinance is to minimize paperwork and not have builders and developers going back and forth between the City and the State for different permits.

Councilor Carpenter asked if Water Resources had spoken with developers and their consultants. Megan Moir said she sat in on a state-led study group that did that, but Water Resources will continue to make the process easier and not necessarily require an engineer to do smaller work like creating an ADU.

Attorney Ramakrishnan went through the draft ordinance changes. The draft ordinance is available in the agenda packet on CivicClerk.

Councilor Bergman said he disagrees with the draft ordinance's delegation of regulation authority to the Public Works Commission.

Megan Moir responded that the reasoning was that regulation changes are technical documents and it would be easier for stakeholders to interact and participate in the Commission's discussion as opposed to the full City Council. She added that she is not opposed to having the City Council also do a review.

Councilor Bergman said commissions in the City are appointed in an inherently political process in the Council and that they can be, at times, a rubber stamp for the departments they advise. He added that he thinks having a notice period after the Commission's review during which time the Council could take up the matter could be a solution.

Councilor Barlow asked if the Public Works Commission has any other responsibilities related to Water Resources. Megan Moir said no, they are largely advisory. She added that the Commission is involved in approving borrowing for projects.

Councilor Bergman clarified that he would like the Commission to receive proposed changes to regulations and do a thorough technical review and give a tentative adoption pending a notice period when the Council could take up the matter if need be.

Councilor Barlow said he would prefer a longer notice period for regulation changes. All councilors agreed three days' notice is insufficient. Councilors posited 30 days as a potential notice period.

Councilor Bergman said he would have each rehearing of the regulation change to have a notice republished.

Councilor Bergman proposed that lines 33-34 of the draft ordinance be changed to include a 21 day notice period after tentative adoption by the Commission and publication on the City's website. During that period the City Council can take up the issue if desired.

5. Motorized Bicycle Ordinance Discussion

Phillip Peterson (DPW Engineer) shared a blurred recent video of e-moto bikes on the bike path. This video is intentionally not included in the agenda packet.

Phillip Peterson said that the e-motos in the video are traveling at roughly 31 MPH on the bike path and that bikes like these are not ebikes, but instead are motor vehicles that are regulated as motorcycles.

Phillip Peterson said that the City has already provided the school district with fliers detailing the penalties for riding e-motos in locations they are not allowed. The Parks Department will be creating signs with similar information. He added that DPW is looking for direction from the City Council about allowing non-police officers to issue local tickets for ordinance violations.

Jack Evans (Local Motion) said Local Motion is having a roundtable discussion on this issue. He continued that they are working with national partners on this and will report back to DPW and/or the Committee on what they have learned.

Councilor Barlow said that he sees school-age children on a daily basis on these e-motos. He said that education about this issue is very important and that parents and children may not know how e-motos are regulated. He said he would like multiple signs along the Bike Path that educate riders.

Councilor Bergman said that he believes any city official who is authorized to write tickets can ticket for bicycle ordinance violations, but motor vehicle tickets have to be from a law enforcement officer. Since e-motos are motor vehicles, there may be a change required for other officials to issue tickets.

Councilor Barlow said it might be a good idea to have a speed limit or advisory speed limit on the Greenway. Councilor Bergman said that he isn't sure the Greenway is a street and if the Public Works Commission would have authority to implement that change.

Councilor Bergman said that the Bike Path is a park and thus motor vehicles are not allowed. Changes to Bike Path regulations would be with the Parks Commission.

Phillip Peterson went through the changes that he and DPW will be working on. First, is the update to Chapter 6-1 to update definitions and add a strict power cap at 28 MPH. Second, establishing a Bike Path speed limit. Third, authorizing non-police enforcement of these regulations. Fourth, updating and establishing relevant penalties for the different violations.

Councilor Carpenter said she would like to get these changes fast-tracked. She said she is willing to do special meetings to get this done.

5. Any Other Committee Business

Councilors agreed to discuss the Industrial Pollution ordinance and e-motos ordinance at the next meeting on June 18th at 4:30PM.

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Bergman, without objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:23PM.