



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, August 25, 2026 – 5:30 PM

--DRAFT MINUTES--

See video for full meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrNegmUuac0>

Councilors absent: Councilor Bergman

Councilors present: Chair Barlow, Councilor Broderick, and Councilor McKnight (via Zoom)

Chair Barlow calls the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

1. Agenda

Councilor Broderick makes the motion to amend the order of the agenda: move item 4.3 to 4.1.

Councilor McKnight seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval

2. Minutes of 7/28/26

Councilor Broderick moves to adopt the minutes.

Councilor McKnight seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval

3. Public Forum

Cara Simone – resident of Chittenden Dr – has comments and questions about unaccepted streets.

Michael Rapport – resident of Chittenden Dr. – has comments about what the costs are.

4. Deliberative Agenda

4.1 (previously 4.3) Adoption of Updated 2026 Vermont Town Road & Bridge Standards

Corey Mims, Senior Public Works Engineer presented information.

Councilor Broderick asked what the optional standards are and are we adopting them?

AI generated minutes w/ slight staff revisions: The meeting addressed the adoption of updated 1.6 road and bridge standards, with clarification that the city's existing engineering design standards already meet or exceed state requirements.

Councilor Broderick makes the motion to recommend to the City Council the adoption of sections 1 through 8 of the 2026 Vermont Agency of Transportation Town Road & Bridge Standards and Authorize Chapin Spencer, Director of Public Works to execute the certificate on behalf of the City Council.

Councilor McKnight seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval

4.2 Unaccepted Streets

Chapin Spencer, Director of DPW, Laura Wheelock, DPW City Engineer, Philip Peterson, Senior Engineer Technical Service, Megan Moir, Division Director Water provided information.

Chair Barlow asked about private street groupings. **Councilor McKnight** wants to make sure that the city has access to old City Council minutes? **Councilor Broderick** approach makes sense and completely supports staff. Between now and Phase 1, what policy goals should we have? **Chair Barlow** had a voice mail from Sharon Bushor about postponing this until the water bond issues work through due to city's financial circumstances. Are City Councils minutes digitized? Private Streets – how do we keep from having to untangle future private streets? **Cara Simone** – resident – expressed her frustration.

AI generated minutes w/ slight staff revisions: Philip Peterson explained that the project requires a multi-year approach due to the complexity of evaluating both surface conditions and underground utilities, with Phase 1 focusing on streets that most closely resemble accepted streets in design and construction. The team discussed addressing private streets and the challenges of accepting them into the public system. DPW discussed the technical and legal requirements for street dedication, emphasizing the need for either finding property owners to sign over rights or getting agreement from all property owners on the street. The discussion highlighted concerns about the process of condemnation and eminent domain, particularly when dealing with unresponsive property owners. The group also addressed the need for consulting experts to navigate legal complexities and develop appropriate policies. Additionally, they discussed the importance of maintaining clear engineering standards for future private street developments to prevent similar issues in the future. The team plans to request funding for FY28 to support subsurface investigations, including work with water resources, legal reviews, and public engagement. Megan highlighted concerns from the subsurface utility perspective, noting that surface work could accelerate needed investments. The group discussed the need for formalizing costs for future bonding and capital planning, while acknowledging that some maintenance work is already being done. They also addressed the importance of gathering additional documentation from residents about street conditions and discussed the potential for public engagement regarding street acceptance, including outreach to residents and council members.

4.3 (previously 4.1) GMT Funding Initiative Update

Marty Gillies, State of Vermont, Municipal Energy Resilience Program Coordinator & Clayton Clark, General Manager of GMT presented information.

Councilor Broderick concerned about funding? **Chair Barlow** asked Councilor Broderick to attend the press conference on the 22nd as a representative of the city.

AI generated minutes w/ slight staff revisions: The committee discussed two main agenda items. First, they reviewed the Transportation for Vermonters (T4VT) initiative led by Marty Gillies, which includes a September 22 press conference focused on Chittenden County transit needs and plans for an education advocacy campaign. Clayton Green reported that federal funding for GMT will remain flat next year, though ridership has decreased more than anticipated, putting GMT's performance awards at risk. The committee agreed to send a representative to the press conference and potentially draft a statement of support for the full council to consider.

4.4 Proposed FY 27 Fleet Purchases

Lee Perry, Division Director Maintenance presented information.

Chair Barlow asked about a mower for Parks.

AI generated minutes w/ slight staff revisions: The conversation ended with approval of the FY27 fleet purchase recommendations, which include 15 vehicles totaling \$1,974,788, with funding coming from a general obligation bond and general fund allocations.

Councilor Broderick made the motion to approve and recommend the Board of Finance and City Council approve the proposed FY27 Fleet Purchasing List as detailed in Attachment A vehicle replacement list and authorize the Director of the Department of Public Works to purchase the vehicles listed therein, for a total authorized expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$1,974,788.00 and To approve and recommend that the Board of Finance and City Council authorize the Director of the Department of Public Works or designee to dispose of the FY27 replaced vehicles/equipment through any of the following means, as they shall in their reasonable judgement determine to be in the City's best interest, and to take such further actions and execute such further instruments approved as to form by the City attorney as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the transactions contemplated hereby; auction the vehicles/equipment through any of various online public auctions; by trade-in where vehicle/equipment is being purchased; or, if the vehicle is of no value to the vendor, Fleet Maintenance will have the vehicle/equipment, hauled away for scrap at the current market price.

Councilor McKnight seconds.

All in favor, Unanimous approval.

5. Director's Report

None

6. Councilor Items

None

7. Next Meeting

September 22, 2026, 5:30 pm at 645 Pine St.

8. Adjournment

Chair Barlow adjourns meeting at 7:09 pm.