

**BURLINGTON BOARD OF FINANCE
FY24 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS
BUSHOR CONF. ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CITY HALL *OR*
REMOTE MEETING WITH CALL-IN NUMBER
BURLINGTON, VERMONT
MINUTES OF MEETING
DRAFT
May 15, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Karen Paul
Ali Dieng
Joe Magee
Mark Barlow
Katherine Schad

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jordan Redell
Jon Murad
Sarah Carpenter
Molly Gray
Christy Swanson
Brenda Hannon
Lise Veronneau
Gene Bergman

1.0 CALL TO ORDER and AGENDA

Chief Administration Officer Schad called the Board of Finance meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

MOTION by Councilor Magee, SECOND by City Council President Paul, to adopt the agenda.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries (Councilor Dieng absent for vote).

2.0 PUBLIC FORUM (VERBAL)

2.01 Verbal Comments
None.

3.0 CONSENT AGENDA

3.01 motion to adopt the consent agenda and take the actions indicated
3.02 May 8, 2023 Board of Finance Meeting Minutes, Draft – approve the minutes.

MOTION by City Council President Paul, SECOND by Councilor Magee, to adopt the consent agenda and take the actions indicated for items 3.01-3.02.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries (Councilor Dieng absent for vote).

4.0 FOR APPROVAL AND RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL

4.01 Use of Council Initiative Funds for the Voices of St. Joseph Orphanage Memorial and Healing Garden - Councilors Carpenter and Barlow
Councilor Carpenter said that this is part of an initiative conducted by former residents of the Orphanage to reconcile with the past and heal.

Former Lieutenant Governor Molly Gray provided background, noting that there was a State-licensed orphanage on North Avenue that was in operation for 125 years until 1975-6 and housed more than 113,000 Vermont children. She noted that there were allegations that could not be prosecuted related to physical, mental, and sexual abuse as well as homicide during that time, and that concurrently to the investigation that occurred ran a restorative inquiry, which is serving to document the allegations and bring to light more information about the events that occurred at the orphanage during its operation. She noted that this inquiry is being led by the former residents of the orphanage. She noted that one of the pieces of this inquiry is the construction of a memorial garden at the site of the orphanage.

Brenda Hannon, a former resident of the orphanage and survivor, spoke about how important it will be for the survivors of these events to have this memorial garden and site available to them in the community.

MOTION by Councilor Barlow, SECOND by Councilor Magee, to approve and recommend that the City Council approve and authorize the designation and expenditure of \$10,000 dollars in budgeted City Council Initiative Funds to support the creation of the Children of St. Joseph's Orphanage Memorial and Healing Garden.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries (Councilor Dieng absent for vote).

4.02 Authorization For Reimbursement From Public Improvement Bonds For Construction Of New High School And Technical Center – BSD
Chief Administration Officer Schad said that this is the standard authorization for capital bonding, allowing the City (or the School District, in this case) to reimburse itself from public improvement funds for the bonding related to construction of a new high school.

MOTION by City Council President Paul, SECOND by Councilor Barlow, to recommend that the City Council approve the attached resolution.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries (Councilor Dieng absent for vote).

4.03 Authorization For Bond Anticipation Notes For School District Capital Improvements – BSD
Chief Administration Officer Schad said that this would be for a \$40 million bond anticipation note that would get the City and School District through the fall as they go back out to the bond market as a form of short-term borrowing.

MOTION by City Council President Paul, SECOND by Councilor Barlow, to recommend that the City Council approve the attached resolution.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries (Councilor Dieng absent for vote).

5.0 FY24 BUDGET

5.01 Initial Presentation - Police Department

Acting Chief Murad began by speaking about the number of sworn officers at the Burlington Police Department, noting that there are 64 of them and 27 of them on patrol. He spoke about public safety roles that are unique to BPD, including Community Service Officers (CSOs), Community Support Liaisons (CSLs), and a Community Support Manager (CSM). He spoke about retention and recruitment patterns since 2010, noting that retention rate averaged at 40%. He noted that the BPD can achieve 85 sworn officers by FY 2026 (after having a cap of 87 officers authorized by the City Council in 2022). He spoke about a three-part strategy for rebuilding and improving the police department, including in the areas of retention, recruitment, and strengthening crisis, advocacy, and intervention programs. He provided details on the FY24 budget and stabilized projection. He said that it is level-funded with the exception of increases in the personnel line.

Councilor Dieng asked about the distinction between Airport Services and Uniform Airport Services and how much the contract is for. Business Administrator Veronneau said that there is an agreement between the Police Department and the Airport to provide 6 police officers to the Airport. Chief Administration Officer Schad noted that the two groups provide the same services but are separated out and provided further clarification. Councilor Dieng asked how much personnel cost is going to non-sworn versus sworn staff. Business Administrator Veronneau replied that administrative and sworn officer staff have been separated within the budget.

Councilor Bergman asked for information on budget-to-actuals for current and previous fiscal years, as well as a narrative description to accompany those figures. He said it would also be helpful to receive an explanation of the decreases and increases from the FY23 to FY24 budget.

6. ADJOURNMENT

6.01 Motion to Adjourn

With no further business and without objection the meeting was adjourned at 5:59 PM.

RScty: AACoonradt