

**BURLINGTON BOARD OF FINANCE
BUSHOR CONF. ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CITY HALL *OR*
REMOTE MEETING WITH CALL-IN NUMBER
BURLINGTON, VERMONT
MINUTES OF MEETING**

DRAFT

May 1, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Karen Paul
Ali Dieng
Joe Magee
Mark Barlow
Miro Weinberger

OTHERS PRESENT:

Katherine Schad
Jordan Redell
Jon Murad

1.0 CALL TO ORDER and AGENDA

Mayor Weinberger called the Board of Finance meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

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

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

2.0 PUBLIC FORUM (VERBAL)

2.01 Verbal Comments

3.0 CONSENT AGENDA

3.01 motion to adopt the consent agenda and take the actions indicated

3.02 Board of Finance Meeting Minutes, April 24, 2023, Draft – approve the minutes.

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

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

4.0 FOR APPROVAL AND RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL

4.1 Creation of one (1) new position, the Assistant Director of CAIP, within the Police Department – Police

Mayor Weinberger noted that since the previous discussion of this item, the Police Commission met to discuss this position. City Council President Paul was in attendance at that meeting and noted that Commissioners were ultimately comfortable with the position and did not have further questions. She noted that Councilor Grant had recommended a change in the title of the position to remove reference to “alternative”, which has been made and reflected in the current position title for the Board of Finance and City Council’s consideration tonight.

City Council President Paul noted that one Police Commissioner had one concern about this area of CAIP being very similar to the Police Department in terms of culture, and that it was suggested that any concerned Commissioners visit the CAIP office and talk to current employees about the culture and environment in which they work. She said that this is a valid concern,

given the many approaches and responses to public safety issues that the City is trying to implement, and said that she hopes this can be addressed in a more meaningful way as the City moves forward. She said she supports the creation of this position but that it would be helpful to have this conversation in the longer term.

Councilor Magee said that he will not be supporting the creation of this position. He said that he does not agree with how the process has played out with this position creation and does not agree with how this was communicated to different stakeholder groups and committees. He said that the conversation with the Police Commission felt like a rubber-stamped decision and that due diligence was not conducted to determine that this is the correct place for this position. He said that because the crisis response team will be under this position, this work should be as far removed from the Police Department as possible. He said he is supportive of the civilians working in the Police Department being overseen by civilians, but ultimately cannot support this current position creation.

Mayor Weinberger said that from his perspective, the Police Department has embraced implementing new resources and that he has not heard feedback from the Police Commission, the Council, or members of the public that the Community Support Liaison (CSL) positions are anything other than positive. He disagreed that the new resources should be far removed from the Police Department, since the City has conducted discussion and analysis and determined that housing them within the Police Department made the most sense. He noted that the CAHOOTS model has always been implemented within a Police Department. He noted similarities between this new position and the Street Outreach Team, which has always worked very closely with the Police Department. He said that the Police Department has embraced alternative forms of policing and social programs in a collaborative and productive way. He said that the new resources being created need to be coordinated to the extent possible and the best way to do that is through the creation of a leadership position to aid in that coordination. Councilor Magee noted that there is a difference between a contract managed by the Police Department (like CAHOOTS) and a program housed within the Police Department (like this position and the positions under it).

Councilor Dieng asked about the relationship between this position, the Crisis Response Team, and CAHOOTS. Mayor Weinberger replied that the Crisis Response Team is committed to standing up a Burlington version of CAHOOTS and that they are trying to get it off the ground this fall. It will be housed in the Police Department and overseen by this position. He said that up until the last few weeks the City had been trying to implement this with help from the Howard Center, but will likely need to move it in-house.

Councilor Barlow expressed support for the creation of the position and said he agreed with the title change. He said that it will provide more coordination of newly-created resources.

City Council President Paul said that it was always the intention to model Burlington's CAHOOTS model after other successful CAHOOTS models, and that it would have been easier to do that if the Howard Center were still a collaborating partner on it. She said that given that they want to stand up a model and will need to move it in-house, housing the model within the Police Department is the most viable alternative.

Councilor Dieng said that he would be supportive of the creation of this position, but requested that the City pursue a separate process to think about next steps for standing up the CAHOOTS model.

MOTION by City Council President Paul, SECOND by Councilor Barlow, to approve and recommend that the City Council approve the creation of an "Assistant Director of CAIP," a Regular, Full-time, exempt, non-union, Grade 24 position within the Burlington Police Department.

VOTING: 4-1; motion carries (Councilor Magee dissenting).

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

5.01 Motion to Adjourn

With no further business and without objection the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 PM.

RScty: AACoonrad