BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL, CONTOIS AUDITORIUM *OR*
REMOTE MEETING WITH CALL-IN
BURLINGTON, VERMONT
MINUTES OF MEETING
June 20, 2023
DRAFT

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Karen Paul
Joan Shannon
Ali Dieng
Sarah E Carpenter
Zoraya Hightower (via Zoom)
Mark Barlow
Joe Magee
Gene Bergman
Ben Traverse (via Zoom)
Timothy Doherty
Melo Grant (via Zoom)
Hannah King

OTHERS PRESENT:

Miro Weinberger
Katherine Schad
Jordan Redell
Kim Sturtevant
Lori Olberg
Michael Loucy
Chris Dautel
Jared Pellerin
Brian Monaghan
Chapin Spencer
Laura Wheelock
Darren Springer
Scott Moody
Michael LaChance
Wade Labrecque

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1. CALL TO ORDER and AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by City Council President Paul at 5:50 PM.

MOTION by Councilor King, SECOND by Councilor Magee, to amend/adopt the agenda as follows:

- **remove from the agenda item 8.10 Resolution: Annual Tax Assessments On The Property Grand List Of The City For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2023 And Ending June 30, 2024 (Mayor Weinberger; Board of Finance);**
- **remove from the consent agenda item 7.8. 2022 Annual Report on BPD data - Office of City Planning and place it on the deliberative agenda as item 8.11. (per Councilor Grant).**

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

2. PRESENTATION REGARDING BURLINGTON TELECOM UPDATE

2.1 Presentation: Michael Loucy, President and General Manager and Chris Dautel, Vice President of Strategic Planning and Corporate Development, Burlington Telecom, re: Burlington City Update
President Loucy began by providing an update on the community support and partnership between Burlington Telecom and the City of Burlington since 2019. He noted that they have been working with the City to identify landlines that are no longer active or are incorrect. He also noted that they have increased the number of free WiFi hot spots available around the City. He also spoke about project management around the relocation of technology from Memorial Auditorium, an innovation fund, programs for economically challenged members of the community, and net neutrality activities. He also spoke about an additional $100,000 in funding that BT provides to the community.

He then spoke briefly about the staff working at Burlington Telecom. He noted 35 FTEs, which represents an increase of 20%. He also spoke about expansion efforts out of Burlington to surrounding communities and noted that BT is consistently hitting its growth targets.

Vice President Dautel spoke in further detail about Burlington Telecom's innovation fund, which invests $250,000 per year over ten years to supports start-ups and grows companies with a social or diverse aspect. He said that for 2022, they added three more companies and a total of $400,000 in investments. He said that they also work raise awareness for investment in the fund itself. He said that total employment by the companies invested in for 2022 was 222 employees.

President Loucy spoke about the STEM technical grant, which will be awarded in August for 2023. He spoke about 2022 grant recipients, as well as past recipients.

Mayor Weinberger provided historical context for the relationship between the City and Burlington Telecom. He noted that while they are separate legal entities, there is an agreement between the two that has significant ongoing provisions, such as commitments to make local investments and continued service expansion.

Councilor Carpenter asked about getting Burlington Telecom services into multi-family low-income housing units. President Loucy replied that they are in constant communication with developers when they have units that come online, to work with them to offer BT's utilities.

Councilor Bergman requested a written description of the Burlington Telecom agreement with the City, to ensure that newer Councilors have more of an understanding of the arrangement. Mayor Weinberger said that he would provide documents to those who would like them.

Councilor Dieng commended BT for its innovation fund and STEM grants. He noted that some constituents in the New North End have complained about slower service and asked what could be causing that. President Loucy replied that the Burlington Telecom network doesn't have variable service performance according to location, but that users may have issues due to the quality of their routers or their systems that are responsible for relaying data from BT to their home technology. He said that BT works with users to understand speed issues and help resolve them.

City Council President Paul noted that there are still some constituents who are unable to access Burlington Telecom in her area and asked that BT continue to make progress on offering it to all within the municipality.

3. COMMUNICATION: BRIAN MONAGHAN, JARED PELLERIN, KATHERINE SCHAD, RE: LAKEWOOD ESTATES TAX APPEAL (VERBAL) **EXPECTED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

3.1. Communication: Brian Monaghan, Jared Pellerin, Katherine Schad, re: Lakewood Estates Tax Appeal (verbal) **expected executive session**
Acting City Attorney Sturtevant said that this is related to the tax appeal for Lakewood Estates and potential resolution.

Councilors Carpenter and Barlow recused themselves from the executive session discussion.

MOTION by Councilor King, SECOND by Councilor Bergman, that the Council find that premature general public knowledge of legal advice and information concerning the details of pending litigation to which the City is a party or has a stated interest would clearly place the City at a substantial disadvantage.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries (Councilors Barlow and Carpenter recused).

MOTION by Councilor King, SECOND by Councilor Bergman, that based upon that finding, the Council go into executive session to receive confidential attorney-client communications, 1 VSA §313(a)(1)(F), in a pending civil litigation matter, 1 VSA §313(a)(1)(E).

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries (Councilors Barlow and Carpenter recused).

4. PUBLIC FORUM: **TIME CERTAIN – 6:45 PM**

4.1 Verbal Comments
Forum opened at 7:04 PM.
COMMENTS:
Burlington residents (in person):

- Ashley Adams spoke about attending the McNeil Symposium, noting that the goals of mitigating climate change is to remove carbon dioxide emissions from the air through forests and that reducing fossil fuel use and using renewables does not matter. She said that carbon emissions from energy sources is what matters, and that burning wood is worse than burning coal.
- Catherine Bock spoke about her disappointment that the City's renewable energy is not carbon emissions-free. She said that energy usage in Burlington is going to increase with the district pipeline.
- Steve Goodkind spoke about the McNeil Symposium and its speakers and panelists. He urged the Council to ask more questions and understand the science around the district energy pipeline more before approving it.
- Todd LaCroix spoke with concern about how the older generations are harming children and future generations.

Burlington residents (via Zoom):

- Romeo von Hermann spoke about compassion as an essential value for public servants.

- Zach Porter spoke on behalf of Standing Trees, which works on policy issues related to biomass and forestry. He spoke about his experience at the McNeil Symposium, noting that the only arguments for biomass at the McNeil plant are economic, not environmental.
- Pike Porter thanked the City for the McNeil Symposium, as well as the green incentives related to weatherization. He expressed concern about biomass as an alternative to fossil fuel, saying that emissions will not be lowered. He noted that other states are decommissioning their biomass plants and that biomass is no longer carbon neutral and will not be subsidized as a greener form of energy consumption.
- Sharon Bushor spoke about the FY23 budget, expressing concern that there will only be one City Council meeting at which the budget will be discussed. She also expressed concern for the affordability of the City for residents. She also thanked the City for the McNeil Symposium.
- Peter Duval commented on the district energy system, expressing disappointment at BED's work on the steam transmission line, saying that it will be several steps backward for net zero energy.

Forum closed at 7:29 PM.

5. IN RE: LAKEWOOD ESTATES TAX APPEAL

5.1 In Re: Lakewood Estates Tax Appeal
Councilors Carpenter and Barlow recused themselves from the vote.

MOTION by Councilor Shannon, SECOND by Councilor Bergman, to approve and authorize the Mayor, in conjunction with the City Attorney's Office, to enter into a stipulated settlement agreement in a pending litigation matter captioned Lakewood Estate Beach Club, Inc. v. City of Burlington.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries (Councilors Barlow and Carpenter recused).

6. CLIMATE EMERGENCY REPORTS

6.1 Climate Emergency Reports
Councilor Bergman spoke about the action that South Burlington has taken to ensure that at least 40% of the roof space of any new building be solar ready and that any new building that is 4 or more stories be required to generate some of their energy using solar energy. He said that it would be well worth looking into for Burlington's regulations.

Mayor Weinberger spoke about the net zero energy report that was released last week, noting that BED General Manager Springer will report on it later on in the agenda.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

7.1 Motion to adopt the consent agenda (as amended) and take the actions indicated
7.2 Communication: C/T Office, re: Accountability List – waive the reading, accept the communication, and place it on file.
7.3 Communication: 195-201 Flynn Avenue 2019 Second MOU Extension – DPW - 1. Move to approve a three-month, term-only, no cost extension of the Second 2019 Chittenden Solid Waste District – City of Burlington Memorandum of Understanding through September 30, 2023, and authorize the Mayor to execute said agreement subject to the review and approval of the City Attorney's Office; and
2. Move to request that the Ordinance Committee study the feasibility of an ordinance update to expand the use of the solid waste generation

tax to include soil recycling as imposed through Burlington City Ordinance Chapter 14 and report back to the Council, to include a draft amendment to such ordinance if determined feasible, no later than September 2023.

7.4 Communication: FY24 Vehicle Purchase Recommendations – DPW - 1. To approve and recommend the City Council approve the proposed FY'24 Fleet Purchasing List as detailed in Attachment F, and authorize purchase of the vehicles listed therein, for a total in the amount of $517,000.00; and, 2. To approve and recommend that the City Council authorize the Department of Public Works, to auction the FY'24 replaced vehicles/equipment through various online public auctions; or, to trade-in such vehicles/equipment to the vendor where replacement(s) are purchased; or, if such auction and/or trade-in is unsuccessful or not financially feasible, to arrange for such vehicles/equipment to be hauled away for scrap at the current market price.

7.5 CY22 Street Reconstruction Program Contract Amendment for Paving Work on Flynn Avenue - DPW - approve and authorize the Director of Public Works to execute an amendment to the Calendar Year 2022 Street Reconstruction Program contract with S.D. Ireland Brothers to effect a maximum limiting amount increase of $93,990.97 to the previously authorized contract expenditure limit with S.D. Ireland of $2,979,535.11, for a total authorized maximum contract expenditure of $3,073,526.08, provided that all these authorizations are contingent on the contract and any amendment thereto having the prior approval of the City Attorney and Chief Administrative Officer.

7.6 FY24 Traffic Markings Contract Award Request – DPW - authorize the Director of Public Works to execute a contract with L&D for a maximum limiting amount of $154,804.43 for pavement marking, subject to review and approval by the City Attorney's Office.

7.7 Request for Authorization of a Budget Neutral Amendment to the FY2023 Patrick Leahy Burlington International Airport AIP-125 Project Budget in the Amount of $1,050,000 – Airport - authorize a budget neutral amendment to the FY23 Patrick Leahy Burlington International Airport budget to increase Federal Grant Revenue by $923,965 and Interfund Transfer Proceeds by $126,035, and to increase Capital Expenditures by $1,050,000, for a total increase of overall expenditures by $1,050,000.

7.8 2022 Annual Report on BPD data - Office of City Planning **now agenda item 8.11.** - waive the reading, accept the communication, and place it on file.

7.9 FIO Document – for information only.

7.10 Resolution: Authorization To Apply To Downtown Sales Tax Reallocation Program Re CityPlace Project - 75 Cherry Street (Board of Finance) – waive the reading and adopt the resolution.

7.11 Resolution: Authorization To Apply To Downtown Sales Tax Reallocation Program Re The Post Apartments Project - 176 South Winooski Avenue (Board of Finance) - waive the reading and adopt the resolution.

7.12 Ordinance: Chapter 22, Parks--Section 23, Penalty (Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department) - waive the reading and place in all stages of passages and adopt the amendment to Chapter 22, section 23, of the Burlington Code of Ordinances, as outlined in the attached ordinance change form, subject to review by the City Attorney's Office.

7.13 Special Event Outdoor Entertainment Permit Application (one day only): The Wallflower Collective, August 20, 2023, 4 pm - 11 pm, in the adjacent/adjoining private parking lot - approve the one day only special event outdoor entertainment permit application for The Wallflower Collective, August 20, 2023, 4 pm - 11 pm, in the adjacent/adjoining private parking lot.

7.14 Special Event Outdoor Entertainment Permit Application (one day only): The Wallflower Collective, September 24, 2023, 4 pm - 11 pm, in adjoining parking lot (private) - approve the one day only special event outdoor entertainment permit application for The Wallflower Collective, September 24, 2023, 4 pm - 11 pm, in adjoining parking lot (private).

7.15 Burlington Bike Share Encumbrance Application – Bird Rides Inc. – DPW – approve the Encumbrance Application for Bird Rides Inc. requesting use of public right of way space for an electric bike fleet, and to authorize the Mayor to execute the attached Encumbrance Permit and License Agreement, subject to review by the City Attorney's Office.

7.16 Birdseye Building Company - 288 Maple Street - Encumbrance Permit Application – DPW – approve the Encumbrance Application for Birdseye Building Company requesting use of the public right-of-way for construction related parking as detailed in Attachment C, and authorize the Mayor to enter into a license agreement with the Applicant for use of the portion of the right-of-way outlined in the Application, subject to review by the City Attorney's Office.

7.17 95 Saint Paul Street - Encumbrance Permit Application - Cafe Dim Sum – DPW - approve the Encumbrance Application for Café Dim Sum at 95 Saint Paul Street requesting use of the sidewalk for an outdoor seating area and authorize the Mayor to enter into a license agreement with the Applicant for use of the portion of the right-of-way outlined in the Application, subject to review by the City Attorney's Office.
7.18 Whiting-Turner Encumbrance Application - Burlington High School – DPW - approve the Encumbrance Application for Whiting-Turner requesting to occupy a portion of the public right-of-way on North Avenue and Institute Road as detailed in Attachment C, and authorize the Mayor to enter into a license agreement with the Applicant for use of the right-of-way outlined in the Application, subject to review by the City Attorney's Office.

MOTION by Councilor Magee, SECOND by Councilor Shannon, to adopt the consent agenda as amended and take the actions indicated for items 7.1-7.18.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

8. DELIBERATIVE AGENDA

8.1 Tobacco License Application (2023-2024): Little Bodega, LLC, d/b/a Henry Street Deli, 11 Henry Street

MOTION by Councilor Shannon, SECOND by Councilor Magee, to approve the 2023-2024 Tobacco License Application for Little Bodega, LLC, d/b/a Henry Street Deli, 11 Henry Street.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

8.2 Tobacco License Application and Tobacco Substitute Endorsement Application (2023-2024): RGS Nepali Market, 1563 North Avenue

MOTION by Councilor Shannon, SECOND by Councilor Magee, to approve the 2023-2024 Tobacco License Application and Tobacco Subsitute Endorsement Application for RGS Nepali Market, 1563 North Avenue.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

8.3 2023 Board and Commission Appointments - Slate - (10 mins.)
Councilor King, the chair of the ad hoc committee for 2023 board and commission appointments, spoke about the committee's work. She thanked Councilors Bergman, Grant, and Shannon for their work to volunteer on the committee as well. She spoke about the committee's process for interviewing applicants.

MOTION by Councilor King, SECOND by Councilor Bergman, to approve the Board and Commission 2023 Appointment Slate. The slate is as follows: Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission-alt – Readvertise; Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission - Andy Montroll; Church Street Marketplace Commission - Becky Holt; Church Street Marketplace Commission - Erik Monsen; Church Street Marketplace Commission – Readvertise; Chittenden Solid Waste District – alternate – Readvertise; Fence Viewer - Paul Schmidt; Fence Viewer - Shay Totten; Fence Viewer – Readvertise; GMT Board – alternate - Floor Vote; Green Mountain Transit Board - Floor Vote; Housing Board of Review – Readvertise.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

8.4 Appointment: Green Mountain Transit Board (Term Expires 06/30/26)

MOTION by Councilor Shannon to nominate Andrea Suozzo to the Green Mountain Transit Board.

MOTION by Councilor Bergman to nominate Will Anderson to the Green Mountain Transit Board.

Andrea Suozzo spoke about her interest in serving on the GMT Board, her qualifications for serving on the board, and her excitement about the opportunity to serve as the voice of Burlington riders on the board.

VOTING (for Andrea Suozzo): 8-4 (Councilors Bergman, Magee, Grant, and Hightower dissenting).

Andrea Suozzo is now appointed to the Green Mountain Transit Board.

8.5 Appointment: Green Mountain Transit Board - alternate - (Term Expires 06/30/26)

MOTION by Councilor Bergman to nominate Will Anderson to the Green Mountain Transit Board alternate position.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

8.6 City Place Public Improvements Construction Costs - DPW (15 mins.)

MOTION by Councilor Barlow, SECOND by Councilor Shannon, to accept and approve construction costs of the Public Improvements by S.D. Ireland Brothers, Inc.; and, authorize payment for such construction costs in an amount not greater than $11,600,624, with an additional authorized contingency of $1,903,299, for a total authorized expenditure for such construction costs not to exceed $13,503,923, subject to necessary review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer and in accordance with ARDA 2.0.
<u>DISCUSSION:</u>

- **Director Spencer said that this is in coordination with multiple City Departments, DPW has been working to make comprehensive and generational upgrades to downtown rights of way, based on great streets standards that have been approved by the Council. He said that the goals of this are to make streets more resilient and the streetscape more vibrant. He said that this current discussion is focused on several rights of way in the heart of downtown, partnering with CityPlace partners and adjacent stakeholders.**
- **Senior Engineer Wheelock said that S.D. Ireland will be constructing the new Pine and St. Paul Streets that extend between Bank and Cherry Streets, as well as curbs. She said that this is in alignment with and will adhere to the Great Streets design standards approved by the City Council.**
- **Councilor Dieng asked if construction includes electric poles. Senior Engineer Wheelock replied that the current sections of street will include underground wiring.**

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

8.7 Net Zero Energy Presentation - Electric (20 mins.)
BED General Manager Springer noted that this update was released last week. He spoke about the four components of the net zero energy goals, which include electrifying buildings, moving toward more electric vehicles for ground transportation, moving towards district energy, and reducing the number of miles traveled by vehicles through increased walking, biking, and other alternative modes of transit. He noted that Burlington is the top city per capita in the northeast for solar. He spoke briefly about how Burlington has exceeded the state's obligation for electrification through the State's energy standards. He spoke about anticipated increases in electrified buses and other infrastructure. He spoke briefly about the increase in residential heat pump installations. He spoke about the City's 2030 vision for making Burlington a net zero energy city by eliminating fossil fuel emissions.

General Manager Springer provided statistics about gasoline and diesel consumption by the City and its residents. He noted that there are fewer vehicles being registered in Burlington, speaking about the opportunities for walking, biking, and carsharing. He noted that vehicle miles traveled have not rebounded since Covid. He spoke about more challenging circumstances for building natural gas use, saying that it has rebounded and is not within the target for NZE by 2030.

General Manager Springer noted key takeaways from the 2022 roadmap update. He noted that building local policies, such as rental weatherization, new construction renewable heating, and carbon pricing, will begin to impact data in the next several years, that district energy would make a significant impact in reducing the commercial sector's fossil fuel use in buildings, and that the Inflation Reduction Act incentives will provide a boost to EV and heat pump adoption.

Councilor Bergman asked whether solar requirements similar to those adopted by South Burlington could be feasible for Burlington. General Manager Springer replied that it would depend on the specific infrastructure, but that BED is very supportive of increasing solar uptake through policies and regulation, if possible. Councilor Bergman asked about the feasibility of geothermal energy. General Manager Springer replied that BED is active in the geothermal space and that they are working with the new high school to use geothermal energy. He noted that it is difficult to retrofit geothermal into an existing building, but that it is a fantastic opportunity for new builds. Councilor Bergman asked what different areas could be appropriate for a larger array of solar panels, such as old landfills. General Manager Springer replied that opportunities like that will be rare, given that the City has limited land use opportunities for large solar arrays, but that there are more opportunities for smaller solar arrays on rooftops.

Councilor Barlow asked whether Burlington's current measures in the thermal sector are enough to bend the curve back downward, and General Manager Springer replied that he thinks the current measures will be sufficient, combined with district heat. He also said that the carbon fee policy should be extremely effective. Councilor Barlow asked about feasible storage methods and systems that BED may be looking at. General Manager Springer replied that they are looking at battery storage but also using electric boilers to store solar energy when the sun is out but demand is low.

8.8 Annual Commission Report - Burlington Electric Commission (15 mins.)
Burlington Electric Commission Chair Moody provided a summary of the annual report, noting several areas of interest. He noted interest and concern about the increase in BED's fees, but that there will be a further update on this in the fall. He spoke about work to examine the department's streetlight policy, noting that they have determined that maintaining the status quo was determined to be the best approach. He spoke about the economics of BED, speaking about how it is trying to keep its controllable costs down as much as possible, recognizing the effects of inflation. He spoke about the district energy project, noting that it should be moving forward in the fall of 2023. He finally noted that BED's green incentives are a great thing for ratepayers to take advantage of, if possible.

Councilor Shannon asked why neighborhoods get lighting upgrades and asked how the type of lighting is chosen for neighborhoods. General Manager Springer replied that lights are replaced with lights of like kind in neighborhoods. He said that streets get upgraded lighting when the current lighting is not deemed safe enough or when the lighting needs to be brought up to international safety code and standards.

Councilor Dieng asked how many miles of overhead wires have been buried in 2023 and planned for 2024. General Manager Springer replied that they look at moving cables underground when construction projects are occurring. He said that they have looked at undergrounding for the Champlain Parkway Project, and that they are also discussing opportunities for undergrounding through the Great Streets project. Councilor Dieng requested that the Commission conduct more outreach to address concerns about rate increases.

Councilor Grant asked how planning for burying wiring occurs and how it is decided which streets have wiring move underground. General Manager Springer replied that BED typically doesn't have a budget for undergrounding, which is why it looks for opportunities to do so when construction or street projects are occurring.

8.9 Fire Leadership Pay Scale (FLPS) - Fire (10 mins.)

MOTION by Councilor Barlow, SECOND by Councilor Carpenter, to approve and authorize the wage scale adjustments to the Fire Leadership Pay Scale for Burlington Fire Department Command staff, comprised of the positions of Battalion Chief and Deputy Chief, as further detailed in the above proposed tables; and allow future wage adjustments be consistent with BFFA annual COLA increases; and, further authorize back wages to be paid according to such revised Pay Scale, effective retroactively to January 1, 2023.
<u>DISCUSSION:</u>

- **Fire Chief LaChance noted that this issue arose between 3 and 4 years ago and pertains to wage compression between the union and non-union Fire Department staff. He said that based on the most recent BFFA contract, if a position were to move into the Battalion Chief role, it would result in a base pay cut of around $1,070 per year, or a 1.03% pay cut, which makes it difficult to recruit for this position. He said that this proposed wage scale adjustment would solve this compression issue permanently. He noted concerns from some Councilors about the retroactivity of this proposal, and noted that this process began in March or April of 2022 and that retroactivity back to January of 2023 makes sense.**
- **Councilor Shannon expressed appreciation for the increased amount of work that the Fire Department has had to do lately.**
- **Councilor Grant echoed this sentiment, saying that wage equity is tantamount to a strong department.**
- **Mayor Weinberger thanked Chief LaChance for making this a priority so early in his tenure.**

VOTING (by roll call): Councilor Barlow – aye, Councilor Bergman – aye, Councilor Carpenter – aye, Councilor Dieng – nay, Councilor Doherty – aye, Councilor Grant – aye, Councilor Hightower – aye, Councilor King – aye, Councilor Magee – aye, Councilor Shannon – aye, Councilor Traverse – aye, City Council President Paul – aye (11 ayes, 1 nay); motion carries.

8.10 Resolution: Annual Tax Assessments On The Property Grand List Of The City For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2023 And Ending June 30, 2024 (Mayor Weinberger; Board of Finance) **AGENDA ITEM REMOVED**
No discussion at this time.

8.11 2022 Annual Report on BPD data - Office of City Planning **was agenda item 7.8**

Councilor Grant said that she requested this be placed on the deliberative agenda due to several concerns. She said that she would like more access to use of force data, or information around why more detailed use of force data has been delayed, as this is a sensitive issue for the Police Commission and Public Safety Committee. Deputy Chief Labrecque said that the use of force data is delayed because they now use a private company as a vendor for this information and are having to develop processes so that City analysts are able to go into the database and pull the data when they need to. He said that this delay should be resolved in future once this process is finalized.

Councilor Magee asked about the security changes that were made to access Valcour, noting that they are more strict. Deputy Chief Labrecque described how individuals pass security tests to gain access to Valcour and noted that security was tightened to be more standardized and adhere to existing policies.

Mayor Weinberger spoke about the enhanced transparency portal, noting that it is important to provide the public as much information as can be shared.

City Council President Paul said that she will work with Director Tuttle to get this report on the agenda as a completed document.

MOTION by Councilor Magee, SECOND by Councilor Shannon, to waive the reading, accept the communication and place it on file.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Verbal Reports

Councilor Barlow noted that the Transportation, Energy, and Utilities Committee (TEUC) met on June 13 and held a symposium on biomass generation at McNeil. He said that the recording is available through the BED website as well as through CCTV (Channel 17). He said that the TEUC has not discussed follow-up actions related to the symposium but anticipates that they will do so at a future meeting, as it is an important topic to discuss as the City considers next steps around district energy. He added that the TEUC will hold a joint meeting with the Vehicle for Hire Licensing Board on June 27 at 5:00 PM at 645 Pine Street.

Councilor Carpenter thanked the TEUC for the McNeil symposium and the sheer amount of information that was presented. She suggested that the Council hold a work session prior to considering the district energy proposal.

Councilor Bergman said that the Joint Ordinance and Charter Change Committee will meet on July 6th to discuss police oversight, and that the Tax Abatement Committee had an organizational meeting and anticipates holding hearings in the fall.

Councilor Grant thanked the Racial Equity Inclusion, and Belonging (REIB) Department for the Juneteenth event that was put on last Saturday, despite the less than ideal weather.

10. CITY COUNCIL – GENERAL AFFAIRS

10.1 Verbal Reports

Councilor Dieng spoke about the efforts of the REIB Director, Kim Carson, to put on the Juneteenth event. He said that this has been the best Juneteenth event the City has put on, in his opinion, because it collaborated with a number of City departments and was planned and executed very skillfully.

11. CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT – COUNCIL UPDATES

11.1 Verbal Reports
City Council President Paul noted that a meeting was added on June 26th, 2023 for the Board of Finance and City Council, which will be to vote on the Mayor's FY24 City budget.

12. MAYOR – GENERAL AFFAIRS

12.1 Verbal Reports
Mayor Weinberger expressed appreciation for the Juneteenth celebration this past Saturday and thanked Director Carson and the REIB department. He also provided an update on the 2023 veto session at the State's legislature, noting that there are a number of bills that are up for veto and override that pertain to the City. The first is the childcare bill, which is aligned with Burlington's early learning initiatives, and was overridden and will be moving forward. Another is the veto of the Burlington charter change related to all-resident voting, which was overridden and will now allow Burlington to join several other Vermont municipalities in allowing all residents to vote in local elections. The third, while not a veto and override, is a companion bill to the budget that changes the sunsetting of the motel voucher program, so that the vulnerable and high-needs groups that were slated for eviction will not occur at the end of July, and will engage in coordinated reentry and end in April. He lauded this as a positive legislative action, noting that it may not have occurred had Burlington not objected so strongly to the program ending in July. He noted that the City continues to advocate for the use of the 108 Cherry Street building as a way to address the volume of unhoused in the City.

13. ADJOURNMENT

13.1 Motion to Adjourn

MOTION by Councilor Magee, SECOND by Councilor Dieng, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 PM.

RScty: AACoonradt