



Public Information Hearing re: December 7, 2021 Special City Election Ballot Questions - Wednesday, December 1, 2021, 5:00 pm **IN-PERSON, Contois Auditorium, City Hall or streamed via ZOOM**

BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC INFORMATION HEARING RE: SPECIAL CITY ELECTION BALLOT QUESTIONS

CONTOIS AUDITORIUM, 2ND FLOOR, CITY HALL

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

MINUTES OF MEETING

December 1, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Paul

Chip Mason

Max Tracy

Joan Shannon

Ali Dieng

Perri Freeman

Jack Hanson

Zoraya Hightower

Jane Stromberg

Sarah E Carpenter

Mark Barlow

Joe Magee

OTHERS PRESENT: Miro Weinberger

Katherine Schad

Dan Richardson

Jordan Redell

Amy Bovee

Martha Keenan



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Darren Springer

1. CALL TO ORDER and AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by City Council President Tracy at 5:00 PM.

1.01 Motion to amend/adopt agenda

MOTION by Councilor Stromberg, SECOND by Councilor Dieng, to adopt the agenda.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

2. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

2.01 Approval of General Obligations Bonds for City Capital Plan Projects

Capital & Special Projects Director Keenan provided information about this ballot question. She said that it is a request for \$40 million to continue the 10 Year Capital Plan. She said that this funding would provide the local match in order to leverage ARPA funds and funds from the federal infrastructure bill. She said that it would allow the City to address areas not covered under those opportunities, such as facilities, fleet, parks, and information technology. She noted that in particular, there are 3 fire trucks on the bond vote as well as public safety infrastructure. She said that overall, the City has a need of over \$150 million, of which this bond is 25% (the remainder would be covered by other opportunities). She said that \$10 million would go toward a solution for Memorial Auditorium, and the remainder would be balanced through different assets.

Steve Goodkind asked if the proposed projects in the bond are the same projects from the first 5 years of the 10 Year Capital Plan, or if they are new projects. Capital & Special Projects Director Keenan said that the City's sidewalks and streets have a significant amount of deferred maintenance, and that the bond is paying for the sustainable level of maintenance. She noted that the City also has deferred maintenance on other City facilities. In short, there are new projects and continuing projects contained in the bond proposal.

2.02 Issuance of Revenue Bonds for Burlington Electric Department Projects

Burlington Electric Department (BED) General Manager Springer spoke about the Net Zero Energy Revenue Bond, which is a \$20 million proposal that would invest in the reliability of the City's electric system, as well as advancing the climate progress toward the City's net zero energy goals (reducing and eliminating fossil fuels in transportation and thermal sectors). He said that the bond would invest in four key areas: the electric grid (specifically in reliability as well as grid upgrades to accommodate new electric uses), new technology systems for customer and data management, maintenance



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of electric generating facilities, and a capital investment in a variety of net zero energy technologies like new electric vehicle charging stations.

Steve Goodkind said that as far as the BED bond is concerned, he said that it is missing funding for the McNeil Plant. He said that the plant is wood-burning and has a carbon footprint similar to burning fossil fuels. He also noted that the plant is 27% efficient. BED Manager Springer said that the McNeil Plant is a renewable energy plant and noted that there is a sustainability component to the harvesting of wood for the plant. He said that during the period of time that wood has been harvested for BED, there is more forest and more sequestration occurring than there had been prior to harvesting.

3. ADJOURNMENT

3.01 Motion to Adjourn

MOTION by Councilor Stromberg, SECOND by Councilor Dieng, to adjourn.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

RScty: AACoonrad

