Special City Council Worksession re: BT matters (expected executive session), Monday, July 31, 2017, 5:00 pm, Contois Auditorium, City Hall
7/31/2017

MINUTES SUBJECT TO CORRECTION BY BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL. CHANGES, IF ANY, WILL BE RECORDED IN THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

CONTOIS AUDITORIUM, CITY HALL

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

MINUTES OF WORK SESSION

July 31, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jane Knodell (Council President) – Central District

Joan Shannon – South District

Richard Deane – East District

Sharon Foley Bushor – Ward 1

Max Tracy – Ward 2

Kurt Wright – Ward 4

William "Chip" Mason – Ward 5

Karen Paul – Ward 6

Ali Dieng – Ward 7

Adam Roof – Ward 8

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Hartnett – North District

Sara Moore – Ward 3

ADMINISTRATION: Miro Weinberger, Mayor

Bob Rusten, CAO

Rich Goodwin, DFO

Brian Lowe, Mayor's Office

Katie Vane, Mayor's Office

OTHERS PRESENT: David Provost

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Terry Dorman

Stephen Barraclough

Jim Carrier

1.0 CALL TO ORDER and AGENDA

Council President Knodell called the work session on Burlington Telecom to order at 5:07 PM on July 31, 2017 and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.01 Agenda

MOTION by Councilor Roof, SECOND by Councilor Shannon, to approve the agenda as presented. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

2.0 PUBLIC FORUM

Public forum was opened at 5:09 PM.

- Jim Carrier, writer, filmmaker, and former board member for WIOU public access television in Wisconsin, urged City Council to open the discussions and bids for Burlington Telecom to the public so there is public awareness of government. Mr. Carrier mentioned the AT&T Bill that gutted funding for public television in Wisconsin and warned the same could happen in Vermont. Vermont is unusual in its vigor of public access television, but there is an impression and a growing sense that government cannot be trusted to do the right thing.

There were no further comments. Public Forum was closed at 5:12 PM.

3.0 PRESENTATION FROM POTENTIAL BT PARTNERS

Mayor Weinberger said the city is at an important point in the process with BT. Eight strong proposals from the types of partners that could potentially be a good fit for Burlington were received by the June deadline. None of the proposals are from the large telecommunication giants or Comcast so there will not be a monopoly. Thanks are extended to the BT team, BTAB and David Provost, and Dorman and Fossett, consultants. Nondisclosure agreements were signed by the city so proposals could be made with proprietary information. The city is in a strong position to secure as strong as possible outcomes for the city, the taxpayers of Burlington, and the users of BT. The city can have an equity position if desired and ensure competition remains part of the BT landscape and local control issues are addressed. More information will be forthcoming in the near future on the parties and the long term partnership. The city will continue to work to achieve the best outcomes possible for Burlington and ensure confidence in the process.

MOTION by Councilor Mason, SECOND by Councilor Shannon, to find that premature public knowledge of contract negotiations with potential partners relative to Burlington Telecom would clearly place the city and its partners at a

substantial disadvantage. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

MOTION by Councilor Mason, SECOND by Councilor Wright, based on the finding of premature public knowledge placing the city and its partners at a disadvantage to go into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations which include real estate purchase or lease options and discussion of confidential materials relative to Burlington Telecom and invite the Mayor, Mayor's Office staff, Raphine O'Rourke, David Provost, Terry Dorman, and Stephen Barraclough to attend. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

Executive Session was convened at 5:17 PM.

MOTION by Councilor Wright, SECOND by Councilor Mason, to adjourn Executive Session. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

Executive Session was adjourned at 11:09 PM.

4.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Councilor Tracy, SECOND by Councilor Wright, to adjourn the work session. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

The work session was adjourned at 11:09 PM.

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