



Board of Finance Meeting, Monday, June 29, 2020, 5:30 pm.
Please click the link below to join the webinar:
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BURLINGTON BOARD OF FINANCE

CITY HALL

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 29, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Weinberger

Council President Tracy

Councilor Paul

Councilor Pine

Councilor Dieng

OTHERS PRESENT: Katherine Schad

Rich Goodwin

Olivia LaVecchia

Eileen Blackwood

Jordan Redell

Sarah Carpenter

Chapin Spencer

Luke McGowan

Tyeastia Green

Kara Alnasrawi

Shelby Lozier

Nick Longo

Gene Richards

Marie Friedman

Zoraya Hightower



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Cindi Wight

Martha Keenan

Zach Williamson

Jack Hanson

Rachel Jolly

Amy Bovee

1.0 CALL TO ORDER and AGENDA

Mayor Weinberger called the Board of Finance meeting to order at 5:05 PM.

1.
 - i. Motion to amend/adopt agenda

MOTION by Councilor Paul, SECOND by Councilor Dieng, to amend and adopt the agenda as written.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

2.0 PUBLIC FORUM (VERBAL)

2.01 Verbal Comments

None at this time.

3.0 FOR APPROVAL AND RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL

3.01 Department of Corrections Grant Amendment: "Safer Communities" (Grant # 03520-1482) - CEDO/CJC

MOTION by Councilor Paul, SECOND by Councilor Dieng, to recommend to City Council to approve the acceptance of Grant #03520-1482 in the amount of \$300,000 for FY21 and authorize Mayor Miro Weinberger to sign the grant, and for Director McGowan or his designee to sign all other documents and budget amendments necessary to implement the grant, subject to the review and approval of the City Attorney, and to authorize the CAO to effect any budget amendments necessary to reflect the changes to the FY21 budget, and; to recommend to City Council



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to approve the acceptance of Grant #02100-FY2021-CN in the amount of \$390,200 for FY21 and authorize CEDO Director McGowan or his designee to sign the grant agreement, and all other documents to implement the grant, subject to the review and approval of the City Attorney.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

3.02 Court Diversion Grant Agreement #02100-FY2021-CN - CEDO/CJC

This item was voted upon during Business Item 3.01 above.

3.03 Authorization to Sign Contract for Multi-Tasking Equipment with Fortbrand Services, LLC – Airport

MOTION by Councilor Paul, SECOND by Councilor Pine to approve and recommend to the City Council that the Director of Aviation, Gene Richards, be authorized to execute a contract with Fortbrand Services, LLC in the amount of \$2,090,880 over ten years for the leasing of two 'multi-tasking equipment' units (MTEs), subject to final review and approval by the City Attorney's Office.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

3.04 Approving Obtaining Standby Letter(s) Of Credit For The City's Workers' Compensation Program - C/T

MOTION by Councilor Pine SECOND by City Council President Tracy to approve and recommend to the City Council to approve the attached resolution regarding City's Workers' Compensation Standby Letter of Credit.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

3.05 Budget Discussion

Mayor Weinberger said his goal is to take action and make a recommendation on the two budget resolutions after this item. He noted that it is not required that the Board of Finance endorse and approve the budget prior to deliberation and voting at the full City Council meeting.

Councilor Dieng asked what the percentage of property taxpayers was that have applied for a waiver until August? CAO Schad: only 29 taxpayers. It was not a large sum of money. Councilor Dieng also asked about the timeline for a tax increase to fund a New North End Ambulance, which the voters had approved. Mayor Weinberger replied now is not the time for a tax increase, and this current budget proposes that that increase would be deferred.





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Councilor Carpenter said that many homeowners pay their taxes into escrow or prepay them, and this process of deferral would be very difficult for them. She stated that it may not be a symptom of struggle, just that the homeowners have already prepaid their taxes. Mayor Weinberger agreed, noting that the financial crunch due to COVID-19 for property owners may come later this year.

Councilor Pine echoed Councilor Carpenter's point, saying that there may be a correlation between the number of properties that applied for a waiver and financial pressures due to COVID, but that it is not indicative of causation. He also noted that there is a budget amendment that proposes redistribution of funds from the Burlington Police Department. He also asked the Mayor to speak to the proposed amendments that Councilor Hanson had introduced. Mayor Weinberger noted that a number of the line item amendments were for small dollar amounts and were for trainings that had already been reduced in order to balance the budget. Mayor Weinberger noted that Councilor Hanson has proposed eliminating Burlington's payment to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, and he is opposed to that, since every other town in Vermont pays into it and there is value to Burlington playing a prominent role in that group.

Councilor Pine connected that conversation to having a resolution that would change the Mayor's budget resolution. Mayor Weinberger noted that the budget and Councilor Hightower's resolution are both up for consideration at tonight's City Council meeting. He noted that Councilor Hightower's resolution will have budget implications, though it is difficult to determine the degree of that impact.

3.06 Annual Appropriation And Budget For Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020 And Ending June 30, 2021 - Mayor

MOTION by Councilor Paul, SECOND by Councilor Dieng, to recommend that the City Council adopt the attached resolution.

DISCUSSION:

- Councilor Pine clarified that recommending the budget does not preclude the Council recommending and adopting changes as the full Council.
- Councilor Paul added that there have been times where the Board of Finance has voted to move to items forward to the City Council but not necessarily endorsing them personally.
- City Council President Tracy noted that the Hightower Resolution refers to the budget as a moral document and recognizes the need to prioritize racial justice work in the budget, and absent passage of that resolution he is not necessarily decided on the budget. He stressed that there are two pandemics going on—the COVID-19 pandemic and the longer pandemic of racism—and wants to send a clear signal on that. Mayor Weinberger replied that the change from the June 15th budget submission and the latest budget resolutions speak directly to the need to prioritize racial justice and equity over the next year.
- Councilor Dieng had several questions on DPW line items regarding traffic calming. Director Spencer replied that there is funding in this budget not only to complete overhaul of traffic calming program but also to implement traffic calming for top safety issues and needs.
- Councilor Pine asked Director Spencer to address the impact of the current level of funding and the reduction on seasonal employees and what is anticipated in terms of sidewalk plowing. Director Spencer



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replied that this budget has reduced the number of seasonal employees; however, progress has been made in restoring seasonal employees in the street maintenance team.

- **Councilor Dieng asked for an update on public forums related to consolidated collection of waste, recycling, and compost. Director Spencer replied that forums have occurred and will continue to occur in committees and there will be outreach efforts. He also added that planning for consolidated collection will occur in Fiscal Year 2021, but due to policy, financial, and operational concerns it will not be implemented until FY 2022.**

VOTING (by roll call): Mayor Weinberger -aye, Councilor Paul – aye, City Council President Tracy – nay, Councilor Dieng – aye, Councilor Pine – not present for vote (3 ayes, 1 nay, 1 absence); motion carries.

3.07 Annual Tax Assessments On The Property Grand List Of The City For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020 And Ending June 30, 2021 – Mayor

MOTION by Councilor Paul, SECOND by Councilor Dieng, to recommend that the City Council adopt the attached resolution.

VOTING (by roll call): Mayor Weinberger -aye, Councilor Paul – aye, City Council President Tracy – aye, Councilor Dieng – aye, Councilor Pine – not present for vote (4 ayes, 1 absence); motion carries.

3.08 Waiver of Penalty for Late Payment of Gross Receipts Taxes Related To COVID-19 Emergency - C/T

Mayor Weinberger noted that gross receipt tax collection will begin on July 1, but there will be a waiver for penalty for late payments.

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

DISCUSSION:

- **Councilor Pine confirmed that this was for gross receipts, so the tax would be proportional to the amount of gross receipts collected.**

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

4.0 BOARD OF FINANCE APPROVAL ONLY

4.01 Contract with CW Stageworks, LLC for Upgrades to Contois Auditorium – DPW

MOTION by Councilor Pine, SECOND by Councilor Paul, to authorize the Director of the Department of Public





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Works to execute a contract for an amount not to exceed \$86,200 with CW Stageworks, LLC for the improvement of audio-visual and lighting systems in Contois Auditorium, subject to final review and approval by the City Attorney.

DISCUSSION:

- **Councilor Pine asked about the timeline for completion of this work. Ms. Keenan replied that the work needs to be completed by August 1, 2020.**

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

5.0 COMMUNICATIONS

5.01 EOC/RRC Report – CAO

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mayor Weinberger, SECOND by Mayor Weinberger, to adjourn the Board of Finance meeting.

With no further business and without objection the meeting was adjourned at 5:28 PM.

RScty: AACoonrad