



Board of Finance Meeting - Monday, June 15, 2020, 5:30 pm.
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BURLINGTON BOARD OF FINANCE

CITY HALL

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 15, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Weinberger

Council President Tracy

Councilor Paul

Councilor Pine

Councilor Dieng

OTHERS PRESENT: Katherine Schad

Rich Goodwin

Jordan Redell

Olivia LaVecchia

Eileen Blackwood

Zoraya Hightower

Sarah Carpenter

Chapin Spencer

Mary Danko

Doreen Kraft

Amy Bovee

Lori Olberg

Brian Lowe

Joan Shannon

Franklin Paulino



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Cindi Wight

Jon Murad

Tyeastia Green

Jack Hanson

Steven Locke

1.0 CALL TO ORDER and AGENDA

Mayor Weinberger called the Board of Finance meeting to order at 5:38 PM.

1.
 - i. Motion to amend/adopt agenda

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

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

2.0 BUDGET PRESENTATION

2.01 Budget Presentation

Mayor Weinberger presented an overview of the administration's proposed Fiscal Year 2021 budget. He stated that the budget takes a number of important actions, including relying on Burlington's strong financial position to avoid budget cuts in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, a strategic plan and funding to promote racial equity in Burlington and transform the policing and public safety sectors, continuing to commit to a climate crisis response by becoming a Net Zero Energy City, and continuing critical investments in City infrastructure, innovative programming, and lake health. He noted that there will be no new initiatives, except for those that relate to racial injustice, COVID-19 response, and climate crisis.

Mayor Weinberger spoke at length about changes to transform the police department and redirect more funding toward racial equity programming.

Councilor Pine requested an update on the number of tax payments that were due on June 12th. CAO Schad replied that



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the City is around \$1,400,000 below tax payments received than at this time last year, though she noted that this may not reflect all updates from the most recent few days. Ms. Schad added that tax payments do tend to come in during the week after they are due.

Councilor Pine asked if analysis had been conducted around a cut to the police budget of 20% or 30%, rather than the 11% cut proposed in the Mayor's budget. Mayor Weinberger replied that the 11% reduction is primarily achieved by cutting currently vacant positions, and added that additional cuts to the budget would require officer layoffs.

Chief Murad added that call volume per officer is higher than in any other parts of the state. He noted that the 93 officers currently staffing the force are the bare minimum for what Burlington requires. He added that the alternative viable capacities being developed should be tested and determined to work prior to removing more resources and staff from the current police force.

Councilor Pine asked whether the resources in the Community Justice Center need to be increased. Chief Murad replied that a number of cases are sent there, and additional sources to those kinds of services would be well-placed.

Councilor Paul asked how many active sworn officers there have been each year for the past decade. She also asked about the fund for racial equity and police transformation and what department that money would be sitting in. Mayor Weinberger replied that it would go in the regional programs budget so that it can be as flexible as possible. Councilor Paul advised that there be strong oversight of those funds. She also suggested that the Police Commission conduct the independent evaluation that was cited as an activity that would be funded through these proposed budget changes.

Councilor Dieng asked about the \$300,000 initially allocated to the racial equity fund, and asked if those funds include the funding for the Director of Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging position. Mayor Weinberger clarified that that position was funded with prior funding; this new funding would create an additional position in that department. Councilor Dieng also asked about the voter-approved taxes that the Mayor's budget has proposed to defer and whether that creates public safety concerns if new staff cannot be hired. The Mayor replied that no, the deferment does not materially increase public risk.

Council President Tracy asked if Mayor Weinberger could talk through the process for developing his proposed budget over the past several weeks, and what the process will look like moving forward. Mayor Weinberger noted his attendance at public forums in Burlington, meeting with Racial Justice Alliance, talked to internal and external advisors, and a two-hour leadership team meeting today to finalize budget.

Council President Tracy asked about the City's collective bargaining agreement and what would have to occur for a further reduction in police department positions, should the City meet the Racial Justice Alliance's demands for a 30% decrease in the police budget. City Attorney Blackwood replied that there would be some issues with the contract should a further reduction take place. She noted as an example that the contract contains an officer schedule and that Chief Murad had



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stated that that schedule could not be maintained if the police budget is further reduced and layoffs occur. She added that the contract has a provision that if below 80 officers, it moves to emergency staffing and an emergency staffing schedule, which would also place a limit on the number of detectives.

Councilor Hanson asked about the Mayor's proposed budget and whether the timeline would give City Councilors enough time to provide input before it needed to be approved. Mayor Weinberger noted that he has released his proposed budget to the City Council and now defers to the Council's process and rules for budgetary input and approval.

3.0 PUBLIC FORUM (VERBAL)

3.01 Verbal Comments

None at this time.

4.0 FOR APPROVAL AND RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL

4.01 Department for Children and Families Grant Approval - Parks, Recreation and Waterfront

This item has been postponed.

4.02 Old North End Community Center Sub leases - Parks, Recreation and Waterfront

This item has been postponed.

4.03 Continuing Engagement with Managed Security Services Provider - IT

This item has been postponed.

4.04 Authorization For \$2,958,560 Loan From Vermont Clean Water State Revolving Fund And Engineering Services Contract With Wright-Pierce For \$232,900 And Construction Contract With Kingsbury Companies For \$2,225,300 For The Upgrade Of Main, North And East Disinfection Systems - DPW - Water Resources

This item has been postponed.

5.0 BOARD OF FINANCE APPROVAL ONLY

5.01 Authorization to Execute Contract with Wind River Environmental, LLC for Catch Basin Cleaning Services - DPW - Water Resources



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This item has been postponed.

5.02 Contract for Polaris, Integrated Library System, FY21 - Library

This item has been postponed.

5.03 Burlington Town Center aka CityPlace Burlington Second Extension of Project Management Services Contract - Jeffry D. Glassberg - Renaissance Development Company - CEDO

This item has been postponed.

6.0 COMMUNICATIONS

6.01 EOC/RRC Report – CAO

This item has been postponed.

6.02 Communication: Sharon Bushor, re: FW: Comments on the June 1st GF Budget Memo

This item has been postponed.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Councilor Paul, SECOND by Councilor Pine, to adjourn the Board of Finance meeting.

With no further business and without objection the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 PM.

RScty: AACoonrad

