



Regular City Council Meeting - Monday, June 7, 2021, 7:00 pm

****VIRTUAL MEETING****

6/7/2021

BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

REMOTE MEETING WITH CALL-IN NUMBER

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 7, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Paul

Max Tracy

Chip Mason

Joan Shannon

Ali Dieng

Brian Pine

Jack Hanson

Perri Freeman

Sarah E Carpenter

Zoraya Hightower

Jane Stromberg

Mark Barlow

OTHERS PRESENT: Miro Weinberger

Katherine Schad

Rich Goodwin

Eileen Blackwood

Jordan Redell

Mike Loucy

Chris Dautel



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Chapin Spencer

Lee Perry

Sarah Reeves

1. CALL TO ORDER and AGENDA

1.01 Motion to amend/adopt the agenda

The meeting was called to order by City Council President Tracy at 7:19 PM.

MOTION by Councilor Stromberg, SECOND by Councilor Hightower, to amend/adopt agenda as follows:

- **place item 5.08 before Public Forum**
- **add to the consent agenda item 4.08 Communication: Kara Alnasrawi, Director Economic Recovery, re: Activation of College Street Terrace in City Hall Park with the action to "waive the reading, accept the communication and place it on file";**
- **note Councilor Carpenter as the sponsor for agenda item 5.05 Resolution: Rescinding COVID-19 Emergency Order - Wearing Face Coverings in Retail Stores and City Buildings**

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

2.01 Verbal Comments

Forum opened at 7:30 PM.

COMMENTS:

- Dale Tillitson spoke about the City's masking requirement and how important social distancing still is.
- Ben Traverse spoke as Chair of the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission, recommending that the Penny for Parks program remain fully funded for FY22.
- Richard Watts spoke strongly in favor of the resolution to reform and refocus the I-89 study.
- Zoe Kennedy spoke in favor of refocusing the I-89 study, especially if it would mean focusing on more sustainable modes of travel and transportation.

Forum closed at 7:52 PM.



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3. CLIMATE EMERGENCY REPORTS

3.01 Climate Emergency Reports

Councilor Hanson spoke about a pipeline being built to transport tar sands through both the U.S. and Canada and that there is currently a large movement of Americans demonstrating against its construction.

Mayor Weinberger noted that May 20 and June 6 was a record-breaking temperature day, highlighting the importance of continued action to meet Burlington's net zero energy goals.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.01 Motion to adopt the consent agenda (as amended) and take the actions indicated

4.02 Communication: C/T Office, re: Accountability List - waive the reading, accept the communication and place it on file.

4.03 Communication: Steven A. Locke, Fire Chief, re: Creation and Elimination of Fire Department Positions - approve and the creation of a Chief of Emergency Medical Services (EMS), a Regular, Full-time, , Exempt, Grade 23 position and the elimination of a vacant Firefighter role, a Regular, Non-Exempt, Full-time, BFFA Union, Grade 15 position within the Burlington Fire Department as outlined in Chief Locke's memo dated, May 22, 2021.

4.04 Communication: Darren Springer, General Manager, Burlington Electric Department, re: Grant Approval for Electric Bucket Truck - authorize the General Manager of the Burlington Electric Department to enter into a grant agreement with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources with the term ending June 30, 2023, as described above, to accept up to \$560,000 in grant funds to support the purchase of an all-electric bucket truck for Burlington Electric's fleet, subject to final review and approval from the City Attorney's Office.

4.05 Communication: Cindi Wight, Director, Department of Parks, Recreation & Waterfront and Erin Moreau, Waterfront Superintendent & Harbormaster, re: Lease of Vendor Space at Information Center Building, Burlington Waterfront - approve and authorize the execution of a lease agreement with Lake Champlain Chamber, to perform information services and ticket sales at the Waterfront Information Building and to authorize Mayor Miro Weinberger to execute the lease and any related documents needed to carry out the lease agreement, subject to the review of the City Attorney's Office.

4.06 Communication: Jon Adams-Kollitz, Parks Project Coordinator, Sophie Sauve, Parks Comprehensive Planner, Cindi Wight, Director, Department of Parks, Recreation & Waterfront, re: Phase 3B South Bike Path Rehabilitation Construction Contract and Budget Amendment - 1. To approve and authorize the execution of a contract with Engineers Construction Inc. for a price not to exceed \$1,004,258 for the Burlington Bike Path Rehabilitation Phase 3B South Construction Project, plus a project contingency of \$150,639, and to authorize Cindi Wight, Director of Parks and Recreation, to execute the contract and any related documents needed to carry out the project, subject to the review of the City Attorney's Office; and 2. To approve and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, or their designee, to affect the necessary budget amendment and transfer of \$635,517 in fund from the unassigned fund (GL 110-00-000-000) to the existing Fiscal Year 2022 Greenway Rehabilitation Budget (GL 831-23-700.9500_800), raising the account amount from \$647,513 to \$1,283,030 to pay the Fiscal Year 2021 Bike Path Phase 3B South Rehabilitation Project expenses.

4.07 FIO Documents – for information only.

4.08 Communication: Kara Alnasrawi, Director Economic Recovery, re: Activation of College Street Terrace in City Hall Park -





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waive the reading, accept the communication and place it on file.

MOTION by Councilor Stromberg, SECOND by Councilor Freeman, to adopt the consent agenda as amended, taking the actions as indicated for items 4.01-4.08.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

5. DELIBERATIVE AGENDA

5.01 Special Event Outdoor Entertainment Permit Application (one day only): Zero Gravity, 716 Pine Street, 6/12/21, 1 pm - 4 pm, Fundraise for Loving Day Vermont, DJ

MOTION by Councilor Mason, SECOND by Councilor Hanson, to approve the one day only special event outdoor entertainment permit application for Zero Gravity, 716 Pine Street, 6/12/21, 1 pm - 4 pm, Fundraise for Loving Day Vermont, DJ.

VOTING: unanimous motion carries.

5.02 Special Event Outdoor Entertainment Permit Application (one day only): Zero Gravity, 716 Pine Street, 6/13/21, 3 pm - 6 pm, trio of jazz musicians

MOTION by Councilor Mason, SECOND by Councilor Freeman, to approve the one day only special event outdoor entertainment permit application for Zero Gravity, 716 Pine Street, 6/13/21, 3 pm - 6 pm, trio of jazz musicians.

5.03 Communication: Mayor Miro Weinberger, re: Fiscal Year 2022 Mayoral Appointments

MOTION by Councilor Mason, SECOND by Councilor Carpenter, to confirm the Fiscal Year 2022 Mayoral Appointments.

DISCUSSION:

- **Mayor Weinberger presented the slate of department heads for confirmation by the Council.**

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.



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5.04 Vote on Board of Finance Vacancy

MOTION by Councilor Stromberg, SECOND by Councilor Stromberg, to nominate Zoraya Hightower to the Board of Finance.

There were no other nominations.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

Zoraya Hightower is now a member of the Board of Finance.

5.05 Resolution: Rescinding COVID-19 Emergency Order - Wearing Face Coverings in Retail Stores and City Buildings

MOTION by Councilor Carpenter, SECOND by Councilor Hightower, to waive the reading and adopt the resolution.

DISCUSSION:

- Councilor Carpenter said that Chittenden County is on the right trajectory in terms of vaccination rates and complimented the City's creative efforts to vaccinate more of the population through pop-up sites. She said that now feels like the appropriate time to ease masking restrictions.
- Mayor Weinberger said that pop-up vaccination sites will continue during Jazz Fest at City Hall Park, as well as a pop-up site on Juneteenth.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

5.06 Resolution: Refocusing 2021 Chittenden County I-89 2050 Study (Councilors Hanson, Stromberg)

MOTION by Councilor Hanson, SECOND by Councilor Stromberg waive the reading and adopt the resolution with the following amendment:

- Delete from Line 27-28 "or maintaining pre-Covid capacity"

DISCUSSION:





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- **Councilor Hanson said that this study has been ongoing through the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) and that the CCRPC gave a presentation to the TEUC and asked for the City's input. He noted that this is the largest study the Commission is undertaking currently. He emphasized that the study is looking out to 2050. He said that the transportation needs to shift for many reasons and that resources being put into automobile-dependent planning is not useful. He said that this resolution requests the CCRPC refocus the study on reducing the number of miles traveled along the I-89 corridor.**
- **Councilor Stromberg said that this could signal for other municipalities that policy actions can be taken at the local level to make a positive impact on the climate crisis. She said that refocusing the study makes sense and that attention should be focused on sustainability.**
- **Councilor Barlow said that the options around Exits 13 and 14 could be useful and expressed hesitancy to discard them. He said that the focus of the current study isn't incompatible with larger climate-related strategies and goals.**
- **Councilor Dieng asked if the sponsors of this resolution have discussed this request with the CCRPC Board. Councilor Hanson replied that the CCRPC director welcomed the idea of a resolution to refocus the study, though they didn't not discuss this with the CCRPC Board itself. He said the CCRPC isn't against refocusing the study away from exploring new automobile infrastructure.**

VOTING (by roll call): Councilor Barlow – nay, Councilor Carpenter – aye, Councilor Dieng – aye, Councilor Freeman – aye, Councilor Hanson – aye, Councilor Hightower – aye, Councilor Mason – aye, Councilor Paul – aye, Councilor Shannon – aye, Councilor Stromberg – aye, City Council President Tracy – aye (10 ayes, 1 nay); motion carries.

5.07 Ordinance: Burlington Code of Ordinances--Chapter 14. Solid Waste--Article I. In General--Section 14. Solid Waste Generation Tax--Removal Of Specific Solid Waste Generation Tax Rate (Department of Public Works)

MOTION by Councilor Hanson, SECOND by Councilor Stromberg, to vote to suspend the rules and place the ordinance amendment to Chapter 14 § 14 Solid Waste Generation Tax, Subsection (II)(b), in all stages of passage.

DISCUSSION:

Director Spencer outlined the changes, which would adjust the solid waste generation tax, which funds the city's consolidated collection of recycling from \$4.84 to \$5.86 per month per customer, and address how the rates are set each year so that it can be established by resolution in the budgeting process rather than through ordinance.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

5.08 Presentation: Todd Schurz and Mike Loucy, re: Annual Burlington Telecom Presentation (verbal)

Chris Dautel and Mike Loucy provided an update on Burlington Telecom. Mr. Dautel spoke about the 2020 year's highlights. He said that BT create a special remote learning program for school-aged children, set up free voice calling at a temporary pandemic encampment, installed 4 in-building Wi-Fi hot spots to support remote learning for BHS students, voluntarily suspended delinquent broadband account disconnection practices and developed more lenient repayment





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plans, and engaged in solutions review for difficult-to-reach areas in the City. He also spoke about community commitment efforts and new products and services.

Mr. Loucy noted that BT has approximately 9,400 subscribers and that network usage has increased by 34% since 2019, that BT has 29 employees and 115 linear miles of fiber. He said that in terms of capital spend, BT has spent \$9,963,851 between 2018 and 2020, well over their \$8,840,000 maximum commitment for capital projects.

Mr. Dautel spoke about the Burlington Telecom Innovation Fund, which is committed to spend \$250,000 per year for 10 years to support local startups and growth companies that are investable with a social, diverse, or green aspect. He said that these investments continued in 2020 and will continue in 2021, despite Covid.

Mr. Loucy provided details about Burlington Telecom's STEM and Technical Training Fund, which teaches basic technical skills and competencies to high school students and workforce to remain relevant and improve employment prospects.

5.09 Communication: Amy Jewell, Director, Administration, re: Chittenden Solid Waste District Proposed FY 22 Budget

MOTION by Councilor Carpenter, SECOND by Councilor Barlow, to approve the Chittenden Solid Waste District Proposed FY 22 Budget.

DISCUSSION:

- Sarah Reeves, Executive Director of the Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD), began her presentation by noting that CSWD is a municipal district created in 1987 to oversee and manage the solid waste generated in Chittenden County, that it is governed by volunteer commissioners of 18 towns and that the mission is to reduce and manage the waste generated within Chittenden County in an environmentally sound and efficient manner. She outlined how CSWD is funded, which include user fees (customers pay directly to CSWD), revenue from solid waste management fee (per ton, charged to haulers brought to Coventry landfill), and from material and compost sales. She emphasized that CSWD is not funded directly by cities and towns or through assessed per capita fees or through property tax dollars, though she did note that CSWD does receive grants from the state. She outlined the Fiscal Year 2022 budget, noting that CSWD is anticipating revenue of \$12,954,793, which they believe is a conservative amount, and expenditures of \$12,323,072. She noted that the gap between revenue and expenditures will be divided among reserve funds and that they are proposing only minor fee increases. She said that they are anticipating robust sales for compost and recycling, due to high demand for cardboard and residents' increased interest in home gardening. She noted that Burlington has around \$10,000 available in funding to spend on community clean-up activities and events and will be receiving another \$2,000 in July for any project in the City that is solid waste related (like tire cleanup and waste reduction).
- Councilor Hanson asked about the process for approval of the budget and who else it is presented to, since in 2019 it had been presented to the TEUC prior to the City Council. Ms. Reeves replied that the normal process is that the budget would be presented to the City Council for approval and that 2019 was an anomaly in terms of the TEUC receiving the presentation first. Councilor Hanson asked what steps CSWD has taken in





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terms of reducing waste. Ms. Reeves replied that it is difficult to measure what isn't used. She said that a large component of what CSWD does is outreach and education to the community. She said that strategies include looking at the drivers of increased waste generation in its member communities. She noted that more waste tends to be generated when the economy is performing strongly.

- Councilor Hightower also emphasized looking at what other municipalities are doing in terms of measuring waste reduction.
- Councilor Dieng asked about plans for a facility in Burlington. Ms. Reeves replied that a facility could be located on Pine Street or Flynn Avenue, but that CSWD is waiting to see how Burlington's consolidated collection program moves forward. Councilor Dieng asked about CSWD education programs and Ms. Reeves outlined the different educational activities that CSWD conducts, both at their facilities and out in the community.

VOTING (by roll call): Councilor Barlow – aye, Councilor Carpenter – aye, Councilor Dieng – aye, Councilor Freeman – nay, Councilor Hanson – nay, Councilor Hightower – aye, Councilor Mason – aye, Councilor Paul – aye, Councilor Shannon – aye, Councilor Stromberg – nay, City Council President Tracy – nay (7 ayes, 4 nays); motion carries.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.01 Verbal Reports

Councilor Paul said that the Public Safety Committee will meet on June 9th at 5:30 PM to discuss the CSL job description. She also noted that she and City Council President Tracy participate at CommStat meetings, which occur the third Thursday of each month. At their last meeting they heard a presentation from a provider that is working on opioid prevention sites. She said they discussed effective community engagement, implementation models, and an implementation plan for Burlington around opioid prevention sites.

Councilor Shannon said that the Parks, Arts, and Culture Committee will meet June 21st at 6:00 PM and will be discussing the dog task force.

Councilor Hanson said that the Transportation, Energy, and Utilities Committee will meet on June 15th at 5:30 to discuss rooftop solar panels and setback requirements to help facilitate rooftop solar.

Councilor Hightower said that the Joint Committee will meet on June 23 to review the results of the Talitha survey, which is currently being analyzed.

7. CITY COUNCIL – GENERAL AFFAIRS

7.01 Verbal Reports

City Council President Tracy noted the passing of former Councilor and crossing guard Cheryl McDonough and





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remembered her years of service and dedication to the community.

8. CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT – COUNCIL UPDATES

8.01 Verbal Reports

City Council President Tracy said that he will temporarily fill in for Councilor Pine's assignments on the Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee and the Community Development and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee. He said that the newly-elected Ward 3 councilor will assume some of those positions once the special election is held.

City Council President Tracy noted that in-person City Council meetings should resume at Contois Auditorium at some point later this summer.

He also noted that the Board and Commission process will hear interviews from 39 applicants tomorrow evening, after which appointments to Boards and Commissions will be filled if consensus is reached (or voted on by the full City Council if consensus is not reached).

9. MAYOR – GENERAL AFFAIRS

9.01 Verbal Reports

Mayor Weinberger provided an update on the FY22 budget process, noting that there are still several outstanding items and that his administration anticipates submitting the entire package to the Council for their consideration at the end of this week. He also noted that the police chief survey has been released and will be available through the end of this week for Burlingtonians.

Mayor Weinberger spoke about upcoming community events, which include the in-person Burlington High School graduation, the Burlington Jazz Festival, and Juneteenth.

10. ADJOURNMENT

10.01 Motion to adjourn

MOTION by Councilor Stromberg, SECOND by Councilor Mason, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

The City Council meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.



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RScty: AACoonrad

