



Regular City Council Meeting - Monday, May 23, 2022, 6:00 pm, Contois Auditorium OR REMOTELY via ZOOM 5/23/2022

BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL, CONTOIS AUDITORIUM *OR*

REMOTE MEETING WITH CALL-IN

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

MINUTES OF MEETING

May 23, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Paul

Joan Shannon

Jack Hanson

Ali Dieng

Perri Freeman

Sarah E Carpenter

Zoraya Hightower

Mark Barlow

Gene Bergman

Ben Traverse

Ali House

OTHERS PRESENT: Miro Weinberger

Katherine Schad

Stephen Ellis

Jordan Redell

Lori Olberg

Sarah Montgomery



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Brian Pine

Samantha Dunn

Meagan Tuttle

Nancy Stetson

Chapin Spencer

Laura Wheelock

Olivia Darisse

Bill Ward

Kim Sturtevant

1. CALL TO ORDER and AGENDA

1.01 Motion to amend/adopt agenda

The meeting was called to order by City Council President Paul at 6:20 PM.

MOTION by Councilor Barlow, SECOND by Councilor Bergman, to amend and adopt the agenda as follows:

- **add to the consent agenda item 6.38 Communication: Chris Flinn, re: re-districting with the action to "waive the reading, accept the communication and place it on file";**
- **note revised version of agenda item 7.03 Resolution: Enforcement of Bed and Breakfast Permit Requirement and Suspension of new Bed and Breakfast Permits (Councilors Shannon, Bergman)(per Councilors Shannon, Bergman)**

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries (Councilor Freeman absent for vote).

2. WORK SESSION REGARDING MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM **6 pm – 7 pm**

2.01 Work Session Regarding Memorial Auditorium **6 pm – 7 pm**

James Lockeridge said that Memorial Auditorium is a landmark and that restoring the City's performing arts stages ensures that all in the City have their voices heard. He said that in 2018, voters said they wanted Memorial Auditorium restored. He asked that Councilors heed that advice and restore Memorial Auditorium to what the voters have asked for.



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Director Pine began by speaking about the various uses that Memorial Auditorium has had in the past. He noted that the goal for this working session is to update the Council on the conditions at Memorial Auditorium and establish next steps for moving ahead with work on it.

Assistant Director Dunn provided background on Memorial Auditorium. She noted that it was built in 1927 and has had a long history of serving as a community assembly space. She noted that the City has struggled since the 1990s to keep up with repairs and that it was closed as a space in 2016 due to safety concerns. She noted a 2018 redevelopment effort that proposed four options: mothball the building (keep it closed), perform basic renovations to address safety repairs and upgrades, make the building into a community hub with performance, market, and event spaces, and make the building into a community hub and also bring in private partners for development of mixed use superblock. She outlined the costs of each of these options. She noted that the City used the mothball option, closing the building. She noted that the structure is continuing to deteriorate, that there is damage caused by vandalism, and that there is continued water infiltration. Mayor Weinberger noted that there was an attempt to bring forward a community hub option, but then Covid halted that work.

She spoke about the assessment conducted in 2021-2022 that focused on immediate stabilization of the building. She noted that it provided a structural stabilization review, that they conducted hazardous materials testing, and that they received cost estimates for both abatement and demolition. She said that as a result of that assessment, recommendations were made to reinforce the roof, repair and seal the parapet to prevent water infiltration, and adding containment netting at vulnerable locations to reduce the potential for falling bricks.

She listed two action items that are on the table: stabilize the building or demolish the building. She said that there is funding available (\$1 million) to conduct the stabilization activity (noting that it would still mean that the building is unoccupiable). She said that there some funding available should the City choose to demolish the building, but that there would be a \$2.25 million gap between available funding and the funding needed to conduct that activity.

She spoke about why the City can't move forward with its 2018 options. She said that one reason is due to escalated capital costs—price tags for options proposed in 2018 have had significant cost increases. Mayor Weinberger noted that the City's general obligation bonding capacity is currently \$0, and any capacity in near future will likely be committed to constructing the new high school.

Assistant Director Dunn then spoke about future redevelopment options. She outlined one involving a public/private partnership to develop a community hub, which would use private (donation-based) funding, and a mix of federal and state funding. The pros of this option would be to retain the historic fabric of the building and bring back an important assembly space to the City, but the cons include whether raising this amount of funding is feasible. She outlined a second option which would be an adaptive reuse of the building as part of a mixed-use Gateway block, which would be funded by a private developer. She noted that it would retain the space and provide additional mixed-income housing, but that it would result in the loss of a public assembly space and potentially the historic fabric of the building.



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Assistant Director Dunn then asked the City Council for input on several key factors. She asked for input on whether to stabilize or demolish the building, what the goals and priorities are for City redevelopment, and said that next steps would depend on whether action is taken on Memorial Auditorium only, or whether the decision would be to redevelop the Gateway Block. She asked the Council what are their 'must haves' for the space, and what are the 'would be nice' items.

Councilor Shannon said that it would be good to review past discussions held with the community around this topic, such as input from the Park, Arts, and Culture Committee, and other community input. She said that the City Council's main concern should be around funding.

Councilor Barlow said that if the City were to pursue private development of the space, why would that entail a loss of public space. Assistant Director Dunn replied that if the space was converted into a mixed-use space, then it would be likely that the main auditorium itself would be removed, which is what she means when she talks about a loss of public space. Councilor Barlow asked about the relationship of Memorial Auditorium in the context of the redevelopment of the greater block. He asked what the opportunities are for the whole block. Mayor Weinberger replied that the City does not own all of the property on the block, but that if they decided to pursue a full redevelopment of the block, they would seek more clarity and develop a more concrete plan for that.

Councilor Bergman said that demolition may risk another pit in the middle of downtown Burlington, and he does not support it. He said that he is intrigued with the Get It Done Memorial approach, and agreed with Councilor Shannon that they should look at some of the preferences and options that the public wanted. He said that he would also like clarity on the funding.

Councilor Dieng said that they need to revisit the community discussion that occurred in 2018, since the priorities have changed between 2018 and 2022 (as a result of events such as the pandemic and the current state of the high school). He said that he would not support using excess bond capacity for Memorial Auditorium. He said that selling Memorial Auditorium should be an option. He said that there could also be regional options, if other communities would like to invest in the space.

Councilor Hightower said that she does not support demolition. She said that the City needs to focus on the plan for the Burlington High School prior to pursuing an option for Memorial. She said whatever option is chosen should be at least partially taxpayer-dollar funded, to ensure that it remains a true public space.

Councilor Magee said that Memorial Auditorium is an essential and worthwhile gathering space. He said that anything that can be done to ensure that the City has such public spaces is very important.

Councilor Traverse said that he would not be in support of demolition. He noted that the auditorium is a memorial for veterans and that there are members of the veterans' community who are particularly interested in saving the space. He said that he would be in support of both revisiting past public input as well as gathering more current public input. He



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asked what efforts have been made to find alternative resources for financing other than bonding.

City Council President Paul said that she agrees with other Councilors and that she would support seeking additional public input.

Assistant Director Dunn said that based on tonight's discussion, they will move forward with stabilization as an immediate next step. She said that they will also work to put together responses to tonight's questions as well as flesh out additional information on a public-private partnership. She said that she anticipates returning by the end of the summer with more fleshed-out options. Mayor Weinberger said that the administration does not support demolishing Memorial Auditorium and that they will work with staff to put together more detailed options.

MOTION by Councilor Magee, SECOND by Councilor House, to accept the communication and place it on file.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries (Councilor Freeman absent for vote).

3. PRESENTATION REGARDING REDISTRICTING DISCUSSION AND INTRODUCTION OF MAPS **7:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

3.01 Presentation Regarding Redistricting Discussion and Introduction of Maps **7:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

Senior Policy Advisor Stetson began by noting that in April, the Council had requested the administration to draw maps for seven, eight, and twelve wards, keeping the New North End (NNE) distinct from the Old North End (ONE), and considering neighborhood integrity, compactness, and a new approach to the current Ward 8. She briefly outlined some constraints, such as a limit to allowable deviations for ward size, that the New North End has limited options for configurations separate from the rest of the City due to population size, and that there are UVM campus population errors to take into consideration. She went into further detail about separate wards for the New North End, noting that the division of the New North End would be within the allowable deviation for a 4, 8, 12, or 13-ward map. She also provided more detail on the UVM population errors, noting that the population counts on the southern UVM campus are misallocated and that accurate bed counts from UVM are needed in order to split this area into separate wards.

She then presented a draft 7 ward option, two different draft 8 ward options, and a 12 ward option. She noted that the more wards a map includes, the smaller the population deviations can be and still be within the 10% limit. Director Tuttle outlined key questions for discussion, which include the number of wards, how the New North End should be divided, division of the campus area south of Main Street, and any other considerations.

Councilor Bergman asked if the proposed maps were kept to census blocks, and asked whether they considered splitting census blocks. Senior Policy Advisor Stetson said that she did not split census blocks in the initial maps, and that they would need Council input in order to move forward with that activity. Director Tuttle said that while it is possible to use smaller units of measure than census blocks, some of the census blocks are single City blocks. She said that this poses a



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challenge, since they would need to have exact counts of occupancy for each block.

4.0 PUBLIC FORUM

4.01 Verbal Comments

Forum opened at 7:30 PM.

COMMENTS:

Burlington residents (in person):

- Diana Carlisle spoke about the short-term rental resolution. She said that enforcement mechanisms and deadlines for compliance are needed. She acknowledged that not all short-term rental units are bad, but that they all need to be regulated and that short-term rentals needs to be addressed as a problem in the City.
- Chris Haessley said that the mapmaking committee's analysis was congruent with Ms. Stetson's analysis in terms of the challenges around the Old North End and New North End borders. He said that census blocks present a challenge in terms of size and shape, which makes it difficult to tweak the maps at a granular level. He suggested sending a communication to the census bureau to try and address the problem.
- David Shine spoke about his activity around trying to save and restore Memorial Auditorium. He said that that site has been deeded to the public and that privatizing it would be a violation of trust. He said that the City is sorely lacking in public auditorium spaces and that there should be a better public space for performers and students.
- Todd Lacroix spoke about his activities during Occupy Wall Street and said that the same people who were fighting the demonstrators during that event are the same people who participated in the January 6th attacks on the Capitol. He said that the community should not become complacent and let their rights be taken away.
- Brad spoke in support of the proposed changes on Main Street, in terms of adding more pedestrian and bicycle access.

Burlington residents (via Zoom):

- Linda Risdée spoke about two redistricting concerns. She said that the new map should not be gerrymandered, and said that Ward 8 runs the risk of being gerrymandered. She also spoke about the difficulty of campaigning in Ward 8, as much of the voting population lives on campus and access to that population for potential candidates is limited.
- Maddie Poesig spoke about redistricting. She expressed concern that Ward 8 campaigning is difficult. She said that due to the transient nature of students who live in dorms, it has been challenging to find both candidates and poll workers in Ward 8. She said that the student population should be evenly distributed throughout the City, not concentrated in a single ward.
- Andrea Rogers spoke about redistricting, saying that breaking the City up into 12 wards would split neighborhoods and run the risk of losing character in some of the wards. She said that much smaller wards doesn't make good economic and management sense. She expressed a preference for either 7 or 8 wards.

Non-Burlington residents (in person):

- Phil Carlton spoke about worsening conditions in the downtown transit center, saying that many older residents do not feel safe downtown. He also warned that the country is headed toward a monarchy or empire.

Non-Burlington residents (via Zoom):



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- JP Cosino spoke about the Main Street Great Streets project, expressing concern about the proposed removal of parking spaces in that area downtown. He said that Main Street businessowners have not been consulted or outreached about these proposed changes.

Forum closed at 7:55 PM.

5. CLIMATE EMERGENCY REPORTS

5.01 Climate Emergency Reports

None at this time.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

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

6.02 Communication: C/T Office, re: Special Board of Civil Authority Meeting Minutes, March 4, 2022, Draft - waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file and adopt the minutes as received at the May 9, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting.

6.03 Communication: C/T Office, re: Board of Civil Authority Meeting Minutes, March 7, 2022, Draft - waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file and adopt the minutes as received at the May 9, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting.

6.04 Communication: C/T Office, re: Regular City Council Meeting Minutes, March 7, 2022, Draft - waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file and adopt the minutes as received at the May 9, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting.

6.05 Communication: C/T Office, re: Local Control Commission Meeting Minutes, March 7, 2022, Draft - waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file and adopt the minutes as received at the May 9, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting.

6.06 Communication: C/T Office, re: Local Control Commission Meeting Minutes, March 21, 2022, Draft - waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file and adopt the minutes as received at the May 9, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting.

6.07 Communication: C/T Office, re: Regular City Council Meeting Minutes, March 21, 2022, Draft - waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file and adopt the minutes as received at the May 9, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting.

6.08 Communication: C/T Office, re: City Council Organization Day Meeting Minutes, April 4, 2022, Draft - waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file and adopt the minutes as received at the May 9, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting.

6.09 Communication: C/T Office, re: Local Control Commission Meeting Minutes, April 11, 2022, Draft - waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file and adopt the minutes as received at the May 9, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting.



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6.10 Communication: C/T Office, re: Regular City Council Meeting Minutes, April 11, 2022, Draft - waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file and adopt the minutes as received at the May 9, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting.

6.11 Communication: C/T Office, re: Full Board of Abatement of Taxes Meeting Minutes, April 25, 2022, Draft - waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file and adopt the minutes as received at the May 9, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting.

6.12 Communication: C/T Office, re: Regular City Council Meeting Minutes, April 25, 2022, Draft - waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file and adopt the minutes as received at the May 9, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting.

6.13 Communication: C/T Office, re: Local Control Commission Meeting Minutes, April 25, 2022, Draft - waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file and adopt the minutes as received at the May 9, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting.

6.14 Communication: Emma Vaughan, Communications Manager, CCRPC to Mayor Weinberger, re: PAC Appointments

6.15 Special Event Outdoor Entertainment Permit Application (May 27 - October 1, 2022): Burlington City Arts, City Hall Park, Varying Hours, Dancing by Patrons Yes, Amplified Music Yes - approve the special event outdoor entertainment permit application for Burlington City Arts, May 27 - October 1, 2022, City Hall Park, Varying Hours, Dancing by Patrons Yes, Amplified Music Yes.

6.16 Special Event Outdoor Entertainment Permit Application (August 5 - 7, 2022): Burlington City Arts, Church Street Marketplace and City Hall Park, Festival of Fools, Friday: 12 pm - 10 pm, Saturday: 11 am - 10 pm, Sunday: 10 am - 7 pm, Dancing by Patrons Yes, Amplified Music Yes - approve the special event outdoor entertainment permit application for Burlington City Arts, Church Street Marketplace and City Hall Park, Festival of Fools, Friday: 12 pm - 10 pm, Saturday: 11 am - 10 pm, Sunday: 10 am - 7 pm, Dancing by Patrons Yes, Amplified Music Yes.

6.17 Special Event Outdoor Entertainment Permit Application (August 5 - 7, 2022): Halvorson's, Church Street Marketplace, supper club-style variety show, 6 pm - 10 pm, Dancing by Patrons Yes, Amplified Music Yes - approve the three day only special event outdoor entertainment permit application for Halvorson's, Church Street Marketplace, supper club-style variety show, 6 pm - 10 pm, Dancing by Patrons Yes, Amplified Music Yes.

6.18 Special Event Outdoor Entertainment Permit Application (July 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022): Higher Ground Presents, In the back parking lot of 405 Pine Street (BCA Studios), 5 pm - 11 pm on Weekends/5 pm - 10 pm on Weeknights, Dancing by Patrons Yes, Amplified Music Yes - approve the special outdoor entertainment permit application for Higher Ground Presents, July 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022, In the back parking lot of 405 Pine Street (BCA Studios), 5 pm - 11 pm on Weekends/5 pm - 10 pm on Weeknights, Dancing by Patrons Yes, Amplified Music Yes with the following conditions: fire inspection and passage of space, and at least 30 days notice of larger events (more than 1,000 people) to the City Clerk's Office and Fire Marshal's office.

6.19 Communication: Nic Longo, Acting Director of Aviation, re: Authorization to Execute a Contract for the Supply and Installation of Taxiway Pavement Marking at the Burlington International Airport with Hi-Life Airfield Services, LLC - approve that the Acting Director of Aviation be authorized to execute a contract with Hi-Lite Airfield Services, LLC, in the amount of \$86,518.40, plus a 20% contingency of \$17,303.68, totaling \$103,822.08, for the supply and installation of taxiway markings on Taxiways C, M, A, B, C and J at the Burlington International Airport, subject to the final review and approval by the Office of the City Attorney.

6.20 Communication: Nic Longo, Acting Director of Aviation, re: Authorization to Execute a Contract for the Preventative Maintenance and Servicing of Passenger Boarding Bridges and Conveyor Baggage Handling Systems at the Burlington International Airport with Oxford Electronics, Inc. - approve that the Acting Director of Aviation be authorized to execute a



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contract with Oxford Electronics, Inc. in the amount of \$235,500 to conduct preventative maintenance and servicing of passenger boarding bridges (PBB) and conveyor baggage handling systems (CBHS) through June 30, 2025 subject to the final review and approval by the Office of the City Attorney.

6.21 Communication: Eric Axelrod, CEO, Wood4Good, LTD,, re: Use of Council Initiative Funds to bring three truckloads of wood from N. Beach to Jericho, to then be given away to local families in need. - approve the use of up to \$1,000 of Councilor initiative funds to allow Wood for Good to remove certain trees at the direction of the City.

6.22 Communication: Nancy Stetson, Senior Policy and Data Analyst, Meagan Tuttle, Director of Planning, re: Contract Extension for Wastewater Testing Program - authorize an extension to the GoAigua contract through December 31, 2022, including an increase to the maximum limiting amount of the contract as approved on September 7th by the Board of Finance by \$57,780, to a total amount of \$350,988, to be entered into by the Planning Director, subject to review by the City Attorney's Office.

6.23 Communication: Caleb Manna, Excavation Inspector, Department of Public Works, re: State of Vermont Building, Grounds, and Services - 108 Cherry Street - Encumbrance Permit Request - approve the Encumbrance Application for 108 Cherry Street requesting use of the sidewalk for construction of an ADA entry ramp, and authorize the Mayor to enter into a license agreement with the Applicant for use of the portion of the right-of-way outlined in the Application, subject to review by the City Attorney's Office.

6.24 Communication: Caleb Manna, Excavation Inspector, Department of Public Works, re: 150 Cherry Street - Vivid Coffee - Outdoor Seating on Sidewalk - approve the Encumbrance Application for 150 Cherry Street requesting use of the sidewalk for an outdoor seating area and authorize the Mayor to enter into a license agreement with the Applicant for use of the portion of the right-of-way outlined in the Application, subject to review by the City Attorney's Office.

6.25 Communication: Caleb Manna, Excavation Inspector, Department of Public Works, re: 191 College Street - The Archives - Encumbrance Permit Request - approve the Encumbrance Application for 191 College Street requesting use of the metered parking stalls for outdoor seating area and authorize the Mayor to enter into a license agreement with the Applicant for use of the portion of the right-of-way outlined in the Application, subject to review by the City Attorney's Office.

6.26 Communication: Caleb Manna, Excavation Inspector, Department of Public Works, re: 198 Main Street - Cafe Hot - Outdoor Seating Encumbrance - approve the Encumbrance Application for 198 Main Street requesting use of the sidewalk for an outdoor seating area and authorize the Mayor to enter into a license agreement with the Applicant for use of the portion of the right-of-way outlined in the Application, subject to review by the City Attorney's Office.

6.27 Communication: Caleb Manna, Excavation Inspector, Department of Public Works, re: 4 North Winooski Ave - The OP Bar - Encumbrance Application - approve the Encumbrance Application for 4 North Winooski Avenue requesting use of the sidewalk for an outdoor seating area and authorize the Mayor to enter into a license agreement with the Applicant for use of the portion of the right-of-way outlined in the Application, subject to review by the City Attorney's Office.

6.28 Communication: Susan Comferford, Ward Five, Inspector of Elections, re: Resignation - waive the reading, accept the communication and place it on file.

6.29 Communication: Brynne Martin, Member, Planning Commission, re: Resignation - waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file, advertise the vacancy in Seven Days and send a letter of appreciation to Brynne Martin thanking her for her time served as a Member of the Planning Commission.

6.30 Indoor and Outdoor Entertainment Permit Renewals (2022-2023): Finnigan's Pub and VFW - approve the 2022-2023 Indoor and Outdoor Entertainment Permit Renewals for Finnigan's Pub (indoor and outdoor) and VFW (indoor) with all standard conditions.



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6.31 Communication: Doreen Kraft and Phet Keomanyvanh, re: Authorization to Execute Contract for Dewey Park Art Project with Humanity Memorial, Inc. and to Transfer Funds to the Public Art Capital Budget - 1. "To authorize the Director of Burlington City Arts to execute a contract with Humanity Memorial, Inc for a public art project to be placed in Dewey Park in the amount of \$140,000, subject to review and approval by the City Attorney's Office; and 2. To authorize a budget amendment by transferring funds from Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging's operating budget in the General Fund to the Public Art Capital Fund as detailed in Attachment B, subject to review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer."

6.32 Communication: Deryk Roach, Facilities & Parks Superintendent, re: Annual July 3rd Fireworks Display Recommendation of Award - authorize the execution of a contract with Northstar Fireworks upon City Council approval, for a not to exceed price of \$200,000 for the annual July 3rd Fireworks Display from 2022-2026 by Director Cindi Wight, subject to the approval of the City Attorney's Office.

6.33 Communication: Rebecca Reese, Early Learning Initiative Manager, Kara Alnasrawi, Director, Economic Recovery, re: Early Learning Initiative Annual Report May 2022 - waive the reading, accept the communication and place it on file.

6.34 Communication: Caleb Manna, Excavation Inspector, Department of Public Works, re: 6 Pine Street - Economic Recovery Team - Encumbrance Permit Request - approve the Encumbrance Application for 6 Pine Street requesting use of one metered parking stall for an outdoor seating area and to waive the encumbrance fees as outlined in BCO 27-32, subject to review by the Chief Administrative Officer.

6.35 Burlington Dog Task Force Quarterly Report to Burlington City Council, Parks, Arts, and Culture Committee - extending the deadline for the Dog Task Force report from April 1, 2022 to October 28, 2022 based on an update from community lead Jake Schumann at the May 12, 2022 PACC meeting. All aspects of the task force mandate are underway and are anticipated to be completed in advance of the requested new deadline per Schumann. Further details of the Dog Task Force progress are available in the PACC minutes.

6.36 FIO Documents – for information only.

6.37 Resolution: Recommendation For Reappointment Of William Ward As City Health Officer (Councilors Traverse, Bergman) - waive the reading and adopt the resolution.

6.38 Communication: Chris Flinn, re: re-districting - waive the reading, accept the communication and place it on file.

MOTION by Councilor Bergman, SECOND by Councilor Shannon, to amend/adopt the consent agenda and take the actions as indicated for items 6.01-6.38.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

7. DELIBERATIVE AGENDA

7.01 Continuation of the Discussion regarding Redistricting and Introduction of the maps (20 mins.)

Councilor Hanson asked if moving to a 12-ward system would legally require having a polling place in each of the 12 new wards. Director Tuttle replied that they will confirm with the City Attorney's Office, but said that one of the goals was that each ward would have a polling place. Councilor Hanson said that a 12-ward arrangement would allow for representation



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in a much more hyper-local way, and that it would avoid the controversies of developing a 7 or 8-ward map.

Councilor Carpenter said that she has asked the City Attorney and the Charter Change Committee about whether each ward needs to have a polling place and whether such a change would need to be made through ordinance or through charter.

Councilor House said that it is important to engage the student population in local government, but does not think that a gerrymandered district is the right approach for that. She said that it will be good to engage the student population as the City moves forward in developing more equitable wards.

Councilor Hightower said that the 12-ward map is difficult, since people will feel more cut off. She said that she prefers the 12-ward map over a situation where there are districts again. She said that they should abandon the 8-ward map that basically just updates the current map. She said that she would be in favor of the 7-ward and 12-ward maps.

Councilor Traverse asked whether staff have looked at the work done by the mapmaking committee and whether that has a downtown map. Senior Policy Advisor Stetson replied that the main difference between the maps that they had produced and the maps that she had produced is that they included that athletic campus block in Ward 1, which moved the Riverside Avenue neighborhood into Ward 2. Councilor Traverse said that a 12-ward map might be good, but that many Burlington residents have feelings of ward identity and said he does not know if voters want to deviate too much from the current structure. He said he also supports a 7-ward map, and that he prefers the second 8-ward map. He said that he would defer to Councilors from the North End about how the ONE and NNE should be divided. He said that it would be good to align with new house and senate district boundary lines where possible. He said that a big question in this discussion is what the size of the Council will be.

Councilor Barlow asked about the updated dorm counts and inaccuracies. He asked whether these affected Citywide counts. Senior Policy Advisor Stetson replied that the students were counted, but were counted in different blocks. Director Tuttle noted that the misallocation error occurred in 2010, and that they have proactively reached out to UVM to receive student counts as of March 2020. Councilor Barlow asked about the north-south and east-west delineations between the ONE and NNE in the maps and what drove that. Senior Policy Advisor Stetson replied that she made those at the request of Councilor Hightower, to try and see how they would look in a configuration. Director Tuttle added that it was also to try and ensure an equal division of population in the NNE. Councilor Barlow said he would support the least amount of change while addressing the goals of the redistricting process, and would support an east-west split in the NNE.

Councilor Carpenter echoed Councilor Barlow's sentiments.

Councilor Magee said that he supports the 12-ward option. He said that he would like to see other iterations of it that would address concerns about splitting up neighborhoods. He said that this option would have a downtown district while preserving the NNE and the ONE.



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Councilor Shannon asked if it would be possible for staff to work with the independent mapping group. She expressed concern that the 12-ward map would still have some kind of campus ward and that there are difficulties engaging members of campus wards to fill positions. She agreed with Councilor House that students should be engaged. She said that electability should be considered when making adjustments to wards. She said that the 7-ward map addresses that electability question better than other options.

Senior Policy Advisor Stetson asked where the UVM dorms should be located—she noted that they are currently in Ward 6, but said that they could be split between three different wards, or two wards, or concentrated in one ward. She said that whichever ward those blocks belong to makes a bit difference. Councilor Shannon said that the dorms that are on the south side of Main Street should be in Ward 6 and maybe Ward 8, and that the dorms on central campus would belong to Ward 1.

City Council President Paul spoke about next steps, saying that there has been a request to schedule a redistricting work session that would allow community members to present ideas on alternative maps. She said that the options could be a public forum only on the redistricting topic on June 6th, or a public forum-only meeting on June 13th devoted to that entire topic. Director Tuttle said that they could have changes made for June 6th, but could support additional discussion about maps on June 13th or June 20th.

7.02 Main Street Concept Approval and Design Contract Amendment (20 mins.)

MOTION by Councilor Hanson, SECOND by Councilor Bergman, 1. To authorize the Director of Public Works to execute contract amendments with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin Inc., raising the maximum limiting amount by \$202,534.00, with an additional \$217,000.00 (15%) in contingency funds, for a total up to \$1,663,665.00, for anticipated scope adjustments for the design of the Great Streets Main Street project, subject to final review and approval from the City Attorney's Office; and 2. To approve the Great Streets Main Street concept design's with a fully separated bicycle facility from Battery Street to South Union Street and the proposed curb-to-curb width of 40 feet, reducing from an existing varying width of 50-70 feet, which will effectuate the conversion of the on-street parking configuration from diagonal to parallel.

DISCUSSION:

- Senior Engineer Wheelock said that tonight's discussion will center on feedback that has been received and how staff are responding to it. She said that in terms of intersection control in the corridor, they plan to commission the ability to review the intersections and prepare an intersection evaluation matrix. She said that in addition, there have been concerns voiced with the on-street parking loss, and that City staff have asked their consultant to conduct a parking study and update the inventory of need, as well as evaluate availability and offer solutions. She finally noted that there were questions about the shared-use path and that there had been a previous proposal to merge the bicycle and pedestrian paths from Union to Winooski. She noted that this is not feasible and they are proposing a review of cross-section dimensions and exploring the relocation of 6 spaces.



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- Councilor Barlow said that this project will be a good improvement for Burlington, but noted that he has heard concern from businesses on Main Street. He asked about the timing of wayfinding and taking inventory for parking. Senior Engineer Wheelock said that this will happen immediately, in order to help inform the project. Director Spencer added the desire for more public input and said he and his team are committed to conducting further outreach and maintaining a strong direct line of communication with businessowners.
- Councilor Bergman said that he likes the changes to the shared use path, as well as the analysis of the intersections. He said that some of the lessons that they are learning from the TDM study on North Winooski Avenue could also be applied to this project.
- Councilor Hanson expressed strong support for the project and emphasized the importance of listening to constituents about the shared use paths used by pedestrians and cyclists, in order to ensure equity.
- Councilor Shannon said that there are certain kinds of businesses that need direct parking access (such as businesses that sell heavy equipment). She asked what the net loss/gain of parking spaces is in that area of the project, and asked whether driveway aprons and curb cuts are considered when optimizing capacity. Senior Engineer Wheelock replied that the loss is significant, as there is currently a diagonal parking configuration.
- Councilor House expressed concern about the loss of parking but said that it is important to also ensure that there is access to other forms of transportation.
- Councilor Dieng asked if there are opportunities for businesses to have temporary parking or courtesy spaces. Senior Engineer Wheelock replied that they are encouraging businesses to think about alternative parking and are working with businesses to address their specific needs.
- Mayor Weinberger said that this project will improve the tree canopy, will improve biking and walking, and will improve the City's ability to protect Lake Champlain. He said that this will be a significant, landmark change for downtown Burlington. He said he supports both material changes that have been presented tonight for consideration.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

7.03 Resolution: Enforcement of Short Term Lodging Permit Requirements (Councilors Shannon, Bergman) (20 mins.)

MOTION by Councilor Shannon, SECOND by Councilor Bergman, to waive the reading and adopt the resolution.

DISCUSSION:

- Councilor Shannon said that this was brought forward since there is confusion from the public about the enforcement of the current ordinance as it applies to short-term lodging. She said that staff have said that they are enforcing the current ordinance. She said that this resolution confirms that the City has an intention to enforce existing regulations as they apply to all lodging units, as well as clarifies that the City will be allowing for agreements to occur that allow people to honor current bookings until December 31, 2022.
- Councilor Bergman said that he spent two decades enforcing housing code for Burlington. He said that the City is in crisis in terms of loss of housing and that they need to enforce current ordinance to the extent that they are able.
- Councilor Traverse said that he would prefer that this resolution be sent to the Ordinance Committee or table the discussion for two weeks. He agreed that there is a housing crisis in Burlington and that the number of



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housing units needs to be expanded. He also agreed that short-term rentals need to be better regulated. He expressed concern that enforcing the zoning and ordinance that are in place may result in the loss of housing units, and advocated for waiting for further discussion in two weeks.

- Councilor Hanson said that he supports this. He raised a question about the December 31 deadline and wanted clarity on whether units could be booked from now until December 31 or if no further bookings are permitted. Director Tuttle said that language could be added to the resolution to specify a date by which bookings must cease to be made.
- Director Ward said that while a new ordinance is being fleshed out, code enforcement is currently being conducted and new zoning violations are being moved forward.
- Councilor Hightower said that she is not sure what this does in terms of what the City already has and expressed concern that it could lead to further confusion. She asked how this resolution would impact what is currently being done and what is being planned. Director Ward replied that it would not change what is currently being done, but it will give direction to the public on what the rules are. Councilor Hightower said she would prefer to table this discussion for two weeks until further clarity is reached.
- Councilor Dieng agreed that this discussion should be tabled. Director Ward said that they could take on what this resolution asks for without its passage, but that it provides direction to the department and sets priorities.
- Councilor Bergman said that he believes this resolution provides guidance for prioritization. He said that tabling this resolution actually signals that it is not a priority.
- Councilor Carpenter said that this resolution is confusing and that the Council committed to send this resolution back to the Ordinance Committee to develop something for the Council's consideration in June. She suggested waiting until then.

MOTION by Councilor Hightower, SECOND by Councilor Carpenter, to table this resolution.

VOTING (by roll call): Councilor Barlow – aye, Councilor Bergman – nay, Councilor Carpenter – aye, Councilor Dieng – aye, Councilor Freeman – nay, Councilor Hanson – aye, Councilor Hightower – aye, Councilor House – nay, Councilor Magee – aye, Councilor Shannon – nay, Councilor Traverse – aye, City Council President Paul – aye (8 ayes, 4 nays); motion carries.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.01 Verbal Reports

Councilor Magee said that the Public Safety Committee will not be meeting this week, and that they will meet in several weeks to develop the summary of the CNA report.

Councilor Hanson said that the Transportation, Energy, and Utilities Committee will meet tomorrow at 5:00 PM and that they will discuss the sidewalk work plan, Queen City Park Road and Austin Drive scoping, North Winooski Avenue implementation update, and Champlain Parkway updates.



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Councilor Bergman said that the Charter Change Committee will meet on Wednesday via Zoom and will discuss the non-legal resident voting matter.

Councilor Hightower said that the CDNR Committee will be meeting tomorrow.

8.02 Ordinance Committee Report

Councilor Traverse said that the Ordinance Committee will meet on May 31 to discuss short-term rentals. He said that tonight's discussion helped to gauge the Council's position on the issue as well as raise questions that could potentially be answered at the committee meeting.

9. CITY COUNCIL – GENERAL AFFAIRS

9.01 Verbal Reports

Councilor Hightower spoke about the Trinity Campus project and the zoning request changes. She said that this will be going to the Planning Commission and urged them to hold UVM to committing not to house more students off campus.

10. CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT – COUNCIL UPDATES

10.01 Verbal Reports

City Council President Paul noted that annual appointments for open board and commissions will occur next month. She said that Councilors Bergman, Carpenter, Dieng, and Magee will form a Board and Ordinance Committee along with Chief of Staff Redell.

She also noted that Councilors Barlow, Shannon, and Hightower have volunteered to review and update Council rules.

11. MAYOR – GENERAL AFFAIRS

11.01 Verbal Reports

Mayor Weinberger spoke about events coming up in the City. He noted that Jazz Fest will return to downtown Burlington June 3-12th and that the vast majority of the events will be free. He said that the first of the new BTV Market events will take place on June 4th. He additionally noted that there will be a ceremony on June 4th for the placement of a historic marker in Lakeview Cemetery to recognize the graves of 30 soldiers from the War of 1812 that have been relocated to that Cemetery.

12. ADJOURNMENT





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12.01 Motion to Adjourn

MOTION by Councilor Magee, SECOND by Councilor Dieng, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

The City Council meeting adjourned without objection at 9:58 PM.

RScty: AACoonrad

