



Regular City Council Meeting - Monday, May 20, 2019, 7:00 pm, Contois Auditorium, City Hall 5/20/2019

BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

CONTOIS AUDITORIUM, CITY HALL

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

MINUTES OF MEETING

May 20, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kurt Wright (Council President) – Ward 4

Perri Freeman – Central District

Franklin Paulino – North District

Joan Shannon – South District

Jack Hanson – East District

Sharon Foley Bushor – Ward 1

Max Tracy – Ward 2

Brian Pine – Ward 3

William "Chip" Mason – Ward 5

Karen Paul – Ward 6

Ali Dieng – Ward 7

Adam Roof – Ward 8

ADMINISTRATION: Beth Anderson, CAO

Rich Goodwin, DFO

Eileen Blackwood, City Attorney

Jordan Redell, Mayor's Office

Olivia LaVechia, Mayor's Office

Brandon del Pozo, BPD

Deanna Paluba, HR



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Brian Lowe, IT
Lori Olberg, C/T
Amy Bovee, C/T
Chapin Spencer, DPW
Robert Goulding, DPW
Darren Springer, BED
Bill Ward, Code Enforcement
David White, CEDO
Cindi Wight, Parks & Rec
Gary Rogers, Parks & Rec

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jane Knodell
Gail Moreau
Beth Hammond
Kirby Don
Candice Holbrooke
Jessie Bridges
Martha Mopus
Mark Hughes
Stephen Marshall
J.F. Carter Neubieser

1.0 CALL TO ORDER and AGENDA

Council President Wright called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM on May 20, 2019 and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.01 Agenda

MOTION by Councilor Bushor, SECOND by Councilor Paulino, to approve the agenda with the following amendments:



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- **Note information for Item 2.01 (Senior Study Committee)**
- **Note email on Item 4.04 (Crosswalk on North Avenue)**
- **Note amendment to Item 4.05 (E-Scooters)**
- **Note Final Document for Item 5.03 (Sustainable Infrastructure)**
- **Remove Item 5.04 (UVM Progress on Housing)**
- **Note additional information on Item 5.05 (Energy Efficiency in Rental Housing)**

VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

2.0 REPORT: Senior Study Committee

Jane Knodell and Gail Moreau introduced the members of the committee in attendance (Beth Hammond, Kirby Don, Candice Holbrooke, Jessie Bridges, Martha Mopus, Cindi Wight, Gary Rogers) and reviewed the charge of the committee to provide recommendations on long term provision of senior services and programming and the long term sustainability of the Heineberg Senior Center. Recommendations include:

- A two campus model for Heineberg Senior Center programming in partnership with the city, one at the Champlain Senior Center (Old North End) and one at the Heineberg Senior Center.
- The city assuming daily operation of the Heineberg Senior Center (Parks & Rec can use the space for programming) and Heineberg Senior Center maintaining the insurance and major building updates.
- City contribution of \$58,000 will continue and Heineberg Senior Center will continue to draw down the savings account and use net rental income for the space to cover operational costs.
- In FY20 the city contributes \$26,731 so Heineberg Senior Center does not have to draw down the savings account.
- For better senior services across the city a council on aging is created. The council would be self-organizing and self-directed requiring only modest support from the city (i.e. part-time staff to support and organize meetings and agendas and meeting space). The council would be a resource for the city and a way to draw upon lived experience of older residents. The Mayor and City Council will be kept updated by the council on aging.

Councilor Pine asked about the population being served. Beth Hammond, Heineberg Executive Director, said the residents are at least 50 years old with most over 75 years with income level significantly below poverty (35%), at poverty level (30%), moderate income (40%), and above moderate income (5%-8%). Gail Moreau added Wards 4 and 7 will have 33% of the population over 65 years of age, living alone, and lonely which impacts health and the community.

Councilor Tracy asked how to keep the senior center relevant to the next generation of seniors to serve the population well. Gail Moreau said people go to the center today to take classes or get a meal. A senior center with good programming stays relevant and answers the needs of the community.

Councilor Freeman asked about the private/public relationship. Jane Knodell said Heineberg Senior Center is a private, non-profit. Champlain Senior Center was rescued by the city and moved to the North End. Councilor Freeman asked if the people who manage the senior center will become city employees. Jane Knodell said the existing people will have to apply and compete for the jobs.



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Councilor Bushor said the city has been talking about 'cradle to grave' care in Burlington and has put money into early education programs. Now more is needed to be done for the senior citizens in the city. Councilor Bushor asked about the number of people served at Heineberg Senior Center and Champlain Senior Center. Parks & Rec Superintendent Rogers said 500 are served at Heineberg Senior Center over the course of a year and 800 at Champlain Senior Center, some for a one time event. Councilor Bushor said the meal and the socialization people get at the centers are important. It makes sense and is cost effective to have the two centers coordinate and share staff. Councilor Bushor asked about the budget request. Jane Knodell confirmed the request is about \$90,000. The Parks & Rec Director voted against the additional \$26,731, but the vote was unanimous on the rest of the recommendations.

Councilor Dieng asked about the legality of the city taking over the senior center. City Attorney Blackwood said the city can enter into a public/private partnership and can spend tax dollars to benefit the citizens. Councilor Dieng asked if there are savings to be realized. Beth Hammond said there will be efficiencies. The dollar amount savings is significant. Councilor Dieng asked if the same model will be at both senior centers. Recreation Superintendent Rogers said Heineberg Senior Center will keep its private, non-profit status and ownership of the building. Champlain Senior Center will not. Both centers are strong for meals and programs.

Councilor Shannon asked how seniors in the south end can be served. Gail Moreau said joining forces allows more programming and getting the word out to all older adults in the community. The city is being looked at holistically. Councilor Shannon asked if the committee had any reservations with the recommendations. Jane Knodell said there was unanimous support of the budget and one dissenting vote on the additional \$27,000 in FY20.

Councilor Mason asked if the payroll expense will be for the nonprofit or the city. Jane Knodell said the positions will be moved over to the city. Councilor Mason asked if there is money in the Parks & Rec Budget for the request. Parks & Rec Director Wight said the city contributes \$58,000 which is in the budget. The extra \$27,000 may have to come out of the Heineberg Senior Center savings for the first year.

Councilor Paulino spoke in support of the recommendation to combine with the city and form a council on aging as a good start.

Council President Wright pointed out the Heineberg Senior Center savings account will be depleted in a few years without combining with the city.

MOTION by Councilor Bushor, SECOND by Councilor Dieng, to refer the report from the Senior Study Committee to the Board of Finance for discussion of the budgetary component. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

The Senior Study Committee was thanked for their work.





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MOTION by Councilor Dieng, SECOND by Councilor Paulino, to move creation of the senior center council on aging to the CDNR for discussion. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

3.0 PUBLIC FORUM

Public forum was opened at 7:45 PM.

COMMENTS

- Mark Hughes read a statement from Justice for All in support of the statements and demands of Black Lives Matter of Greater Burlington, and in support of establishing a diversity and equity inclusion committee to oversee implementation of the Equity Strategic Plan.
- Steve Marshall said the homeless community feels under siege and unwelcome in the city. Homeless people are human beings and the vast majority are good citizens. City Council is asked to write a policy to make it possible for homeless people who cannot live in a shelter to be a legal resident and not be afraid of being removed from a location.
- J.F. Carter Neubieser spoke in support of energy efficiency in the city and hope that City Council will support this item on the agenda.

There were no further comments from the public. Public Forum was closed at 7:59 PM.

4.0 CONSENT AGENDA

- 4.01 PROCEDURAL: Amend/Adopt Consent Agenda and Take Action(s) as Indicated
- 4.02 COMMUNICATION: Accountability List
- 4.03 COMMUNICATION: Minutes 5/2/10, Downtown Parking & Transportation Council
- 4.04 COMMUNICATION: Crosswalk at North Avenue/Poirer Place, Alden Finnie
- 4.05 COMMUNICATION: E-Scooters, David Howard
- 4.06 COMMUNICATION: Champlain Parkway Project Update
- 4.07 RESOLUTION: Reappointment City Health Officer, William Ward

MOTION by Councilor Bushor, SECOND by Councilor Paul, to adopt the Consent Agenda and take the actions indicated for Items 4.01 through 4.07. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

5.0 DELIBERATIVE AGENDA

- 5.01 Special Event Outdoor Entertainment Permit (one day): Smitty's Pub, 1127 North Avenue, Suite 20

MOTION by Councilor Roof, SECOND by Councilor Tracy, to approve the one day Special Event Outdoor





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Entertainment Permit for Smitty's Pub, 1127 North Avenue, Suite 20, on 5/26/19 from 12 PM to 9 PM for a cornhole tournament.

DISCUSSION:

- **It was confirmed the permit is from Noon to 9 PM.**

VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

5.02 Umbrella Entertainment Permit: Burlington Discover Jazz Festival

MOTION by Councilor Roof, SECOND by Councilor Tracy, to approve the 10-day Umbrella Entertainment Permit for Burlington Discover Jazz Festival at various locations around the city from 12 PM to 10:45 PM outdoor and 12 PM to 2 AM indoor on 5/31/19 through 6/9/19. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

5.03 Sustainable Infrastructure – DPW

DPW Director Spencer and DPW Public Information Manager Goulding gave an overview of the information on the DPW construction portal and the infrastructure work to be done as part of the sustainable infrastructure plan (paving, sidewalks, storm water, bike paths, crosswalks).

Councilor Mason asked for an update on the St. Paul Street construction. DPW Public Information Manager Goulding said there have been key challenges with the project that have caused delays. The plan is to be done by the end of August with only minor extensions. Councilor Mason urged getting the information out if there are further delays.

Councilor Bushor asked if segments not in the sustainable plan will be done. DPW Director Spencer said yes. Councilor Bushor asked how much money is dedicated to curbing. DPW Public Information Manager Goulding said lots of curb work will be done in conjunction with paving. DPW Director Spencer added a number of factors with curb work are considered such as resident concerns, parking on the green belt, and walk/bike enhancement. There is approximately \$200,000 of funding for curb work each year. Councilor Bushor asked if there is a process for residents to widen the curb cut in front of their house. DPW Director Spencer said the curb cut width is 24'. More detail on the process can be gathered.

Councilor Freeman asked if the city has a process to address businesses suffering a loss due to construction work. DPW Spencer said complaints are heard across the city when projects are done. Staff can help inform the public that the businesses are open and set up traffic control plans so people can get to the businesses. DPW Public Information Manager Goulding said the city worked with the colleges on parking for businesses in the area of the work.

Councilor Hanson mentioned the curb extension on Chase and Colchester Avenue and expressed concern about the safety of making the turn sharper. DPW Director Spencer said the project is advancing with other Colchester Avenue improvements.



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5.04 UVM Progress on Housing

Removed from agenda.

5.05 Energy Efficiency in Rental Housing – Councilor Hanson

MOTION by Councilor Hanson, SECOND by Councilor Tracy, to adopt the revised resolution on Energy Efficiency in Rental Housing requests to BED & Code Enforcement.

DISCUSSION:

- **Councilor Hanson reported information will be gathered from BED's existing policies that relate to energy efficiencies to see how the policies have worked and expand weatherization of rental housing in Burlington.**
- **BED General Manager Springer confirmed the information can be provided.**
- **Councilor Bushor asked about getting greater compliance other than at the time of sale. Councilor Hanson said information is being gathered to get a baseline understanding in order to create stronger policies.**
- **Mayor Weinberger announced there will be a workshop at the Housing Summit on 6/11/19 that addresses landlords not being incentivized to weatherize because the tenants are paying the utilities. The city worked with VT Gas to offer major incentives to landlords. Gen Green has been focused on this matter for a long time. The plan is to advance the policy discussion at the summit.**

VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

6.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilor Tracy announced the TEUC will meet on 5/23/19 to discuss e-bike and scooter share.
- Councilor Mason announced the Ordinance Committee will meet on 5/29/19 to discuss boundaries and parking.
- Councilor Roof announced the License Control Committee will hold a work session on 6/5/19 to discuss food trucks.

7.0 CITY COUNCIL – GENERAL AFFAIRS

- Councilor Bushor mentioned the minutes from the Downtown Parking and Transportation Council meeting listed useful improvements wanted by users, and a portion of the proceeds from the Red Wagon plant sale go toward scholarships for up to half the cost of the plot fee in the community garden.
- Councilor Pine mentioned the public meeting of the Homeless Alliance on 5/29/19.
- Councilor Roof announced the event on 5/22/19 on living homeless and read a statement on the creation of a working committee to address policing practices. City Council is asked for immediate action and to devote the necessary time and attention to the issue to bring a course of action to a vote as soon as possible.
- Councilor Dieng said the New North End Co-op needs volunteers.
- Councilor Freeman spoke of the commitment and work being done on the policing issue.

8.0 CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT – COUNCIL UPDATES



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Council President Wright announced:

- The deadline for application to city boards/commissions is 5/22/19 at 4:30 PM at the Clerk/Treasurer Office. Members of the Boards & Commission Committee will be Councilor Mason (Chair), Councilor Pine (Progressive), Council President Wright, and Mayor's designee. Extensions of the deadline are rare. Keep the Council President informed of requests for extension.

9.0 MAYOR – GENERAL AFFAIRS

Mayor Weinberger reported:

- Congratulations to all who worked on the Oakledge For All playground project.
- Keynote speaker for the Housing Summit is Lisa Bender, Minneapolis City Council President.
- Phase 3a bike path construction is continuing south of College Street.
- Restoration planting effort in the city includes 1500 new restoration trees (smaller caliper) plus 360 more mature trees.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Councilor Roof, SECOND by Councilor Hanson, to adjourn the meeting. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

The City Council meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM.

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