



City Council - Organization Day - Monday, April 5, 2021, 7:00 pm
****VIRTUAL MEETING****
4/5/2021

BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

ORGANIZATION DAY

REMOTE MEETING WITH CALL-IN

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

MINUTES OF MEETING

April 5, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Paul

Chip Mason

Max Tracy

Joan Shannon

Brian Pine

Ali Dieng

Jack Hanson

Perri Freeman

Jane Stromberg

Sarah E Carpenter

Zoraya Hightower

Mark Barlow

OTHERS PRESENT: Miro Weinberger

Katherine Schad

Eileen Blackwood

Amy Bovee

Jordan Redell

Gene Richards



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Doreen Kraft

Kara Alnasrawi

John Vickery

Cindi Wight

Mary Danko

Bill Ward

Brian Lowe

Chapin Spencer

David White

Steven Locke

Tyeastia Green

1. CALL TO ORDER and AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by Chief Administrative Officer Schad at 7:11 PM.

MOTION by Councilor Pine, SECOND by Councilor Freeman, to adopt the agenda.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

2. OATH OF OFFICE

2.01 Swearing In Of the Mayor

City Attorney Blackwood swore in Miro Weinberger as Mayor.

2.02 Swearing In Of Newly Elected and Re-elected City Council Members

Mayor Weinberger swore in newly elected and re-elected City Councilors Barlow, Freeman, Hanson, and Shannon.

3. STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

3.01 Mayor Presents State of the City Address

Mayor Weinberger opened his State of the City address by congratulating newly-elected and re-elected City Councilors. He



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said he is committed to forging compromise on issues for all of Burlington's issues. He spoke about the past year and how the Covid-19 pandemic has reshaped the Burlington community, saying that the community has worked to contain the virus and that the end of the pandemic is in sight. He said that Burlington's task moving forward will be to rebuild the economy and spoke about the power of local action, innovation, collaboration, and more support from the federal government to ensure that Burlingtonians get the help they need to recover from the recession. Ensuring Burlingtonians get help from recession. He said that other goals are to address the climate emergency at the local level, make progress on the housing crisis, and work to rebuild critical public infrastructure adding that work must be done in each area to eradicate racial disparities.

Mayor Weinberger continued, saying that the state of the City is one of great hope, and that the City will emerge as a healthier, greener, more equitable, and more racially just place. He said that systemic racism has led to disparities in housing, economic security, education, and health and that it must be addressed. He addressed white Burlingtonians, saying that concentrating efforts to assist BIPOC community members may make them uncomfortable, but that these marginalized communities have endured vast harm for much of the country's history and that race-based strategies are needed to address that harm. He said that racial justice and racial equity will be at the center of his policies moving forward. He spoke about a Burlington of the future, where racial disparities are eliminated. He said that Burlington has an important role to play in eliminating disparities and cultivating belonging, through initiatives that have already begun and through several new initiatives.

He spoke about current initiatives to eliminate disparity, which include the creation of the Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (REIB) Department in 2020 and the hiring of its Director. He noted that the department has grown from one staff member to three and spoke about their work. This includes developing the City's 8-point plan to protect BIPOC communities and ensure a racially-just recovery from the pandemic—for example, the City granted \$315,000 to BIPOC businesses and non-profits to support their pandemic recovery. This also includes working with organizations in the county to declare racism a public health crisis, developing a racial equity strategic plan, establishing BIPOC vaccination sites, and setting up a task force on reparations. He said that by the end of this month he will issue an executive action to formalize the racial equity toolkit and require its use whenever a new policy or initiative is developed. He said that all Burlington staff will go through racial equity training. Trusted Community Voices will be made permanent, and the Language Access Plan will be made permanent. He said work will accelerate to eliminate race-based disparities across all social determinants of public health and that as part of Fiscal Year 2022 budget, he will bring forth a proposal to increase size of the REIB department.

Mayor Weinberger continued, saying that though progress has been made, there is more to do. He said his administration will pursue three major initiatives to promote a greater sense of belonging in Burlington, including sponsoring the City's first Juneteenth celebration, addressing housing inequities with the goal of increasing Black homeownership, and continuing current efforts in public safety reform, such as the operational and functional assessment of the police department, working with the Howard Center on alternative public safety models such as that adopted by Eugene, Oregon, changing the system of administering officer discipline, and improving communication and understanding between the police department and community.

1. PUBLIC FORUM



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4.01 Verbal Comments

None at this time.

1. ELECTION OF CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

- i. Election of City Council President

Chief Administrative Officer Schad called for nominations for City Council President.

MOTION by Councilor Pine to nominate Max Tracy as Council President. There were no other nominations.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

Max Tracy is City Council President and assumed facilitation of the meeting.

6. ELECTION OF BOARD OF FINANCE MEMBERS

6.01 Election of Board of Finance Members

Council President Tracy called for nominations for the Board of Finance.

MOTION by Councilor Stromberg to nominate Councilor Dieng, Councilor Paul, and Councilor Pine to the Board of Finance.

DISCUSSION:

- **Councilor Stromberg said this group of people works well together in a balanced and healthy way on the Board of Finance. She said this level of dedication is rare and these individuals have led our City well, especially given this past year.**

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

Councilors Dieng, Paul, and Pine are members of the Board of Finance.

7. ADJOURNMENT



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7.01 Motion to Adjourn

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

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

The City Council meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

RScty: AACoonrad