



City Council - Organization Day - Monday, April 4, 2022, 7:00 pm, Contois Auditorium, City Hall OR remotely via ZOOM 4/4/2022

BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

ORGANIZATION DAY

CITY HALL, CONTOIS AUDITORIUM *OR*

REMOTE MEETING WITH CALL-IN

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

MINUTES OF MEETING

April 4, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Paul

Joan Shannon

Ali Dieng

Jack Hanson

Perri Freeman

Sarah E Carpenter

Zoraya Hightower

Mark Barlow

Joe Magee

Gene Bergman

Ali House

Ben Traverse

OTHERS PRESENT: Miro Weinberger

Katherine Schad

Dan Richardson

Jordan Redell

Lori Olberg



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Sarah Montgomery

1. CALL TO ORDER and AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by Chief Administrative Officer Schad at 7:07 PM.

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

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

2. OATH OF OFFICE

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

Mayor Weinberger swore in newly elected and re-elected City Councilors Hightower, Bergman, Magee, Carpenter, Traverse, Paul, Dieng, and House.

3. STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

3.01 Mayor Presents State of the City Address

Mayor Weinberger began by speaking of the City's accomplishments in the past year, including supporting the community through the pandemic, securing funding for the most vulnerable in the community, and continuing to accelerate the City's financial incentives to move away from fossil fuels. He said that City government played an essential role in these activities, and thanked the City's department directors for their work and the work of their teams toward these efforts.

He acknowledged that the past two years have set the community back, through recovery efforts are underway. He said that the main focus for the City for the next year will be in the areas of economic recovery and children and family support, racial equity and justice, infrastructure, housing, public safety, and the climate emergency.

He then spoke about the City's efforts to support local businesses and help them secure loans as well as navigate the many public health issues wrought by the pandemic. He said that the City must make permanent these business support innovations that were implemented during the pandemic, and that his proposed Fiscal Year 2023 budget will create a new department to continue this work. He said that this department will also continue to support Burlington's early learning initiatives and childcare. He additionally said that the City will support the Burlington School District's efforts to build a new



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high school.

He additional spoke about the City's efforts around racial equity, inclusion, and belonging, including standing up BIPOC vaccination clinics, a Juneteenth event, anti-racism training for City employees, and expansion of health equity efforts. He said that the City is committed to maintaining funding levels for its Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (REIB) Department for the next fiscal year.

Mayor Weinberger then spoke about public infrastructure investments, noting that they continued during the pandemic and will continue into the next fiscal year. He spoke of enhancements to the streets, sidewalks, and public buildings in the City, and projects including the renovated City Hall Park, improvements to the Burlington Bike Path, the new active railway line that Amtrack will run through Burlington, and the start of an improvement project for the Moran Plant. He spoke about the \$50 million in bonding capacity that has been secured for continuing these activities. He said that the rebuilding of Main Street will bring new investment and activity downtown. He also noted the public private partnership with CityPlace.

He then spoke about Burlington's pre-pandemic progress to address its housing crisis, acknowledging that Covid-19 dramatically reversed progress, and that the crisis is more acute than ever. He said that the City must redouble its effort to address the crisis by building more homes, with the goal of building 1,200 homes over the next 5 years. To this end, he said that the Community and Economic Development Office (CEDO) has been working to secure federal aid for this work, and also said that his administration will work with the Planning Commission and City Council to update zoning regulations. He also spoke of the City's goal of ending chronic homelessness by 2024.

Mayor Weinberger spoke about the long-standing priority of the City to have a police department that practices 21st century policing practices. He said that he is working with the Police Department to revise deployment plans, federal and prosecutorial partnerships to address gun violence, and a multi-department effort to improve safety downtown. He said that his administration will be seeking action from the City Council on a rebuilding plan to increase staffing levels at the Police Department, as well as expand the CSL program to include new positions. He also noted a proposed ordinance to formalize the Police Commission's role in the City.

He finally spoke about the climate emergency, noting that the City continued to make progress on its efforts to move away from fossil fuels, such as its Green Stimulus Incentives that have increased uptake on heat pump rebates and the adoption of electric vehicles in Burlington. He said that there is more financial support for Burlingtonians to switch to electric vehicles than there has ever been. He spoke about the Burlington Electric Department's efforts toward net zero energy.

1. PUBLIC FORUM

i. Verbal Comments

Todd Lacroix sang a spiritual round and invited others to participate.



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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 Carpenter, SECOND by Councilor Hightower, to nominate Karen Paul as Council President.

DISCUSSION:

- Councilor Carpenter spoke about Councilor Paul's efforts to provide support to new Councilors. She said that Councilor Paul has also shown that she is a skilled bridge-builder on policy issues.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

Karen Paul is now 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 Paul called for nominations for the Board of Finance.

MOTION by Councilor Bergman to nominate Councilor Dieng, Councilor Hightower, and Councilor Magee to the Board of Finance.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

Councilors Dieng, Hightower, and Magee are members of the Board of Finance.

7. ADJOURNMENT

7.01 Motion to Adjourn

MOTION by Councilor Bergman, SECOND by Councilor Freeman, to adjourn the meeting.



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VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

The City Council meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

RScty: AACoonrad