



Regular City Council Meeting - Monday, March 22, 2021, 7:00 pm
****VIRTUAL MEETING****
3/22/2021

BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

REMOTE MEETING WITH CALL-IN NUMBER

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 22, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Paul

Max Tracy

Chip Mason

Joan Shannon

Ali Dieng

Brian Pine

Jack Hanson

Franklin Paulino

Perri Freeman

Jane Stromberg

Sarah E Carpenter

Zoraya Hightower

OTHERS PRESENT: Miro Weinberger

Katherine Schad

Eileen Blackwood

Jordan Redell

Amy Bovee



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Peter Welch
Rebecca Ellis
Phil Baruth
Carol Ode
Tiff Bluemle
Thomas Chittenden
Chris Pearson
Patricia Wehman
Ginny Lyons
Brian Cina
Gabrielle Stebbins
Kendra Sowers
Mike Fisher
Kathy Olwell
Monika Ivancic
Kim Sturtevant
Andreas Papayiannis

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 7:03 PM. A moment of silence for the victims of the Atlanta shooting.

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

- **note written materials for consent agenda item 5.27 Resolution: Corrected Retroactive Pay For Two Reclassified Department Of Public Works Employees (Board of Finance)(per CAO Schad and City Attorney's Office);**



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- **add to the consent agenda item 5.28 Communication: Mark Barlow, Member, Parks & Recreation Commission, re: Resignation with the motion to "waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file, advertise the vacancy and send a letter of appreciation to Mark Barlow thanking him for his time served as a Member of the Parks & Recreation Commission";**
- **add to the consent agenda item 5.29 Communication: David White and Meagan Tuttle of the City's COVID-19 Analytics Team, re: State Workplace Guidance Changes Regarding Bars and Social Club Operating Restrictions with the motion to "waive the reading, accept the communication and place it on file" (per David White);**
- **remove/withdraw from the agenda item 6.02 Resolution: Joining The Vermont Coalition For Equity In Education (Councilors Shannon, Dieng)(per Councilor Shannon);**
- **note revised version of agenda item 6.03 Resolution: Recognizing The 200th Anniversary Of The Independence Of Greece And Celebrating Democracy In Greece And The United States (Full City Council)(per Councilor Paul).**

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

1.02 Motion to further amend the agenda with the addition of agenda item 6.06 Resolution: Condemning Hate Crimes Against Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders (Councilor Dieng)

MOTION by Councilor Dieng, SECOND by Councilor Paul, to further amend the agenda with the addition of agenda item 6.06 Resolution: Condemning Hate Crimes Against Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

2. BRIEFING FROM REP. WELCH ON AMERICAN RESCUE ACT (VERBAL)

2.01 Briefing from Rep. Welch on American Rescue Act (verbal)

Representative Welch said he will go through the highlights of the American Rescue Plan Act and also provided assurances that his office will be available to provide support. He said that the American Rescue Act will provide a total of \$1.9 trillion to support businesses and families as the country continues its mass vaccination campaign. He said that the ARPA will be covering the costs of the vaccine. He said it would also provide support to individuals, in the form of direct payments to individuals and families. He said another provision is the childcare tax credit, which provides \$300 per month for each child under the age of 6, which could reduce childhood poverty by 50%. He said there is additional funding to support small businesses, like restaurants and performance spaces. He noted that there was a large debate in Washington about whether there should be funding directly for municipalities. He said there will also be local money distributed to Burlington. He said that local officials now have the authority and responsibility to use that local support funding flexibly. He noted that the City of Burlington will receive \$19 million directly and will also get another \$8.3 million through a county allocation. He noted that Burlington School District will also receive \$14.3 million. He noted that half of the allocation for Burlington will be disbursed in 60 days and that the remainder will be disbursed in the next 6-12 months. He said that the funding must be used for COVID-related expenses. Representative Welch also noted that there will be a \$112 million capital projects fund administered from Montpelier, and smaller districts and towns will be able to apply to get some of their municipal projects funded.



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Mayor Weinberger thanked Representative Welch for his hard work and support around the American Rescue Act. He noted that the Board of Finance has begun the process of planning for the allocation and distribution of funding across City government.

Councilor Pine spoke about federal revenue sharing. He asked if Cities should expect to see the notion of earmarks returning. Representative Welch said that it was decided last week that earmarks (congressionally-directed spending) will be able to be used again, with an emphasis on individual Congress-person accountability for them.

Councilor Hanson asked what restrictions there will be on the funding coming to Burlington. Representative Welch said that the funds must be used for COVID-related expenses and recovery, including its impact on businesses, individuals, nonprofits, and capital spending for things like broadband and sewer. He said that his staff will be available to the City to provide support and guidance around spending rules.

Councilor Paul said that funding for housing and rental assistance were included in the stimulus package, and asked about how much can be spent on that. Representative Welch said there is a significant amount of money in the stimulus package to help individuals and families and he said there is also a significant amount of funding in the plan for rental assistance. He suggested coordinating with the state, since the state will have funding available for rental assistance.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

3.01 Verbal Comments

Forum opened at 7:30 PM.

COMMENTS:

- Christine Fleming spoke in support of the weatherization ordinance, saying that living in a dwelling with protection against extreme weather is a human right. She also said that weatherization is a critical component of a sustainable City.
- Llu Mulvaney-Stanak spoke about a letter she had written to the Mayor, speaking about his past decade of service and asking him for his resignation. She acknowledged his work on Covid and supporting the City through the pandemic. She said that his leadership and decisions on the issues around racial justice have become problematic and have perpetuated harm against BIPOC Burlingtonians.
- Thomas Poon spoke about an easement issue for a parking spot on 15 Ward Street, saying that he believes they have the right to use this easement.
- Sharyl Green read a letter addressed to Mayor Weinberger, calling on him to resign. She cited his decision to remove Tyeastia Green from the position of leading the policing study and then walking that decision back. She said his leadership style is not what Burlington needs at this time, especially as it embarks on deep introspection around racism and police reform.
- Don T spoke about 15 Ward Street and how it does not have a parking spot, rather a curb cutout that is used for



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both the driveway and the parking spot. He said he was advised to obtain an easement.

- Leah Terhune spoke about the management of the operational and functional assessment of the Police Department in Burlington. She said that the project was greatly damaged by the replacement (and subsequent backpedaling of that decision) of Director Green.
- Steven Whittaker spoke about the restroom issue on the waterfront, noting that there are no restrooms available anywhere on the waterfront. He said that resources should be found to make restroom facilities available, especially during a pandemic.
- Christie Delphia called on the Mayor to resign.

Forum closed at 7:48 PM.

4. CLIMATE EMERGENCY REPORTS

4.01 Climate Emergency Reports

None at this time.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

5.01 Motion to adopt the consent agenda and take the actions indicated

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

5.03 Communication: C/T Office, re: February 8, 2021 Local Control Commission Meeting Minutes, Draft - waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file and adopt the minutes as received at the March 8, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting.

5.04 Communication: C/T Office, re: February 8, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes, Draft - waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file and adopt the minutes as received at the March 8, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting.

5.05 Communication: C/T Office, re: February 16, 2021 Board of Civil Authority Meeting Minutes, Draft - waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file and adopt the minutes as received at the March 8, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting.

5.06 Communication: C/T Office, re: February 16, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes, Draft - waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file and adopt the minutes as received at the March 8, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting.

5.07 Communication: C/T Office, re: February 23, 2021 Special City Council Meeting Minutes, Draft - waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file and adopt the minutes as received at the March 8, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting.

5.08 Communication: C/T Office, re: February 24, 2021 Public Information Hearing Minutes, Draft - waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file and adopt the minutes as received at the March 8, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting.



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5.09 Communication: Megan Moir and Steve Roy, DPW - Water Resources, re: Work Assignment Agreement #6 with Utility Services Co., Inc. for Design of Cell Antenna Corral for Redstone Tank - authorize Chapin Spencer, Director of the Department of Public Works, to execute a work assignment agreement with Utility Services Co. Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 for Design of a Cell Antenna Corral on the Redstone Tank, subject to the final review and approval of the City Attorney's Office.

5.10 Communication: Richard Haesler, Projects & Policy Specialist, CEDO, re: Revised FY 2020 City of Burlington Waterfront TIF District Report to the Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC) - waive the reading, accept the communication and place it on file.

5.11 Communication: Martha Keenan, Capital & Asset Program Manager and Kimberly Bleakley, Facilities Manager, re: Bay State Elevator Company/Otis Elevator contract - approve and authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront to sign a contract with Otis Elevator Company, doing business as Bay State Elevator Company, in the amount from \$148,493.00 with a contingency of \$14,849 for a total amount not to exceed \$163,342.00 for the modernization of the elevator in the Fletcher Free Library, subject to final review and approval by the City Attorney's Office.

5.12 Communication: Megan Moir and Martin Lee, DPW - Water Resources, re: Construction Engineering Amendment for Wastewater Disinfection Improvements - authorize the Director of the Department of Public Works to execute a second amendment to the Agreement with Wright Pierce for Construction Engineering of the Disinfection Improvements to increase the scope of work, work schedule, and the maximum limiting amount by \$65,000 to \$475,100, subject to the final review and approval of the City Attorney's Office.

5.13 Communication: Burlington International Airport, re: Request to Approve Execution of an Agreement for Construction of the Chamberlin School HVAC Upgrade with Engelberth Construction, Inc. - authorize the Director of Aviation to execute a contract with Engelberth Construction Inc. for the Chamberlin School HVAC Upgrade construction services in the amount of up to \$1,650,912.00, plus an additional \$247,637.00 (15%) contingency, for a total amount of up to \$1,898,549.00, subject to final review and approval by the City Attorney's Office.

5.14 Communication: James Sherrard Jr., Stormwater Program Coordinator, re: Authorization to Execute First Amendment to Contract with Wind River Environmental LLC for Catch Basin Cleaning Services - authorize the Director of Public Works to execute an amendment to the contract with Wind River Environmental, LLC for catch basin cleaning services to increase the scope of services and the maximum limiting amount from \$68,975 to \$132,674.85.

5.15 Communication: Caleb Manna, Excavation Inspector, DPW, re: City Place Burlington - Bank and Cherry Street Right-of-Way - approve the Encumbrance Application of BTC Mall Associates, LLC, and authorize the Mayor to execute the attached License Agreement for continued use of right-of-way space on Bank and Cherry Streets retroactive to November 14, 2020.

5.16 Communication: Caleb Manna, Excavation Inspector, DPW, re: 15 Ward Street - Driveway Apron and Curb Cut - approve the Encumbrance Application for 15 Ward Street requesting continued use of a preexisting curb cut and driveway apron.

5.17 Communication: Steve Goodkind, re: Champlain Parkway - waive the reading, accept the communication and place it on file.

5.18 Communication: Ali Dieng, Ward 7 City Councilor, re: City Council Initiatives Fund Reimbursement Request: \$556.40 - approve a reimbursement to Councilor Ali Dieng in the amount of \$556.40 from the Council Initiatives Fund for the rental of a dumpster to clean up the Lori Lane neighborhood in October 2020.

5.19 Indoor and Outdoor Entertainment Permit Renewals (2021-2022): see attached list - approve the 2021-2022 Indoor and Outdoor Entertainment Permit Renewals as listed with all standard conditions.



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5.20 Outdoor Entertainment Permit Renewal (2021-2022): Orlando's Bar and Lounge, 1 Lawson Lane, Suite 10 - approve the 2021-2022 Outdoor Entertainment Permit Renewal for Orlando's Bar and Lounge, 1 Lawson Lane, Suite 10: Sunday: 11:00 am - 10:30pm; Monday - Thursday: 4:00 pm - 10:30 pm; Friday: 4:00 pm - 11:00 pm; Saturday: 11:00 am - 11:00 pm.

5.21 FIO Documents – for information only.

5.22 Ordinance: B.C.O. - OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS Percent for Public Art Sections 21-120 through 21-123 (Councilor Paul)(Burlington City Arts) - waive the 1st reading and refer to the Ordinance Committee and the Parks, Arts & Culture Committee.

5.23 Resolution: Continued Creation Of Tiered Progression Program For Union Positions - Burlington Electric Department (Board of Finance) - waive the reading and adopt the resolution.

5.24 Resolution: Authorization For \$64,000 Step II And \$1,196,000 Step III Loans From Vermont Clean Water State Revolving Fund And Engineering Services Contract With Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. For \$100,000 For The Manhattan Stormwater Outfall Rehabilitation Project (Board Of Finance) - waive the reading and adopt the resolution.

5.25 Resolution: Release Of Certain Glebe And Perpetual Lease Land Interests And Revision Of The City Of Burlington Perpetual Lease Land Interests List (Councilor Mason) - waive the reading and adopt the resolution.

5.26 Resolution: Approving Funds For City's First Annual Juneteenth Celebration (Board of Finance) - waive the reading and adopt the resolution.

5.27 Resolution: Corrected Retroactive Pay For Two Reclassified Department Of Public Works Employees (Board of Finance) - waive the reading and adopt the resolution.

5.28 Communication: Mark Barlow, Member, Parks & Recreation Commission, re: Resignation - waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file, advertise the vacancy and send a letter of appreciation to Mark Barlow thanking him for his time served as a Member of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

5.29 Communication: David White and Meagan Tuttle of the City's COVID-19 Analytics Team, re: State Workplace Guidance Changes Regarding Bars and Social Club Operating Restrictions – waive the reading, accept the communication and place it on file.

MOTION by Councilor Stromberg, SECOND by Councilor Hanson, to adopt the consent agenda as amended, taking the actions as indicated for items 5.01-5.29.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

6. DELIBERATIVE AGENDA

6.01 Update from State House Delegation re: Education Funding/Tax Reform (verbal)

Representative Ode provided background for this discussion. She said that in the 1990s there was a funding formula in Vermont called the foundation formula, and that Burlington was a foundation town—it received federal funds but few state funds. She said that a larger town like Burlington had an easier time raising funds through its large grand list. She noted



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with the court decision in *Brigham v State of Vermont*, the courts determined that the foundation formula did not eliminate wealth disparities from town to town and from school to school, and that equal dollar resources do not translate equally in effect, but substantial funding differences affect opportunities to learn. She said that the case concluded that the educational financing system in Vermont violated equal opportunity. She noted Act 60 and then Act 68, which acknowledged that students enter schools with different needs, which led to a different system in which students were assigned weights. She said that a regular K-8 student was weighted at 1.0, a high school student at 1.25 and then 1.13, a special education student at 1.25, an English language learning student at 1.2, and a child under the poverty line at 1.25. She said that the weights have not been updated in 20 years and that a weighting study was commissioned, which has forced conversation and action. She said the weights are meant to equalize, not meant to generate revenue. She noted that if ELL and poverty weights were raised, Burlington property tax rates would fall. She said that the legislature trusts boards to propose budgets and communities to vote on them, based on current weighting—why now, assuming appropriate setting of weights, do some question the ability of school boards and communities to make decisions about how to educate their students.

Senator Baruth spoke about Act 49 and how the education committee in the Senate propose the weighting study, which required the Agency of education (AOE) to conduct the weighting study and then Secretary Holcombe refused to do it, saying that she didn't have the funding to do it. Senator Baruth said that the legislature then passed \$250,000 for the University of Vermont (UVM) to conduct the study instead of AOE. He said that the numbers that Professor Colby developed are accurate and in need of use. He noted that last year, the education committee passed out a bill implementing those numbers, calling on AOE to implement an action plan, but that the bill died during the Covid pandemic. He said that he then proposed S.13, which would get the education committee started on how to implement, and they have been doing that.

Senator Lyons spoke about S.13, which will have a task force put together of House, Senate, and the Secretary of AOE, and will analyze how to build equitable funding for education. She said that there were concerns about moving too quickly and not having transitions for school districts across the state. She said that the new weighting factors will include ELL, economic disadvantage, and separate middle and secondary schools (middle school becomes its own weight class), then there will also be a new section on geographic necessity (rural), and a population density factor. She said the task force will look at how the factors fit in with education funding overall. She said that the task force will be able to hire a consultant. She said that as weighting factors are added in, there was a question about how to use categorical funding. She said that they will also be examining what other states are doing around this. She said that any implementation plan will necessitate legislation being taken up and passed quickly.

Senator Pearson said that the legislature examined how the state pays for schools and discussed a tax structure analysis. He said that analysts recommended paying for schools based on income tax as well as a way to transition to that. He noted that the current legislative session is mostly focused on COVID-19-related issues and legislation and that they will potentially meet in the off-session between legislative seasons to examine this issue further.

Councilor Shannon said this new weighting proposal would create winners and losers. She said that the Burlington School District has suffered profoundly. She expressed concern about delays in implementation. She asked who will be on the legislative task force and how they will approach the weighting differently than the recommendations set forth in the study. Senator Lyons acknowledged the extenuating circumstances in Burlington and Winooski, especially around BIPOC and





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English language learners. She said that the task force membership includes a member of Senate Finance appointed by the Finance Chair, a member of the Senate Committee on Education, a member of House Ways and Means, a member of House Education, and the Secretary of Education or designee, the Chair of the State Board of Education, and hired consultants to assist with executing the powers and duties of the task force, and shall have expertise in providing advice on Vermont's education funding and tax system. She said that in terms of delays, COVID has gotten in the way. Senator Baruth noted that very urban and very rural districts will both benefit from adjustments based on this weighting study. Councilor Shannon asked when Burlington School District can expect to see results and actual funding. Various senators said that they can expect to see results and funding around 2023.

Commissioner Olwell urged the legislature to act, saying that economically disadvantaged children in particular are in desperate need of additional funding. Commissioner Sowers echoed this sentiment, saying that funding needs to occur according to these weights, in order to help the most vulnerable. Commissioner Fisher stressed the importance of allocating resources where they are most needed.

Councilor Pine asked what the City Council can do in terms of strategy and support for this initiative. Senator Baruth said that the districts have begun working in partnership with one another, mayors have begun reaching out to one another, and suggested that Burlington City Council begin reaching out to rural Selectboards around the state. Senator Lyons encouraged City Council to speak directly to the benefit that children will receive based on these changes, rather than focusing on the money component of it. Senator Chittenden said the emphasis should be on how these changes can benefit Vermont's children and provide equitable opportunities.

Councilor Shannon asked for answers in writing to the following questions: who recommended doing the task force this way? Why isn't it possible to implement the weights exactly as they were scientifically determined? How could it be anything other than a political process to change these weights? If the AOE said they didn't have funds to implement the study, why were funds allocated to a task force and not AOE? Wouldn't it be better if the initiative failed this year rather than next year, so that we can work on a legal process to get students what they need, rather than wait? Senator Lyons said that if the bill had gone forward last year during COVID it would have been a task force. She said that during the past year, many legislators have been working solely on COVID, and are only now coming up for air and looking at other issues.

6.02 Resolution: Joining The Vermont Coalition For Equity In Education (Councilors Shannon, Dieng) ****AGENDA ITEM REMOVED/WITHDRAWN****

No discussion at this time.

6.03 Resolution: Recognizing The 200th Anniversary Of The Independence Of Greece And Celebrating Democracy In Greece And The United States (Full City Council)

MOTION by Councilor Paul, SECOND by Councilor Carpenter, that WHEREAS, the country of Greece is celebrating the 200th anniversary of its independence from the Ottoman Empire; and WHEREAS, the people of the United





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States generously sent humanitarian assistance to the people of Greece during their struggle for independence, often through philhellene committees; and WHEREAS, Greece consistently allied with the United States in major international conflicts throughout its history as a modern state; and WHEREAS, the Greek-American community has greatly contributed to American society and has helped forge the strong ties between the United States and Greece; and WHEREAS, the Governments and people of Greece and the United States are at the forefront of efforts to advance freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights; and WHEREAS, those efforts and similar ideals have forged a close bond between the peoples of Greece and the United States; and WHEREAS, in support of the Greece 2021 Committee established by the Government of Greece, the United States Mission in Greece has launched a campaign to celebrate the bicentennial of the independence of Greece and the 200 years of friendship between the United States and Greece; and WHEREAS, the City of Burlington greatly values democratic ideals, civic engagement and the discourse espoused in Greek ideals; and WHEREAS, it is proper and desirable for Burlington to join the United States to celebrate March 25, 2021, Greek Independence Day, with the people of Greece and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which those two great countries were founded; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Burlington City Council extends warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Greece and our Greek Burlingtonians as they celebrate the 200th anniversary of the independence of Greece; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council expresses support for the principles of democratic governance to which the people of Greece are committed; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council commends the Burlington Greek-American community for its contributions to our City and its role as a bridge of cultural awareness between our City and the vibrant culture of Greece and the Greek people and is grateful for the important role that Greece has played in the community of nations since gaining its independence 200 years ago; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council asks the Mayor to declare March 25, 2021 to be Burlington's solidarity with the Greek Bicentennial Independence Day and further requests that a signed copy of this resolution be sent to the Dormition Greek Orthodox Church as a sign of our recognition of their proud heritage and contribution to our great City.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

6.04 Ordinance: B.C.O. - HOUSING - Change re Energy Efficiency and Weatherization in Rental Housing, Chapter 18 (Ordinance Committee, Department of Permitting & Inspections)(2nd reading)

MOTION by Councilor Mason, SECOND by Councilor Hightower, to postpone action on this item until time certain April 12, 2021.

DISCUSSION:

- Councilor Mason noted that he was contacted by a constituent and he has connected that constituent with subject matter experts at BED. He said he would like to delay the discussion of this item until they have had time to connect.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.



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6.05 Indoor Entertainment Permit Application (2021-2022): Coffee Black, LLC, d/b/a Muddy Waters, 184 Main Street

MOTION by Councilor Hanson, SECOND by Councilor Freeman, to approve the 2021-2022 Indoor Entertainment Permit Application for Coffee Black, LLC, d/b/a Muddy Waters, 184 Main Street with all standard conditions.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

6.06 Resolution: Condemning Hate Crimes Against Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders (Councilor Dieng)

MOTION by Councilor Dieng, SECOND by Councilor Pine, to waive the reading and adopt the resolution.

DISCUSSION:

- Councilor Dieng spoke about hate crimes and the alarming increase in hate crimes directed at Asians. He noted that 11% of Burlington's School District is Asian, and that it is important to stand behind and support our Asian community members and say no to hate.
- Councilor Pine said that violence has been a sad hallmark of this pandemic, but also a hallmark of BIPOC history in America. He said that we need to band together to support the BIPOC community and work to dismantle the white supremacy and systemic racism endemic in this country.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.01 Verbal Reports

None at this time.

8. CITY COUNCIL – GENERAL AFFAIRS

8.01 Verbal Reports

Councilor Hanson spoke about the conversation around the Mayor's decision to remove Director Green from her role in overseeing the assessment of the Burlington Police Department. He expressed concern about how this decision is rooted in racism and racist culture. He asked how the Mayor will better support the leadership of the REIB department and how City Council can best support the REIB department. He said that City Council passed a resolution on February 8 authorizing Tyeastia Green to execute the consulting contract for the assessment of the BPD with the expectation that the administration would follow through on that resolution once it was signed.



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Councilor Stromberg expressed puzzlement about the Mayor's decision to replace Director Green with BED Manager Springer to oversee the BPD assessment. She said that Director Green is a great candidate for that role of overseeing the assessment.

Councilor Paul noted that a food distribution event will occur this Saturday at noon. She thanked City Councilors for their support for and attendance at these events.

Councilor Dieng said the Council would benefit from an update from the Joint Commission, whether it be written or in-person. City Council President Tracy said he would work to coordinate that request.

Councilors shared their well wishes for Councilor Paulino, who will be ending his service on City Council after this meeting.

9. CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT – COUNCIL UPDATES

9.01 Verbal Reports

City Council President Tracy spoke in support of Mayor Weinberger's decision to reinstate Director Green to oversee the functional assessment of the BPD, though he said that the Mayor's original decision to replace her was regrettable and harmful. He said that the Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Department needs to be better supported.

10. MAYOR – GENERAL AFFAIRS

10.01 Verbal Reports

Mayor Weinberger noted that the Board of Finance began a discussion about the process for allocating the funding that will be coming from the federal stimulus package (the American Rescue Plan Act). He said he will be reaching out to Councilors individually to receive feedback on the process and the priorities for funding distribution.

He acknowledged his mistake in removing Director Green from heading up the BPD assessment. He stressed that it is the job of the executive branch to figure out how to implement the resolutions passed by the Council, and that he has and will continue to do so.

11. ADJOURNMENT

11.01 Motion to adjourn



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

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

The City Council meeting adjourned at 10:34 PM.

RScty: AACoonrad

