



Regular City Council Meeting - Monday, March 9, 2015 - 7:00 p.m., Contois Auditorium, City Hall 3/9/2015

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Members present

Norm Blais, Vince Brennan, Sharon Bushor, Selene Colburn, Dave Hartnett, Jane Knodell, Bianka Legrand, Chip Mason, Karen Paul, Rachel Siegel, Kurt Wright, Joan Shannon, Miro Weinberger

Absent

Max Tracy, Tom Ayres

Also Present

City Attorney Eileen Blackwood, Assistant CAO Rich Goodwin, Mike Kanarick, Mayor's Office, Lori Olberg, Clerk/Treasurer's Office

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM

1. Agenda

Action, Procedural: 1.01 Motion to amend/adopt agenda

Adopt the Agenda

Motion by Chip Mason, second by Jane Knodell.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Aye: Norm Blais, Vince Brennan, Sharon Bushor, Selene Colburn, Dave Hartnett, Jane Knodell, Bianka Legrand, Chip Mason, Karen Paul, Rachel Siegel, Kurt Wright, Joan Shannon

2. Presentation

Communication, Discussion, Information: 2.01 City Market: City Council Presentation, Pat Burns, General Manager

Pat Burns, City Market General Manager, stated they recently purchased the land that the City had been leasing to them. When they were first involved with the City, they developed three guidelines for how they would function. Those guidelines





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were meeting the needs of the low to moderate income, disabled and elderly residents, supporting local agriculture and Vermont products, and carrying a variety of conventional products to serve a full range of residents. He believes the conventional products is part of what has made them as successful as they are. The Co-op has reached 10,000 members. About 60% of those are people who live in the City of Burlington. 67% of the purchases last year were made by members. They have 217 employees. 85% are full time and 15% are part time. 68% of employees live in Burlington. The City Market Board looks closely at their benefits. All employees can earn a livable wage after one year, although 90% start at a livable wage. They have an employee profit sharing of \$746 per employee. They offer a store discount, paid time off, and 100% premiums for healthcare. 3Squares and WIC are important measures for their success. They try to be available for those customers. There has been a decrease in 3squares redemption, which he believes is because they are not providing enough funding for people who need food. The Food for All program is a 10% discount for any person with 3Squares, Social Security, Disability or WIC. Sales through this program have been increasing. In most co-ops member workers work in the store. They did not have enough shifts for people who wanted to participate, so they have partnered with 16 different non-profits. That resulted in 11,823 hours of people working in the non-profit community. They will continue to push that model to have most people working in the community. The Rally for Change at checkout allows people to round their charge up. The money goes to the non-profits that they support. They did this because they saw a reduction in the number of people purchasing donations to the Food Shelf. They also provide products at the store to the Food Shelf in addition to cash. They annually sell Christmas Trees to benefit COTS. This year they had \$11,547 of sales that went to COTS. They are a non-profit for their members and issue all profits as rebates to their members. In the last year they issued 10,000 checks totaling \$986,000. Uncashed patronage refund checks would normally become taxable income. They have instead decided to take this money and donate it to a non-profit. Member Services found a way to identify five different non-profits looking for grants between \$2,500-\$5,000 to support the local food economy. They put together members of the co-op and staff to review the requests. They guaranteed that they will fund at least \$20,000 of grants. They offer 2,135 Vermont products which result in \$14 million in sales each year. This has a multiplier effect in the local economy. They paid \$518,580 in taxes and fees to the City of Burlington in FY2014.

Councilor Blais inquired what their plans for a store on Pine Street are. Mr. Burns stated they did a market study and the results were that they should build a store in the South End. He has discussed potential properties that they could build on. planBTV South End also identified the need for a grocery store. They are committed to building a store there, but the timetable is unknown. They have also considered smaller bodega type stores in Winooski or the Old North End. However, they need a larger store to remove the pressure from the existing store.

Councilor Bushor inquired what standard they use for a livable wage. Mr. Burns stated they use the Joint Fiscal Office at the State and have annual updates. They are beginning negotiations in April for the new union contract. Councilor Bushor spoke in favor of their generous benefit package. She always hears about City Market and Healthy Living talked about together. To her, they are starkly different because of City Market's community involvement. She believes this presentation is important and keeps them aware of the value of City Market is to the community.

3. Public Forum

Information, Procedural: 3.01 Verbal Comments

City Council President Shannon opened the public forum at 7:25pm.



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Lise Veronneau, Alliance Francaise Lake Champlain Region, spoke about the International Francophone Flag Raising ceremony.

Ron Ruloff, Ward 3 Resident, spoke about development in the City.

Lawrence Hamilton, Veteran's for Peace, spoke against militarization of Police.

Karl Novak, Veteran's for Peace, spoke against militarization of Police.

City Council President Shannon closed the public forum at 7:36pm.

4. Consent Agenda

Action (Consent), Resolution: 4.01 Resolution: Authorize Expenditure of Previously Approved Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant #EMW-2013-FO-03000 (Board of Finance)

waive the reading and adopt the resolution

Motion by Sharon Bushor, second by Jane Knodell.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Aye: Norm Blais, Vince Brennan, Sharon Bushor, Selene Colburn, Dave Hartnett, Jane Knodell, Bianka Legrand, Chip Mason, Karen Paul, Rachel Siegel, Kurt Wright, Joan Shannon

Action (Consent), Resolution: 4.02 Resolution: Approval of Phase 1 PLC Upgrade for McNeil Electric Generating Station (Board of Finance)

waive the reading and adopt the resolution

Motion by Sharon Bushor, second by Jane Knodell.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Aye: Norm Blais, Vince Brennan, Sharon Bushor, Selene Colburn, Dave Hartnett, Jane Knodell, Bianka Legrand, Chip Mason, Karen Paul, Rachel Siegel, Kurt Wright, Joan Shannon

Action (Consent), Resolution: 4.03 Resolution: Approving The Pledging of The Credit of The City in Anticipation of The Receipt of Revenue From The Electric Department (Board of Finance)



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waive the reading and adopt the resolution

Motion by Sharon Bushor, second by Jane Knodell.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Aye: Norm Blais, Vince Brennan, Sharon Bushor, Selene Colburn, Dave Hartnett, Jane Knodell, Bianka Legrand, Chip Mason, Karen Paul, Rachel Siegel, Kurt Wright, Joan Shannon

Action (Consent), Resolution: 4.04 Resolution: Approving Obtaining Standby Letter(s) of Credit for The City's Worker's Compensation Program (Board of Finance)

waive the reading and adopt the resolution

Motion by Sharon Bushor, second by Jane Knodell.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Aye: Norm Blais, Vince Brennan, Sharon Bushor, Selene Colburn, Dave Hartnett, Jane Knodell, Bianka Legrand, Chip Mason, Karen Paul, Rachel Siegel, Kurt Wright, Joan Shannon

Action (Consent), Resolution: 4.05 Resolution: Creation of Limited Service Accounting Specialist and Elimination of Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable Specialist Position - Burlington Telecom (Board of Finance)

waive the reading and adopt the resolution

Motion by Sharon Bushor, second by Jane Knodell.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Aye: Norm Blais, Vince Brennan, Sharon Bushor, Selene Colburn, Dave Hartnett, Jane Knodell, Bianka Legrand, Chip Mason, Karen Paul, Rachel Siegel, Kurt Wright, Joan Shannon

Action (Consent), Communication: 4.06 Communication: C/T Office, re: Accountability List

waive the reading, accept the communication and place it on file

Motion by Sharon Bushor, second by Jane Knodell.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes



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Aye: Norm Blais, Vince Brennan, Sharon Bushor, Selene Colburn, Dave Hartnett, Jane Knodell, Bianka Legrand, Chip Mason, Karen Paul, Rachel Siegel, Kurt Wright, Joan Shannon

Action (Consent), Communication: 4.07 Communication: C/T Office, re: General Fund Revenue Unaudited - January 2015 Financial

waive the reading, accept the communication and place it on file

Motion by Sharon Bushor, second by Jane Knodell.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Aye: Norm Blais, Vince Brennan, Sharon Bushor, Selene Colburn, Dave Hartnett, Jane Knodell, Bianka Legrand, Chip Mason, Karen Paul, Rachel Siegel, Kurt Wright, Joan Shannon

Action (Consent), Communication: 4.08 Communication: C/T Office, re: Sweep Accounts & Other Bank Accounts

waive the reading, accept the communication and place it on file

Motion by Sharon Bushor, second by Jane Knodell.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Aye: Norm Blais, Vince Brennan, Sharon Bushor, Selene Colburn, Dave Hartnett, Jane Knodell, Bianka Legrand, Chip Mason, Karen Paul, Rachel Siegel, Kurt Wright, Joan Shannon

Action (Consent), Communication: 4.09 Communication: David Parker, er: Resigning from BTAB

waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file and send a letter of appreciation to David Parker thanking him for his time served on BTAB

Motion by Sharon Bushor, second by Jane Knodell.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Aye: Norm Blais, Vince Brennan, Sharon Bushor, Selene Colburn, Dave Hartnett, Jane Knodell, Bianka Legrand, Chip Mason, Karen Paul, Rachel Siegel, Kurt Wright, Joan Shannon

Action (Consent), Communication: 4.10 Communication: Mathew Chabot, Member, Church Street Marketplace Commission, re: Resignation



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waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file, advertise the vacancy and send Mathew Chabot a letter of appreciation thanking him for his time served on the Church Street Marketplace Commission

Motion by Sharon Bushor, second by Jane Knodell.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Aye: Norm Blais, Vince Brennan, Sharon Bushor, Selene Colburn, Dave Hartnett, Jane Knodell, Bianka Legrand, Chip Mason, Karen Paul, Rachel Siegel, Kurt Wright, Joan Shannon

5. Deliberative Agenda

Action, Ordinance - First Reading: 5.01 Ordinance: Comprehensive Development Ordinance - Conditional Use; Inclusionary and Replacement Housing; Planned Unit Development - ZA #15-02 (Planning Department; Planning Commission)(1st reading)(proposed action: refer to Ordinance Committee)

David White, Planning and Zoning, stated this is an attempt to find efficiency in how the Development Review process for Zoning Permit Applications works. Zoning applications take one of two routes. Applications can be reviewed by staff, or it is sent to a discretionary review by the Development Review Board. In any community with zoning there are some uses that are conditionally permitted. This means the community wants to look more closely at certain types of uses and development. The zoning regulation has been modernized many times. Over the years there have been many layers of discretionary review added. They have a design review process, a major impact review process, a subdivision review, and planned unit developments. These processes add layers. They have never stepped back to try to clean out the redundant processes. They are removing the requirement for conditional use review that bear no relationship to a conditional use. Some examples are projects involving inclusionary or replacement housing. Affordable housing is not a reason to make it subject to a more difficult, costly and time consuming review process. Those involving many units, major impact or other conditional land uses then it would be reviewed. They currently review all subdivisions, but should only be reviewed if the new development is a conditional use. There are a number of simple changes that they can make. There are a lot of places where they need to remove references to conditional use review. There are also changes in the proposal regarding inclusionary zoning and planned unit development as a result of changes to the Statute.

Councilor Bushor stated that there was a reference to a manager and inquired who the manager would be. She requested that they define that for the Ordinance Committee. Mr. White stated that refers to the Housing Trust Fund manager, who is typically a CEDO employee.

Councilor Mason inquired what process this went through. Mr. White stated it originated with the Planning Staff. There are situations where projects should follow a simple process but the Ordinance does not allow it to do that. Their initiative was to bring it to the Planning Commission. They discussed it and reviewed it in their Ordinance Committee. They held public hearings and it received unanimous approval from the Planning Commission. There is a lot of confusion about what this will do. Members of the public have concerns about development issues, but most of their concerns are unrelated to what this will do. Larger projects will still need to go through a review process.



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Councilor Colburn stated she is supportive of this proposal. Doing this will mean that some projects will no longer need to come before the Planning Commission. She wants them to be sure that neighborhood input and citizen review will still have a place.

consider this first reading and refer to the Ordinance Committee

Motion by Chip Mason, second by Bianka Legrand.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Aye: Norm Blais, Vince Brennan, Sharon Bushor, Selene Colburn, Dave Hartnett, Jane Knodell, Bianka Legrand, Chip Mason, Karen Paul, Rachel Siegel, Kurt Wright, Joan Shannon

6. Committee Reports

Communication, Information: 6.01 Verbal Reports

City Council President Shannon reported on the Form Based Code Committee.

Councilor Wright reported on the Parks, Arts and Culture Committee.

Councilor Knodell reported on the Burlington Town Center Redevelopment Committee.

7. City Council - General Affairs

Communication, Information: 7.01 Verbal Reports

Councilor Knodell reported on Mayor Weinberger's reelection and thanked City Staff for running a smooth election. She expressed disappointment that the questions related to non-citizens did not pass.

Councilor Brennan reported on his time on the Council and non-citizen rights.

Councilor Blais thanked Councilor Brennan for his service on the Council.

Councilor Colburn thanked Councilor Brennan for his service on the Council. She also reported on International Women's Day.

Councilor Wright congratulated the Mayor on his reelection and other Town Meeting Day candidates. He reported on problems with campaign signs at Ward 4. He thanked Councilor Brennan for his service.

Councilor Hartnett thanked Councilor Brennan for his service.

Councilor Siegel thanked Councilor Brennan for his service and reported on International Women's Day.

Councilor Paul reported on Mayor Weinberger's and the election of City Councilors. She reported on people who did not





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receive absentee ballots. She reported on the improvement to the City's credit rating. She thanked Councilor Brennan for his service.

City Council President Shannon thanked Councilor Brennan for his service and reported on the Burlington Irish Heritage Festival.

8. Mayor - General Affairs

Communication, Information: 8.01 Verbal Reports

Mayor Weinberger congratulated the re-elected and newly elected City Councilors. He thanked Councilor Brennan for his service. He expressed disappointment that the ballot initiatives related to non-citizens did not pass. He thanked the Clerk/Treasurer's Office and City Attorney's Office for running a successful election. He congratulated the Public Works Department for their work in maintaining streets in the recent cold temperatures. He reported on the Eagles Landing project. He reported on the change in size of the Parks Commission. He reported on the 10 year capital plan. He reported that they will hold their Department Head's meeting at the King Street Youth Center in their new facility. He thanked the 150th City Celebration for their work in organizing the event. He offered his condolences to former Mayor Peter Clavelle for the death of his father.

9. Adjournment

Action, Procedural: 9.01 Motion to adjourn

Without objection, City Council President Shannon adjourned the City Council meeting.