

**BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL, CONTOIS AUDITORIUM *OR*
REMOTE MEETING WITH CALL-IN
BURLINGTON, VERMONT
MINUTES OF MEETING
November 20, 2023
DRAFT**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Karen Paul
Joan Shannon
Ali Dieng
Zoraya Hightower (via Zoom)
Sarah E Carpenter
Mark Barlow
Joe Magee
Gene Bergman
Ben Traverse (via Zoom)
Tim Doherty (via Zoom)
Melo Grant (via Zoom)
Hannah King (via Zoom)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Miro Weinberger
Katherine Schad
Jordan Redell
Jared Pellerin
Lori Olberg
Michael LaChance
Stephen Petit
Chapin Spencer
Norm Baldwin
Olivia Darisse
Darren Springer

1. CALL TO ORDER and AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by City Council President Paul at 5:37 PM.

MOTION by Councilor Carpenter, SECOND by Councilor Shannon, to amend/adopt the agenda as follows:

- **Add to the consent agenda item 6.16. Communication: Mark Bouchett, Chair, CSM Commission, re: Church Street Marketplace Commission Public Safety Resolution;**
- **Add to the consent agenda item 6.17. Communication: Lina Swislocki, Member, Conservation Board, re: Resignation;**

- **Add to the consent agenda item 6.18. Communication: Connor Wertz, re: 11.17.23 Petition Say No To Dirty Energy;**
- **Add to the consent agenda item 6.19. Communication: Nicholas Persampiere, re: McNeil District Energy – Report;**
- **Add to the consent agenda item 6.20. Communication: Nicholas Persampiere, re: November 20, 2023 City Council Meeting Agenda Item No. 7.6 – McNeil District Energy Resolution;**
- **Add to the consent agenda item 6.21. Communication: Dan Quinian, re: Letter to the City Council;**
- **Add to the consent agenda item 6.22. Communication: Ashley Adams, re: Thermal Energy Ordinance and “District” Energy System votes tonight;**
- **Add to the consent agenda item 6.23. Communication: Gary Scott, Interim Network SVP Facilities Planning and Design, UVM Health Network Corporate Leadership, re: Carbon Fee Ordinance;**
- **Add to the consent agenda item 6.24. Communication: Luce R. Hillman, P.E., Executive Director of Facilities Management, The University of Vermont, re: Carbon Impact Fee Ordinance;**
- **Add to the consent agenda item 6.25. Communication: Solveig Overby, re: Support for McNeil waste heat recovery project to get UHC off gas as it transitions to non-combustion power production;**
- **Add to the consent agenda item 6.26. Communication: Michael Long, re: BED Pipeline Project.**

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

2. COMMUNITY SAILING CENTER UPDATE (VERBAL)

2.1. Community Sailing Center Update (verbal)

Owen Milne, the Executive Director of the Community Sailing Center, provided a brief presentation. He noted that the Sailing Center is the recipient of a generous community credit as a result of its lease of property from the City of Burlington. He provided a highlight of the community impact that the Sailing Center is making, which includes providing at-risk youth with leadership programming, adaptive watersports, floating classrooms for STEM education, and a diversity access initiative that provides 100% funded summer camp for BIPOC children. He spoke briefly about a \$4.8 million waterfront accessible boat-launch. He said that they are also collaborating with the UVM Center on Rural Addiction on a sailing adventure therapeutic intervention study for individuals currently in active opioid recovery programs.

Councilor Shannon thanked the Community Sailing Center for being part of the community and teaching valuable skills that are applicable to far more than just sailing.

Councilor Grant expressed support for initiatives that increase the diversity of programming for children, and thanked the Sailing Center for taking equity into account in its programming. She said she would also like to get more information about access to bathrooms at the sailing center, given some public comments and complaints that have been made.

3. PUBLIC FORUM: **TIME CERTAIN – 6:30 PM**

3.1 Verbal Comments

Forum opened at 6:30 PM.

COMMENTS:

Burlington residents (in person):

- Stephen Whittaker said that it is not compliant with Vermont’s Open Meeting Law to limit each public speaker to 2 or 1 minute for speaking during public forum. He said that he is trying to convey urgent public safety matters regarding hygiene and syringes and

public restrooms, and said that he has asked for these issues to be put on the agenda, and he has had no option other than to file an Open Meeting Law violation.

- Andrew Voda spoke as a representative of Burlington and surrounding communities who have signed onto a letter urging a balanced and urgent approach to the public safety and drug crisis being faced by the community. He said that they are calling on leaders to act urgently to address the crisis through continued and expanded harm reduction efforts and increased deterrence, enforcement, and prosecution.
- Hayley Jones spoke as a representative of Slingshot, which combats air pollution and builds community power. She asked the Council to vote no on the resolution related to District Energy, speaking about the negative public health impacts of burning biomass, and urged the Council to pursue more truly clean, renewable energy in its place.
- Robert Inglis encouraged the Council to vote against the McNeil District Energy proposal, saying that it is a partial solution. He said that the science is clear that there is not time to wait for carbon to be reabsorbed once it's burned and that cleaner sources should be pursued. He said that locking Burlington and the hospital (UVMHC) into a partial solution now would prevent them from pursuing truly clean alternative sources of energy.
- Steve Goodkind spoke as an opponent of wood burning at McNeil Plant, and that the steam pipe to UVMHC is a waste of funds and energy. He noted that the District Energy resolution language does measure McNeil's performance on stack emissions rather than theoretical renewable assumptions and will be evaluated in a public process, which is good. He also noted that the resolution does not preclude the closing or changing of operations of the McNeil Plant, and said that for these reasons he is optimistic about the resolution.
- Keren Sita spoke about her passionate fight for her constitutional and federal rights. She recited a self-composed haiku on behalf of the suffering of Black Vermonters.
- Christopher Gutchell spoke about fighting both the COVID and opioid epidemics in the context of the current political landscape, in which progressive politics and correctional politics are pitted against each other. He said that mental health and culpability can coexist and that responses to the current crises need to be balanced.
- Christine Halquist spoke about her long history of working on energy projects in Vermont. She spoke about one wood-burning project in particular, which her company walked away from after learning about the depletion of soils that occurs with wood harvesting and burning, among other negative impacts. She said that the Council, however, should support the District Energy resolution, since the McNeil Plant is already-existing and would displace existing carbon sources.
- Bethany Whittaker spoke in support of the District Energy Plan, noting that the Burlington Electric Commission worked with BED on this project for years and supports it unanimously.
- Dan Quinland spoke about his career working on health care energy projects across the U.S., working with hospitals on the engineering and financing of projects. He said that McNeil/UVMHC project generates carbon and pollution, saying that it needs to be phased out as quickly as possible. He said that expenditures on this project would delay investment in more impactful, cleaner-energy solutions.
- David Rand spoke about the District Energy resolution and its overlap with the ordinance regarding carbon impact fees. He spoke to the health impacts of climate change, saying that it is past the time where the City should be considering spending \$50 million on aging, polluting, and inefficient infrastructure at the McNeil Plant. He said that this plan is 20 years too late.
- Conner Wertz spoke about problematic green-washing of natural gas solutions and biomass solutions being touted as cleaner, renewable energy. He urged the Council to either pass the District Energy resolution with Councilor Bergman's amendments or table the vote.
- Laura Symon said that as long as Vermont commits to biomass it will not pursue and replace them with renewables. She spoke about a study called Up In Smoke, which determined that the McNeil Plant costs Burlington rate payers \$6-\$8 million per year. She noted that BED has agreed to study the transition off of biomass, noting that they are positive steps forward. She asked whether these

steps would be scrapped if the District Energy resolution were voted down, and said that perhaps studying the transition off of biomass should occur before the resolution vote.

- Sarah Sciortino said that trees are a first line of defense to combat climate change, saying that the pursuit of biomass energy is ironic. She said that asking BED to make the McNeil Plant more efficient over the next several decades while sinking \$40 million into it now is not enough. She urged the Council to approve Councilor Bergman's proposed amendments on the resolution.
- Theo C. spoke with concern about intense climate disasters, saying that the McNeil Plant does not move the City toward a sustainable future.
- Lily Smith asked the Council to vote against the McNeil Plant resolution and accept Councilor Bergman's amendments to it. She spoke about Champlain College's science courses about the McNeil Plant and the opportunity to discuss it openly, noting that students came to conclusions that the planet doesn't absorb carbon at the rate that BED claims and that real discussion needs to occur around genuine carbon-neutral alternatives.
- David Maher presented a number of charts plotting the correlation between the rate of homelessness and the percentage of median income required to pay rent by state (weaker correlation) and the rate of homelessness and vacancy rates (weak correlation), in an attempt to show whether there is a relationship between lack of housing and homelessness. He said that stronger correlations are seen between rate of homelessness and political ideology in each state, with conservative states showing less homelessness than liberal states.
- Nick Persampieri spoke as an environmental lawyer on his work to protect public health and the environment. He spoke about his work to prevent a project for a coal-fired energy plant in Kansas. He said that when he moved to Vermont he was shocked to learn that its biggest city burns wood for electricity and touts it as a clean energy alternative. He urged the Council to reject the resolution around District Energy, or to pass it with Councilor Bergman's amendments.
- Tevan Goldberg spoke about the McNeil Plant, saying that it is bolstered by a scientifically-bankrupt theory and that it makes more sense to burn natural gas than trees at this point, since the trees at least sequester carbon. He urged the Council to reject the District Energy plan.
- Jason van Dreitsch said that the District Energy issue isn't about affordable electricity or the short-term use of McNeil, rather it is about whether the City should invest tens of millions of dollars in a form of technology that every climate scientist says should be phased out as soon as possible.
- John Weyman said that the Council should reject the District Energy proposal and resolution.
- Harris Rowan urged the City to support the McNeil Plant and the District Energy plan. He said that he is a forester and talked about some of the sustainable practices around forestry that he has seen or implemented, saying that properly-managed forests are a renewable resource.
- Robert Bristow Johnson said that carbon shouldn't be put back into the atmosphere at all, whether from wood or natural gas or fossil fuel. He also said that the McNeil Plant is old and it may potentially make more sense to tear it down and start over (but he doesn't know for sure). He also said that the McNeil Plant is small and it doesn't seem efficient to have miles of pipe hauling steam between it and the hospital.
- Lena Greenberg spoke about her self-education related to biomass burning, and said that she is convinced that it is detrimental to the climate. She expressed concern about BED's greenwashing of the McNeil Plant, saying that it produces emissions and particulate matter that harm people in the community.
- Steven Chisa urged the Council to vote against the McNeil Plant. He also urged them to exclude McNeil from the carbon impact fee ordinance.
- Julie Micuga spoke on behalf of themselves and Leif Taranta. They spoke about their research at Global Energy Monitoring on creating comprehensive open source data sets on energy,. Which is used by the United Nations, IAEA, and other organizations. They said that biofuels is a mistake, and that they release carbon and methane, and it is even less efficient than burning coal. They also spoke about

using Canadian natural gas from landfills, which exposes rate payers to incredibly volatile fuel markets. They urged the Council to reject the District Energy proposal or accept Councilor Bergman's amendments to it.

- Dan Castrigano spoke about passing the 2 degree Celsius threshold globally several days ago, which should be a cause for emergency. He spoke about the greenwashing of McNeil, saying that it is making climate change worse. He said that the Council should vote no on the McNeil expansion.
- Mary Ann spoke about the trans mob in the community and how the City lets them quash free speech, citing instances at City Council and other examples. She said that this is not inclusive behavior.
- Jody Woos said that the District Energy issue has now moved beyond the science and is in the hands of the politicians, the fossil fuel industry, and the power brokers in the City. She urged the Council to vote against the District Energy plan. She also expressed concern that at a working session she attended with BED, Vermont Gas and UVMCC, the Medical Center seemed to threaten the City Council that if the District Energy plan did not pass and meet the energy needs of the medical center, then it would take all its future expansion outside of the City.
- Louise Brill noted how the Air Quality Index was high all summer due to forest fires, but that also the burning of biomass at McNeil also negatively impacts the AQI. She also spoke about how the McNeil Plant harms the waterfront and threatens that economy. She urged the Council to vote no on the District Energy plan.
- Liz Curry said that the District Energy plan would continue to ensure affordable energy rates for residents, and is critical to a transition to reach electrification goals, as well as allow the medical center to avoid increased use of natural gas. She spoke about the hazards of using fracked gas. She thanked the City for ensuring that Burlington has a just transition to a clean energy future.
- Jack Tiano spoke about the public health issue that is high-speed, large private motor vehicles. He spoke about his experience as a pedestrian and cyclist in the City, saying that it has become increasingly dangerous to use these modes of transportation. He said that the City should stand up for safe infrastructure, particularly through the Great Streets Main Street project.
- Michael Long spoke about past follies in the City, such as the CityPlace plan that has led to a giant pit in the middle of the City, to the detriment of many of its businesses. He said that the McNeil steam pipe plan is also more foolish than bold. He said that McNeil is an inefficient behemoth.
- Karen Long said that the BED pipeline vote should be postponed, given that there are more questions than answers, and that there will be a new City Council and new Mayor in several months, and that climate change should be a focus of these bodies. She said that McNeil loses millions of dollars each year and that BED ran out of money for project design and engineering for the District Energy plan, and said that they have requested diverting \$500,000 that was earmarked for a rate payer equity program. She expressed concern that BED cannot work within its budget.
- Todd Lacroix spoke about loss of democracy and being wrongfully persecuted for not being on the correct side of issues. He said that both major political parties have failed the American people.
- Greg Delante said that there are cleaner options that gas and wood burning, and said that we must start now to stop carbon emissions.
- Ross Predom spoke proudly an employee of Burlington Electric.

Burlington residents (via Zoom):

- Katherine Bock urged the Council to pass the carbon fee ordinance with Councilor Bergman's amendments and not to support the District Energy resolution.
- Ben Fowler expressed support for the District Energy proposal, saying that alternative solutions would be difficult to implement for a hospital right now, and that this solution would give the City and hospital time to do careful work that makes this a rational decision that takes all aspects of the project into account. He also noted that McNeil already exists. He said that this would allow Burlington to move forward.

- Andy McLeigh spoke about the ongoing blight and graffiti problem occurring in Burlington. He encouraged the City Council to review the letter drafted by Andrew Voda and Jane Knodell, since it raises a number of good points.
- Jennifer Green spoke in support of the District Energy plan, saying that it would reduce commercial fossil fuel consumption in the City by 16%, though she acknowledged it is not a perfect solution. She also noted that when a consultant was hired to develop a roadmap away from fossil fuels, District Energy was identified as one of four key pillars to that success. She noted that this roadmap was approved by the City Council in 2019. She said that solar and geothermal energy are not viable solutions right now.

MOTION by Councilor Magee, SECOND by Councilor Bergman, to extend public forum and allow the 25 remaining people who have signed up for public forum to speak.

VOTING (by roll call): Councilor Barlow – nay, Councilor Bergman – aye, Councilor Carpenter – aye, Councilor Dieng – aye, Councilor Doherty – absent, Councilor Grant – aye, Councilor Hightower – aye, Councilor King – aye, Councilor Magee – aye, Councilor Shannon – nay, Councilor Traverse – aye, City Council President Paul – aye (9 ayes, 2 nays, 1 absent); motion carries.

- Jack Hanson spoke as a representative of a municipal climate policy nonprofit, noting that all of the good concessions that came out of negotiations around reduced emissions for McNeil can be achieved without the pipeline and said that they should be done without the pipeline. He asked the Council to take more time to consider this issue prior to making a decision. He said that the ordinance as currently written is weaker than what any other City has done around regulating existing buildings and would be a setback nationally, and asked that the Council adopt Councilor Bergman's amendments.
- Chris May said that the two climate issues before the Council tonight are about momentum, and whether to invest now in an aging facility and incentivize polluting energy sources for heating, which will make it more difficult to implement larger, non-polluting changes that are urgently needed. She urged the Council to vote against the District Energy proposal and adopt the ordinance with amendments proposed by Councilor Bergman.
- C. Green urged the Council to reject the District Energy proposal and adopt the carbon impact ordinance with Councilor Bergman's amendments.
- Sharon Bushor spoke about downtown businesses. She said that she asked the Board of Finance to look into expanding the hours of free parking downtown, to encourage more economic activity during the holiday shopping season. She also spoke about safety concerns and said that there needs to be another way to provide security if police presence can't be increased downtown.
- Daniel Jordan said that he has worked to drive down the carbon emissions in the built environment. He acknowledged that biomass burning also causes emissions, but noted that the District Energy proposal would capture waste heat that is currently not being harnessed for anything, and that if that waste heat is captured then it means that there is the chance to offset actual natural gas emissions currently being used by the hospital. He agreed that better sources of renewable energy are needed, but said that we don't currently have the technology to deliver clean energy that meet the hospital's high temperature requirements. He said that approving the District Energy proposal would be the lesser of two evils.
- Merrick Broderick asked the Council to vote no on the District Energy plan and yes on the ordinance with Councilor Bergman's amendments. He said that the City should pursue permanent solutions to energy needs, not band aids.

Non-Burlington residents (in person):

- Zack Porter spoke as the director of Standing Trees, a non-profit that protects forests. He spoke about why burning biomass negatively impacts the environment and why it doesn't make sense from an economic standpoint.
- Daniel Benton urged the Council to vote against the McNeil proposal.

- Joanne Margaret spoke about the flooding impacts in Montpelier, and also about the loss of a congressional office within the Montpelier post office with the retirement of Senator Leahy. She suggested that this be reopened by Senator Welch but moved to White River Junction.
- Jeffrey Wommett spoke as a representative of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, which represents the employees at BED. He asked the Council to support the District Energy plan.
- Bob Atkinson spoke as both an energy coordinator for a municipality and an engineer. He said that the District Energy proposal is an example of greenwashing, and that the \$42 million could also alternatively be used to weatherize 6,500 homes.
- Brian Forrest spoke against the District Energy proposal, saying that the McNeil is inefficient and that the funding for the project could be used for more climate-friendly alternatives.
- Kim Horning Marcy noted that the Unitarian Church in Burlington has solar panels in its parking lots, with fewer funds and fewer parking lots than the medical center has. She said that the medical center has options to transition to better usage available now. She also noted that the excessive rainfall has ruined the logging industry's ability to harvest wood.
- Marcy Cass urged the Council to vote against the expansion of the McNeil Plant, adding that she loves Vermont and would love to be proud of her state.
- Beth Sigmund spoke as a physician at UVMHC, and spoke in opposition to the expansion of the McNeil Plant. She spoke about the negative impacts of burning carbon and other greenhouse gases. She said that if this pipeline is built, it will not incentivize moving to better alternatives in the future.

Non-Burlington residents (via Zoom):

- Erin Ahern spoke as a student at UVM and urged the Council to vote against the McNeil pipeline and adopt the carbon impact fee ordinance with Councilor Bergman's amendments.
- Fergus Marshall spoke about the immediate and urgent action needed to reduce emissions and asked why we are continuing to do business as usual. He said that the McNeil Plant expansion proposal is business as usual.
- Cheryl Joy Lipton spoke about the evidence that shows that continuing to burn wood at McNeil is a bad idea. She said that McNeil should be phased out. She said that the other side of this argument has not backed up their claims with evidence. She urged the Council to vote no on this resolution.
- Peter Duvall spoke about his work on the McNeil Plant. He also spoke about how Vermont rate-payers are subsidizing the McNeil Plant, paying around \$11 million annually to keep it operating. He said that what BED has brought to the Council is nothing like a district energy system. He urged the Council to vote no on the resolution.
- Nolan Rogers urged the Council to vote no on the McNeil Plant, though he appreciates the concept of a district energy system. He said that if McNeil were a plant that is viable to operate for another 25 years, then this would be a better idea, but McNeil is aging and outdated.

Forum closed at 8:46 PM.

4. PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY EMERGENCY UPDATES

4.1 Public Health and Safety Emergency Updates

Councilor Grant said that anyone who has reported an incident to the Police Department and believes that their case should have been submitted to the State Attorney's Office has the right to verify that their report has been submitted, and if they need help with that, they can reach out to their City Councilor. She said that in terms of arrests related to drug trafficking, there are questions as to why people have been given bail. She noted that there are laws stating how long someone can be held if their arrest isn't related to violence.

Councilor Magee noted that the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee will be meeting on November 29th and will be discussing funding recommendations for how the settlement money is allocated and preparing to make those recommendations to the legislature. He said that one of the recommendations he is strongly encouraging the committee to consider is \$1 million for overdose prevention centers in Vermont. He encouraged residents to contact members of the committee and ask that they support overdose prevention centers.

Mayor Weinberger noted that he is a member of the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee and that he will be continuing to advocate for another important strategy, which is the expanded access to methadone, given that there is only one site in Chittenden County that administers methadone. He noted that while there is \$2 million allocated to expand methadone access, it won't be put into action for the next 12 to 18 months. He also provided an update on the vulnerable populations that have continued to be housed in the motel program with access to the coordinated entry system. He said that since June, coordinated entry has referred 140 households to rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing, and that due to that, the number of households in motels in Chittenden County has decreased from 256 in June to 154 as of the most recent data. He noted that there are still 109 households in coordinated entry awaiting placement (due to lack of available permanent housing). He noted that the City team is working hard to open an additional shelter in December. He also noted that the State is putting out new rules on how the hotel program will operate through the winter.

Councilor Barlow spoke about an item on the consent agenda (6.16) from the chair of the Church Street Marketplace Commission, noting that the CSMC passed a resolution on 11/15 that is a call to action about the crisis that businesses are going through and the decreased quality of life and vibrancy in the City.

5. CLIMATE EMERGENCY REPORTS

5.1 Climate Emergency Reports
None.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6.1 Motion to adopt the consent agenda (as amended) and take the actions indicated

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

6.3 Approval of budget amendment for contract to prepare for FY23 audit – approve and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to execute a first contract amendment in the amount of \$50,000 and to extend the maximum limiting amount of the contract to \$100,000 with Berry Dunn for accounting services, upon the review and approval of the City Attorney's Office.

6.4 Communication: Kelly Devine, BBA, Executive Director, re: \$100,000 Investment in support of downtown businesses – waive the reading and place the communication on file.

6.5 Communication: Scott Miller, re: So sad for Burlington - waive the reading and place the communication on file.

6.6 Downtown Vibrancy Grant – BWD – authorize the Director of Business & Workforce Development to enter into an agreement with the State of Vermont, subject to the final review and approval from the City Attorney's Office, to accept a grant award of \$25,000 in Fiscal Year 2024 as part of the State of Vermont's non-competitive Downtown Vibrancy Fund.

6.7 Amendment to Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District consulting services contract with White+Burke – CEDO – 1. Approve and authorize the Director of the Community & Economic Development Office to execute the proposed contract amendment with White+Burke Real Estate Advisors for TIF consulting services regarding the Waterfront and Downtown TIF districts with a maximum limiting amount of \$140,000, to be paid out of TIF related costs, pursuant to final review of the City Attorney's Office; and 2. Approve and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to make any and all necessary project budget amendments associated with the Waterfront TIF Related Costs Professional and Consultant project budget, up to a maximum amount of \$95,000.000

- 6.8 Authorization for Contract with Avenu Insights and analytics for Digitization of Land Records and Budget Amendment – C/T – approve and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, or their designee, to effect the necessary budget amendment to designate \$87,474.00 from the Preservation/Restoration fund (GL 110-04-000.4200) account line to be used for Professional and Consultant Services (account line 110-04-000.6500_118).
- 6.9 B.E.D.'s Property Boiler and Machinery (B&M) 2023-2024 Insurance renewal – BED – authorize the General Manager of the Burlington Electric Department to execute the Property, Boiler * Machinery insurance coverage renewal contract with AIG/ZURICH/STARR TECH/AEGIS for the policy period 11/20/2023 through 11/20/2024 with a not to exceed premium of \$778,683.70, as outlined in this memo, subject to review and approval of the City Attorney's Office and the Board of Finance.
- 6.10 Approval to enter into a contract with Cargill, Inc. for FY24 road salt procurement – DPW – authorize the Director of Public Works to enter into a contract with Cargill to supply the City of Burlington with rock salt for winter maintenance of roads and sidewalks at a unit price of \$88.00/ton, for an amount not to exceed \$285,000 plus \$43,000 in contingency for Fiscal Year 2024, which will come from the Public Works Reserve in the assigned fund balance, for a total authorized expenditure of \$328,000, subject to review and approval of the City Attorney's Office.
- 6.11 Railyard Enterprise Project – Stantec Design Contract Amendment 4 – DPW - authorize the Director of the Department of Public Works to execute a contract amendment with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for continued and additional engineering design services for the Railyard Enterprise project increasing the contract amount by \$966,758 with an additional \$193,352 (20% contingency), totaling \$2,661,310 subject to the review and approval by the City Attorney's Office.
- 6.12 Communication: Nicholas Persampieri, re: Thermal Energy System - waive the reading and place the communication on file.
- 6.13 44 Shelburne Street Parking Lot – Encumbrance Permit Application – DPW - approve the Encumbrance Application for Burlington Property Management requesting use of the public right-of-way for a private parking lot as detailed in Attachment C, and authorize the Mayor to enter into a license agreement with the Applicant for use of the portion of the right-of-way outlined in the Application, subject to review by the City Attorney's Office.
- 6.14 FIO Documents – for information only.
- 6.15 Resolution: Designation of Polling Places for City Elections (Councilor Paul) – waive the reading and adopt the resolution.
- 6.16 Communication: Mark Bouchett, Chair, CSM Commission, re: Church Street Marketplace Commission Public Safety Resolution - waive the reading and place the communication on file.
- 6.17 Communication: Lina Swislocki, Member, Conservation Board, re: Resignation - waive the reading, accept the communication, place it on file, advertise the vacancy in Seven Days and send a letter of appreciation to Lina Swislocki thanking her for her time served as a Member of the Conservation Board.
- 6.18 Communication: Connor Wertz, re: 11.17.23 Petition Say No to Dirty Energy - waive the reading and place the communication on file.
- 6.19 Communication: Nicholas Persampieri, re: McNeil District Energy – Report - waive the reading and place the communication on file.
- 6.20 Communication: Nicholas Persampieri, re: November 20, 2023 City Council Meeting Agenda Item No. 7.6 - McNeil District Energy Resolution - waive the reading and place the communication on file.
- 6.21 Communication: Dan Quinlan, re: Letter to the City Council - waive the reading and place the communication on file.
- 6.22 Communication: Ashley Adams, re: Thermal Energy Ordinance and "District" Energy System votes tonight - waive the reading and place the communication on file.
- 6.23 Communication: Gary Scott, Interim Network SVP Facilities Planning and Design, UVM Health Network Corporate Leadership, re: Carbon Fee Ordinance - waive the reading and place the communication on file.
- 6.24 Communication: Luce R. Hillman, Executive Director of Facilities Management, The University of Vermont, re: Carbon Impact Fee Ordinance – waive the reading and place the communication on file.
- 6.25 Communication: Solveig Overby, re: Support for McNeil waste heat recovery project to get UHC off gas as transition to non-combustion power production – waive the reading and place the communication on file.

6.26 Communication: Michael Long, re: BED Pipeline Project – waive the reading and place the communication on file.

MOTION by Councilor Dieng, SECOND by Councilor Magee, to adopt the consent agenda as amended and take the actions indicated for items 6.1-6.26.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

7. DELIBERATIVE AGENDA

7.1 Tobacco License Application (2023-2024): High Fidelity, 163 Cherry Street

MOTION by Councilor Shannon, SECOND by Councilor Barlow, to approve the 2023-2024 Tobacco License Application for High Fidelity, 163 Cherry Street.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

7.2 Burlington Fire Department – Station Alerting

MOTION by Councilor Magee, SECOND by Councilor Shannon, to approve and authorize the Chief of the Burlington Fire Department to execute a contract with Bryx, Inc. for the installation of a fire station alerting system, with a maximum limiting amount of up to \$430,000.00, which is the contract cost plus a 6.6% contingency, subject to the final review and approval of the City Attorney’s Office.

DISCUSSION:

- **Deputy Chief Petit noted that station alerting is critical to the Fire Department to getting workers out the door in a timely manner. He noted that the current system is outdated and no longer under warranty. He said that a new system would be a significant improvement. He noted that the alerting system that was selected to replace the current system would use commercially-available equipment that the Fire Department could source itself if it needed to, and that the vendor would cover both software and hardware upgrades. Chief LaChance noted that the new system would also have emergency buttons in all rooms of the Fire Station as well.**
- **Councilor Grant asked how this system would interface with the current and new dispatch systems. Chief LaChance replied that the system would seamlessly integrate with the current dispatch system as well as any new dispatch system.**

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

7.3 Memorandum: Ben Traverse and Gene Bergman, Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Police Oversight, re: Committee Status

MOTION by Councilor Bergman, SECOND by Councilor Dieng, to waive the reading, accept the memorandum, and place it on file.

DISCUSSION:

- **Councilor Bergman began by noting that the Joint Committee on Police Oversight is made up of the Charter Change Committee and the Ordinance Committee. He said that they have met a dozen times to meet the goals of the resolution that was adopted in February of this year. He said that the goals are to allow the public to have additional input and**

engagement on police oversight and accountability, have the committee review a number of prior proposals on this issue, and to review and make legislative (charter and/or ordinance) changes on the Chief's authority over discipline. He said that the Committee has tried to accomplish these goals, and are working to finalize a draft charter change for the Council's consideration in December. He said that the proposal would increase the size of the Police Commission to 9 members (from 7), add language that the appointment should be for members who represent the diverse nature of the City's constituents, expand the City Council's authority to obtain additional information about the Police Department, specify that the Police Commission has the authority to audit and monitor the functioning of the Department, outline the Chief's and Commission's powers to promulgate regulations and the process for doing so, and make explicit the Commission's authority to receive and review all civilian and internal allegations of misconduct by members of the police. He noted that the Joint Committee is still considering the threshold that the Commission would need to activate its investigative authority (majority or super majority vote). He also spoke about the Committee's consideration of establishing a body to weigh in when the Commission and the Chief disagree on recommendations. He noted that the Committee is meeting next week as well as in December.

- Councilor Dieng thanked the Committee for its work.
- Mayor Weinberger said that in addition to building trust in the Police Department through a strengthened citizen Commission, they have learned about the importance of guardrails or safeguards to ensure that police officers receive procedural justice and ensure that the work of the Commission does not distract and take up too many resources within the Police Department. He said that he would like to be supportive of a charter change and get it on the ballot, but that more work needs to be done to get the proposal in a place where he feels he can support it.
- Councilor Grant said that there continues to be a denial of the situation in Burlington and that the City isn't taking an honest look at how to repair some of the issues around community distrust of the Police Department. She said that because some of the Joint Committee members haven't experienced the issues the City has faced over the last few years, they are having trouble grasping the concepts of oversight and accountability. She said that the City needs balance in how it protects officers and how it protects the community.
- Councilor Shannon agreed with Councilor Grant about the importance of improving the relationship between the Police Department and the community. She said that the Committee has not yet engaged the police on this issue, though they are soliciting feedback from the Police Chief and police union. She said it will be important to determine if this proposed charter change would be harmful to current officers and the City's recruitment efforts.
- Councilor Traverse thanked the Committee for its work and said that members of the Joint Committee are fully understanding of the concepts that are before them, and agreed that the goal is to find a balance between oversight and recruitment and retention efforts in the Police Department. He urged stakeholders to give their input now, so that it can be considered and incorporated into the proposal.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

7.4 Great Streets Main Street Construction Award and Contract Amendments – DPW –

MOTION by Councilor Barlow, SECOND by Councilor Magee, to 1. To authorize the Director of Public Works to execute Amendment #8 to the design contract, subject to City Attorney review and approval, with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) in the amount of \$614,811.00, bringing the total contract value up to \$3,160,488.00, and authorize the use of an additional \$61,481.00 in contingency funds to be available to use toward any necessary future contract amendments needed to accomplish the design work herein contemplated,, and further authorize execution of any such necessary amendments upon

review and approval by the City Attorney's Office, for a total authorized amount of \$3,221,969.00 for the development of the design of the Great Streets Main Street project; 2. To authorize the Director of Public Works to execute Amendment #1 to the resident engineer contract, subject to City Attorney review and approval, with EIV Technical Services in the amount of \$298,974.00, bringing the total contract value up to \$2,098,974.00, and authorize the use of an additional \$209,897.00 in contingency funds to be available to use toward any necessary future contract amendments needed to accomplish the services detailed herein, and further authorize execution of any such necessary amendments upon review and approval by the City Attorney's Office, for a total authorized amount of \$2,308,871.00 for resident engineering and outreach consulting services for the Great Streets Main Street project; 3. To authorize the Director of Burlington City Arts to execute contract amendments with the Great Streets Main Street selected Artists from the current total approved amount of \$66,696 to a total authorized Phase I and Phase II project expenditure in the amount of \$474,626, subject to review and approval by the City Attorney's Office, and to further authorize the use of an additional \$25,374 in contingency funds to be available to use toward future amendments for any of the artist contracts, and further authorize execution of any such necessary amendments upon review and approval by the City Attorney's Office, for a total authorized amount of \$500,000.00: a. A contract with Lydia Kern in an amount not to exceed \$90,600 for fabrication of artwork; b. A contract with WOWHAUS in an amount not to exceed \$99,000 for fabrication of artwork; c. A contract with Pixel Patch Creative, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$145,000 for fabrication of artwork; and d. A contract with Nancy Winship Milliken Studio, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$140,026 for fabrication of artwork; 4. To authorize the Director of Public Works to execute a Memorandum of Understanding, subject to City Attorney review and approval, with Burlington Electric Department in the amount of \$399,039, for the lighting construction of the Great Streets Main Street project; 5. To authorize the Director of Public Works to execute the following initial construction contract and future necessary contract amendments with S.D. Ireland Brothers Corporation to complete the reduced project scope as described herein for the Great Streets Main Streets project, for a total approved expenditure not to exceed \$25,962,543.26, subject to City Attorney Office review and approval: a. an initial construction contract in an amount not to exceed \$21,700,572.20; and, b. any such future contract amendments necessary to carry out the reduced project scope, in additional amounts not to exceed \$2,596,254.83 in contingency funds and \$4,261,971.06 in bond premium funds, totaling \$28,558,798.09 in additional reserve funds, provided that use of the bond premium funds shall be subject to the Vermont Economic Progress Council's (VEPC) review and approval; 6. To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, or their designee, to affect all necessary budget amendments and transfers of funds to and from the above-referenced funding sources as needed to pay the above-referenced project expenses in FY24 and Overall Project Budgets, as further detailed in Attachments C and D, provided that such budget amendment and transfers of funds as detailed in Attachment D involving bond premium funds shall be subject to VEPC's prior review and approval of the use of such funds.

DISCUSSION:

- Director Spencer began by noting that this project is a TIF-funded investment and will add bike lanes and pedestrian facilities to the streets in question, will protect Lake Champlain with robust stormwater facilities, will renew century-old water and wastewater facilities, and will unlock the redevelopment potential of downtown parcels that is currently limited by the ravine sewer.
- Assistant Director Baldwin walked through the bid review process and timeline. He noted that the original proposal was to redevelop 6 blocks of Main Street from Union to Battery Street, and that the original engineer's estimate was \$24,000,000 in cost. He said that the apparently successful bidder's proposal was for \$37,364,229, resulting in a funding gap of almost \$13 million. He said that the contractor has agreed to hold its price until November 20th (today). He said that unfortunately, they have had to reduce the scope of the project from 6 blocks to 3 blocks, from Winooski Avenue to Pine Street.

- Engineer Darisse spoke about the outreach that DPW has conducted with stakeholders along the proposed project site, and acknowledged that it has much more outreach to conduct around the reduced scope of the proposal. She noted that they have worked hard to establish relationships with businesses along the streets and address their concerns, and will maintain communication with the business community as the construction phase begins.
- Councilor Grant asked for more details about the proposed scope and approach of the project, as well as funding. Director Spencer replied that because the lowest bid came in significantly higher than estimated, the project has become a phased project and that this is the first phase and is within the City's funding abilities. He said that for Phase 2 of the project, they will need to seek federal, state, or other funding to complete it.
- Councilor Dieng noted that he voted against this at the Board of Finance, because he is concerned about the lack of engagement with businesses about the reduced scope of this project. He requested that this be postponed and that businesses be engaged more before making a decision.

MOTION by Councilor Dieng, SECOND by Councilor Bergman, to postpone this item until the City Council meeting on December 11 or at a special City Council meeting if called by the Mayor, under the circumstances of engaging the businesses.

DISCUSSION:

- Councilor Bergman asked what the impact of postponement would be. Assistant Director Baldwin replied that the bidder has agreed to hold the price for 60 days (which was yesterday, but they have agreed to hold it until today). He said that if this is postponed past tonight, it may result in the contractor not holding the price and forcing the City to rebid the work. He said that if that occurs, staff believe that it will not result in better circumstances or outcomes, due to the complexity of the work. Assistant Director Baldwin said that staff have not communicated to the public about this until now because they were in active negotiations with the bidder and that they also did not want to communicate information without having a solution, which left them only 6 days once they had a viable solution to have that public engagement that everyone desired. Councilor Bergman asked how DPW will address businesses' concerns, if this proposal moves forward tonight. Director Spencer replied that they have worked with other City departments to secure funding for business support through the life of the project, that they are committed to fully understand and address concerns that are raised by stakeholders. He said that if there are concerns about street closures and other aspects, they have the ability to discuss change orders with the contractor (though this will have financial implications).
- Councilor Shannon expressed concern about the loss of parking for businesses, as well as their concerns about the impact of the construction project itself. She said that the businesses know the reality of these impacts in ways that other constituencies don't, and that the City needs to take the time to heed their concerns. She said that the need for accommodating the businesses is greater now than it ever has been. She asked if there is any part or parts of this that could be postponed or whether this all must be adopted as a package. Director Spencer replied that the construction contract is the one with the 60-day pricing window, and the remaining contracts are in support of that construction contract.

MOTION by Councilor Magee, SECOND by Councilor Shannon, to table this item.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

MOTION by Councilor Shannon, SECOND by Councilor Magee, to take this item off the table.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

DISCUSSION ON MOTION TO POSTPONE (CONT'D):

- Councilor Shannon asked whether it would be possible to separate out some of these contracts, given that the 60-day limit only applies to part of this motion. She asked whether separating them out put the City in a position to better address and understand some of the concerns of the businesses. Director Spencer replied that regrettably, he feels that splitting the construction contract is not a viable solution because all of the costs for the scope items are intertwined. Assistant Director Baldwin said that in his opinion, delaying the decision will not result in a better outcome. He said that DPW is committed to working with the contractor and business community to mitigate construction impacts, and that this contractor has a proven track record of working with the business community to minimize construction impacts.
- Councilor Magee noted that this reduced scope from 6 blocks to 3 blocks will also hopefully reduce the impact on the businesses along the corridor, and the project itself would allow for redevelopment of parcels and hopefully increase the amount of housing through future developments.
- Councilor Traverse asked when the construction work would begin, and Assistant Director Baldwin replied that it is slated to begin in mid-January.
- Councilor Dieng said that the City can do a better job in communicating these changes to the business community and getting feedback prior to making a decision. He also expressed concern that they might find contaminated soil that needs remediation (similarly to what happened with the St. Paul Street project), which would delay the project significantly.
- Councilor Barlow acknowledged the business concerns but also that there are deadlines that the City is up against in terms of the contractor.

VOTING ON POSTPONEMENT (by roll call): Councilor Barlow – nay, Councilor Bergman – nay, Councilor Carpenter – nay, Councilor Dieng – nay, Councilor Doherty – absent, Councilor Grant – nay, Councilor Hightower – absent, Councilor King – nay, Councilor Magee – nay, Councilor Shannon – nay, Councilor Traverse – nay, City Council President Paul – nay (0 ayes, 10 nays, 2 absent); motion fails.

VOTING ON UNDERLYING MOTION (by roll call): Councilor Barlow – aye, Councilor Bergman – aye, Councilor Carpenter – aye, Councilor Dieng – nay, Councilor Doherty – absent, Councilor Grant – aye, Councilor Hightower – absent, Councilor King – aye, Councilor Magee – aye, Councilor Shannon – aye, Councilor Traverse – aye, City Council President Paul – aye (9 ayes, 1 nay, 2 absent); motion carries.

7.5. Ordinance: Thermal Energy Systems And The Assessment Of A Carbon Pollution Impact Fee (Ordinance Committee)

MOTION by Councilor Traverse, SECOND by Councilor Carpenter, to waive the second reading and adopt the ordinance as amended by the Ordinance Committee.

DISCUSSION:

- Councilor Traverse began by noting that the City is authorized to regulate the types of thermal energy systems that be utilized by building applicants, both in existing and new buildings. He also noted that on Town Meeting Day 2023, Burlington voters gave the City authority to implement a carbon pollution impact fee up to \$150 per ton of greenhouse gas emissions generated by fossil fuel thermal energy systems in new buildings and large existing buildings. He said that this ordinance addresses both of those, by standing up a carbon pollution impact fee for new buildings and existing large buildings and clarifying the types of thermal energy systems that can be used by new building and large existing

building applicants within the City. He noted that this has gone through the TEUC as well as Ordinance Committee. He said that it also includes detail about how carbon pollution impact fees will be calculated, prioritized how the proceeds from those fees will be spent, and any exceptions to the carbon impact fees. He said that the ordinance has also been strengthened by aligning it with the state's clean heat standard, which allows exceptions for certain renewable combustible fuels, such as wood, renewable gas, hydrogen, and biodiesel, but only if the state's technical advisory group determines that those fuels reduce greenhouse gas emissions as compared to its fossil alternative. He said that the ordinance also prioritizes electric, geothermal, and solar heat over all other sources. He said that the record-keeping and reporting requirements have also been strengthened, in order to ensure proper monitoring.

MOTION TO AMEND by Councilor Bergman, **SECOND** by Councilor Magee, to amend the ordinance with the proposed changes outlined in "Carbon Fee ORD With Councilor Bergman's Proposed Amendments on OC 10-30-23 Clean Version", with the additional technical changes in Line 103 to rename the section 878c instead of 878d and in Line 121 replace the reference to section 878d with a reference to section 878c.

DISCUSSION OF AMENDMENT:

- Councilor Bergman said that the most substantive changes in his amendments to the ordinance are to change the definition of renewable energy (and redefine it as "clean energy") and to strike a number of the problematic fuels from the list of fuel systems that Burlington would be incentivizing with this ordinance.
- Councilor Traverse said that the only way an applicant would be able to use a combustible fuel is if they certify that they are unable to use electric, geothermal, or solar sources, and does not see this amendment as necessary.

MOTION by Councilor Dieng, **SECOND** by Councilor Shannon, to suspend the rules and complete the deliberative agenda, as well as return to item 7.4, which was tabled.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

DISCUSSION OF AMENDMENT (CONT'D):

- Councilor Hightower asked why the primary versus non-primary distinction of thermal energy systems was removed. Councilor Bergman replied that they are looking to focus on the main systems. Councilor Hightower said that if this is focusing only on primary systems, she's worried that this won't have the effect they are hoping for and that having a ban on combustible renewables but not having a ban on fossil fuels will push applicants to use fossil fuels.
- Councilor Bergman said that this would have applicants make the choice between using a clean source of heat energy and using a bad one and paying a fee, and at least the City would be getting some revenue out of it from the applicants who choose to use fossil fuels, and can put that revenue into a Clean Energy Fund to help with weatherization and other emission reduction initiatives.

VOTING ON AMENDMENT (by roll call): Councilor Barlow – nay, Councilor Bergman – aye, Councilor Carpenter – nay, Councilor Dieng – aye, Councilor Doherty – nay, Councilor Grant – aye, Councilor Hightower – aye, Councilor King – aye, Councilor Magee – aye, Councilor Shannon – nay, Councilor Traverse – nay, City Council President Paul – nay (6 ayes, 6 nays); motion fails.

MOTION by Councilor Bergman, **SECOND** by Councilor Magee, to postpone this item until a date certain of December 11, 2023.

DISCUSSION:

- Councilor Shannon said that there have already been many compromises put into this ordinance and said that the work has been done to get it to a place that feels comfortable.
- General Manager Springer noted that postponing this would have implications for the District Energy proposal, and also noted that the Department of Permitting & Inspections is also looking to begin implementing the ordinance on January 1, 2024.
- Councilor Traverse said he believes that this version of the ordinance is the result of a significant amount of compromise already.

VOTING (by roll call): Councilor Barlow – nay, Councilor Bergman – aye, Councilor Carpenter – aye, Councilor Dieng – aye, Councilor Doherty – absent, Councilor Grant – aye, Councilor Hightower – aye, Councilor King – nay, Councilor Magee – aye, Councilor Shannon – nay, Councilor Traverse – aye, City Council President Paul – aye (5 ayes, 7 nays); motion fails.

DISCUSSION (CONT'D):

- Mayor Weinberger spoke about the City’s innovative and progressive approach to emission reduction and its net zero energy goals, saying that implementing a carbon impact fee is a huge step forward for the City in meeting its goals. He noted that this policy has been supported twice by voters. He urged the Council to approve this ordinance as proposed.
- Councilor Dieng said that the City’s ultimate goal is carbon neutrality. He also said that there is a difference between making progress and being bold, and that bold action is required now. He asked about the correlation between this ordinance and the McNeil Plant. General Manager Springer replied that understanding how this is implemented is important for the Medical Center and the City, since it will change the playing field for energy sources.

VOTING (by roll call): Councilor Barlow – aye, Councilor Bergman – nay, Councilor Carpenter – aye, Councilor Dieng – nay, Councilor Doherty – aye, Councilor Grant – nay, Councilor Hightower – aye, Councilor King – aye, Councilor Magee – nay, Councilor Shannon – aye, Councilor Traverse – aye, City Council President Paul – aye (8 ayes, 4 nays); motion carries.

7.6 Resolution: Supporting District Energy and Continued Efficiency Improvement At McNeil Generating Station (Councilors Barlow, Dieng)

MOTION by Councilor Barlow, SECOND by Councilor Shannon, to waive the reading and adopt the resolution.

DISCUSSION:

- Councilor Barlow noted that this resolution includes requirements for working toward additional efficiencies at the McNeil Plant, assurances that no additional wood will be burned to create the steam use for district energy, limits on future wood usage, plans for reduction of stack emissions, analysis and process for future transition planning, and commitments to work with UVMCC on their efficiency and electrification efforts. He noted that McNeil is the City’s power source for now and that there is no viable replacement available immediately. He said that without McNeil, the City’s electricity rates would be higher and the electricity that replaces it would be generated out of state using fossil fuels. He said that this resolution helps chart the course to finding more viable longer-term clean energy alternatives to McNeil.
- Councilor Traverse and Councilor Doherty recused themselves from this discussion and vote due to professional conflicts of interest.
- Councilor Grant said that there is a concern about trust and tracking how impactful this will be, both with the medical center and on the City side. She asked how the City can assure the public that their concerns will be taken seriously.

- Councilor Bergman said that the defeat of this project will not close the McNeil Plant and will not end the burning of wood. He said that he has worked to include provisions in this that would allow for stricter tracking and verifying that this proposal will not increase the wood burning or emissions at McNeil. He said that energy engineers have estimated that it will take 15 years to replace UVMC's current high temperature system with a low emissions alternative, so he looks at this as a real reduction in emissions in the meantime, since it would replace UVMC's use of gas with captured waste steam heat from McNeil (while not increasing emissions at McNeil). He said that most of the opposition is based on lack of trust in industry, institutions, and the Council. He said that this resolution has a number of requirements and deadlines to hold the City accountable.
- Councilor Carpenter said that for her, this is not a wholesale endorsement of biomass but is a unique circumstance with an existing plant asset that the City owns and wants to maximize. She asked BED to clarify some of the concerns around this costing the rate payers more money. General Manager Springer said that there is no taxpayer financing or ratepayer financing and that this is a nonprofit design project that would be debt-financed and repaid through the sale of steam energy. He noted that McNeil's economics are more favorable than was discussed tonight during public forum
- Councilor Hightower said that she struggles with the longevity of the plan, saying that it makes the McNeil plant a longer-term investment and asset.
- Councilor Magee expressed concern with tying the future of McNeil to a single, large, industrial customer.
- Councilor Grant agreed with Councilors Hightower and Magee.
- Councilor Dieng acknowledged that McNeil is not the best solution, but it is what is available now. He spoke about the significant level of compromise and collaboration that led to this iteration of the resolution, and said that it includes a plan for moving forward. He thanked Nick Persampieri and Steve Goodkind for their subject matter expertise.
- Councilor King spoke about her time serving on the TEUC, as well as one of the groups she worked with, the Climate Action Collective. She said that the City owes it to future generations to prioritize clean, renewable energy sources. She said that she will be standing in solidarity with the young population of Burlington and voting no on this resolution. She said that the City's obligation to mitigate climate change must supersede this project.

VOTING (by roll call): Councilor Barlow – aye, Councilor Bergman – aye, Councilor Carpenter – aye, Councilor Dieng – aye, Councilor Doherty – [recused], Councilor Grant – nay, Councilor Hightower – nay, Councilor King – nay, Councilor Magee – nay, Councilor Shannon – aye, Councilor Traverse – [recused], City Council President Paul – aye (6 ayes, 4 nays, 2 recusals); motion carries.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1. Verbal reports

Councilor Barlow noted that the Transportation, Energy, and Utilities Committee will meet on November 28 at 5:00 PM and will discuss a number of topics, including Bird Bikes, the Winooski River Bridge Replacement, and the North Winooski Avenue corridor survey.

Councilor Magee noted that the Parks, Arts, and Culture Committee will meet next Wednesday, November 29, at 5:00 PM and will receive updates from BCA regarding planning for the solar eclipse event in April and a preview of the highlight programming for New Year's Eve.

Councilor Grant said that the November Public Safety Committee meeting is still pending a firm date, but hopes that it is on the books for next week.

9. CITY COUNCIL – GENERAL AFFAIRS

9.1. Verbal reports

Councilor Grant noted that Kismayo Kitchen has opened after the death of its original owner, and she welcomed them back to the community. She also spoke of a burglary of a business on lower Main Street, noting that they are trying to raise money to reopen.

10. CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT – COUNCIL UPDATES

10.1. Verbal reports

City Council President Paul provided an update on the two public forums required within the drug crisis resolution that was passed by the City Council on October 10. She noted that these forums will be held on December 14 and December 19, and further information on these forums will be provided after the Thanksgiving holiday.

11. MAYOR – GENERAL AFFAIRS

11.1. Verbal reports

Mayor Weinberger began by noting that today is the trans day of remembrance, saying that all LGBTQIA people are welcome and loved in Burlington. He also wished the community a happy Thanksgiving, noting that the Fletcher Free Library will be open from noon to 4:00 PM on Thanksgiving Day and will be providing free meals to go. He thanked the Farmhouse Group for their generosity in this endeavor, as well as City staff for coordinating the event. He spoke about the BTV Winter Market as an option for weekend holiday shopping in City Hall Park. He also spoke about the annual tree lighting ceremony that will occur on November 24 at the top of Church Street.

12. ADJOURNMENT

12.1 Motion to Adjourn

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

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 11:47 PM.

RScty: AACoonradt