



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
CITY COUNCIL TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY & UTILITIES COMMITTEE

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Councilor Mark Barlow, Chair, North District
Councilor Gene Bergman, Ward 2
Councilor Hannah King, Ward 8

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Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council
Tuesday December 19th, 2023 – 4:30PM

Fletcher Free Library – Admin Conference Room
235 College Street, Burlington, VT 05401

–DRAFT MINUTES–

Chair Barlow calls meeting to order at 4:30PM

1. Agenda

Councilor Bergman moves to approve the agenda. Councilor King seconds. All in favor, passes unanimously.

2. Minutes of 11.28.23

Councilor Bergman moves to approve the minutes. Councilor King seconds. All in favor, passes unanimously.

3. Public Forum

Steve Goodkind – Carbon-based fuels are the issue not just fossil fuels. In support of resolution even if it can't get to voters in March.

Caroly Tanzi – McNeil Plant releases carbon and increases climate change.

Sarah Sciortino – In favor of resolution going to voters.

Closes at 5:03PM

4. Winooski Bridge Update

- Laura Wheelock, Madeline Suender, Josh Olund, Steve Spear, Bob Klinefelter, Carolyn Cota, Michael LaCroix
- Information

Senior Engineer Laura Wheelock provides an introduction and introduces the project team. Josh Olund goes through presentation.

Councilor Gene Bergman – Sent a list of questions on May 2nd to Chapin Spencer, related to project design considerations. What is update? Regarding Bridge, safety of shared use path in this constrained space where there is no way to avoid conflicts. Pedestrians will only increase in volume with these improvements so conflicts are a concern.

Laura Wheelock – Comments were incorporated into RFP that was used to procure HNTB.

Josh Olund – We have heard concerns about bike/ped conflicts and we are looking at measures to help this. Plan to continue to talk about this at public meetings.

GB – What is schedule for Committee?

Laura Wheelock – Jan 16th City Council meeting as part of Section 106. Following that, there is a neighborhood meeting on Jan 23rd at 6:30 in Winooski at Performing Arts Center. Will determine future meeting at PAC.

Item closes 5:10PM

5. Carbon Impact Fee

- Public Comment

Luce Hillman – Facilities Management at UVM. Recommend this not be brought forward to voters.

Gary Scott – UVM Health Network. Amendment would have adverse impacts on UVM Health Center. Ask committee not advance proposal at this time.

Kelley Devine – BBA Association – Want to give the recently adopted Carbon Fee a chance to show how impactful it can be as is. When you start to move down to these smaller buildings, we will be impacting small businesses which will impact small business owners. This amendment will not be as vetted as the first part of the process was. We have other election opportunities to address this issue. Ask the committee consider not advancing this proposal.

Chris Mai – 350 Vermont – Please pass resolution and let voters decide. Speaking on behalf of Burlington node of 350 Vermont.

Nick Persampieri – Ordinance is flawed as is. Need to go back out to voters for imposing fee. This ballot item will not change the ordinance so there will be process going forward and we can work out details.

Neale Lunderville – VGS, Recommends not advancing resolution due to uncertainty. For changes we should wait and see how this extremely progressive ordinance goes with careful study and informed decisions. Affordability with decarbonizing needs to be considered. Already hearing concerns from customers about costs which would be increased with this. Clean Heat Standards applies to all of Vermont and we need to give this time to work and not contradict it. We need to keep moving forward with a stable policy that is practical to install.

Jack Hanson – Climate emergency declared in 2019 with ambitious goals for net zero energy road map. Ordinance addresses new system installs which is good. Want to move forward with policies that can move us closer to goal of zero emissions.

Ashley Adams – The ordinance that we have is flawed and allows for problematic heat sources. Voters should be able to weigh in again.

- Councilors

Councilor Gene Bergman – Not enough time to make decisions. I am and advocate to move this forward. Would like to meet week of Jan 8th to have sufficient time to discuss this. **Look at Jan 9th or 11th 5PM.** Interested in buildings that are going to be added with amendment. Would like to know exact impacts for UVMMC. Want a listing of buildings that would be covered that BBA is concerned about and how they relate to heating systems.

Councilor Hannah King – Need to have many conversations. Sympathetic to business owners in downtown and their economic impacts. Do not want to jeopardize the work done with District Energy. Need more conversation to understand what this would actually look like in practice.

Chair Mark Barlow - Didn't support this and instead proposed alternative to mimic process for last ballot item. We just enacted a policy and we need to give that policy time to work. We need to have stability for those impacted. Open to discussion about building size but need to understand what these businesses will be and how it will impact specifically small business owners.

Item ends 5:53 PM.

6. Director's Report

Director Chapin Spencer – December 14th we hosted two meetings related to Great Streets Main Street for stakeholders along the corridor. Continuing to engage stakeholders.

DPW Commission meeting December 20th will consider rate changes in municipal downtown garages.

Item ends 5:55 PM

7. Councilors' Update

None.

Item ends 5:55 M

8. Next Meeting 1/23/23

Next Special meeting for Carbon Impact Fee Jan 9th at 5PM tentative. Need to confirm location.

9. Adjourn

Councilor Bergman moves to adjourn. Councilor King seconds. All in favor. Meeting Adjourns 5:56 PM