



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

c/o Department of Public Works
645 Pine Street, Suite A
Post Office Box 849
Burlington, VT 05402-0849

802.863.9094 VOX
802.863.0466 FAX
802.863.0450 TTY
www.burlingtonvt.gov

Councilor Mark Barlow, Chair, *North District*
Councilor Gene Bergman, *Ward 2*
Councilor Karen Paul, *Ward 6*

Inquiries:
Madeline Suender
802.735.5324
msuender@burlingtonvt.gov

Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council
Monday, December 19, 2022, 3:00PM

DPW Front Conference Room
645 Pine St, Burlington, VT 05482
Masks Optional

Call to order at 3:02PM

–DRAFT MINUTES–

1. Agenda

Councilor Bergman moves to adopt agenda. Seconded by Chair Barlow. All in favor. Passes Unanimously.

2. [Minutes of 11/22/22](#)

Councilor Bergman moves to adopt minutes - notes there are a few typos for staff to address. Seconded by Chair Barlow. All in favor. Passes Unanimously.

3. Public Forum

Martha Lang – UVM Trinity Campus increasing campus pedestrian traffic. Is this an appropriate Committee to discuss this?

Director Chapin Spencer – Yes.

Ashley Adams – Comment regarding District Energy Plan not being sustainable. Other options that should be considered.

Deniz Dutton – Comment against District Energy Plan. Not sustainable. Not Carbon neutral.

Zack Porter – Founder of Standing Trees, a New England wide community. Against the District Energy Plan. Can't meet decarbonization goals with biomass energy source. Other options that could decarbonize Burlington.

Catherine Bock – Live 2 blocks from McNeil. Comment against District Energy Plan.

Laura Simon – Standing Trees volunteer. Comment against District Energy Plan.

Cheryl Joy Lipton – Comment against District Energy Plan.

Pike Porter – Need to reevaluate energy source sustainability. Reevaluate Net Zero and Climate Action Plan and account for carbon generated by McNeil, airport, etc.

Zoom comment: Laura Simon: Please understand that many Vermonters agree with Ashley Adams comment. Please visit standingtrees.com to learn more about what she is saying. I worked for Burlington Authority for 14 years. I ask you to NOT allow McNeil to keep burning.

Zoom Comment: Catherine Bock: I would like to add my voice to the points Ashley and Deniz have made. Please consider that to continue burning wood at the McNeil plant is a bad move for the climate.

Zoom Comment; Cheryl Joy Lipton: Biogenic emissions aren't listed or counted by McNeil and hasn't been reported to you by them. This is what is causing problems, since it is still carbon emissions, even though it isn't reported. It's an accounting error that needs to be corrected. The biomass task group of the VCC is also recommending that wood heating should be looked at next. This is another thing that needs to be removed to be carbon free. Burning wood for any reason will emit carbon dioxide and other pollution, harming climate, biodiversity, and human health.

4. BED Thermal Policy Recommendations

- Darren Springer
- 30 Minutes
- [Charter Change Report](#)
- [Draft Resolution](#)
- [Memo](#)
- [Presentation](#)

Darren Springer – Plan to work with Council on ballot language for January Council consideration.

Councilor Gene Bergman – Question on the Resolution and the definitions. Concerned and sympathetic to the points that have been made with regards to the definition of renewable fuels.

Resolution – the paragraph about uses must be included in the question that is posed to the voters. Break up text into bullet points, resolution is confusing as is. No problem with sequencing or amount of money for the fee.

Chair Mark Barlow – Supportive generally. Want to coordinate more with other communities and have policies with neighboring communities. So Burlington recently passed a similar ordinance. Would like to change our language to allow for room to determine appropriate pricing.

Kim Sturtevant – City Attorney. Could help with structuring paragraph. Could reword language to say “Up to 150\$”. Need to consider how would we then decide what the actual number is. Will have to follow that up with ordinance language to have fee structure in place.

GB – Supportive and should keep 5% cap. Have something like “to be set by ordinance” vs “to be set by resolution.”

KS – I can work on language with staff and have it checked prior to it coming back to full Council.

GB – Supportive. Definitions of renewable, it is appropriate we engage in this conversation in the place where the definition is which is in ordinance.

DS – Appreciate the resolution discussion. Understand the updates and will continue to move this forward in advance of Town Meeting Day if possible.

We love electrification from a clean energy standpoint and good for locally used power. We are supportive of strategic electrification. That said, we are conscious that there is a larger policy conversation and other fuels that are in play. We are looking to be as cost effective and broad as possible. Left space for things to be done on a case-by-case basis.

MB – Is McNeil operating at its capacity?

DS – Current discussion is not about McNeil. 10-20% renewables on the market. Not here to talk about District Energy Plan. This policy does not have anything to do with McNeil's operations. This resolution does not mean we will need a higher output from McNeil.

GB – Maybe a joint meeting with Ordinance Committee, a work session, etc. Longer more involved conversation for definition of renewables would be helpful.

DS – Always happy to talk about our resources and what we are doing. Happy to join another meeting or whatever is helpful.

MB– Good idea to coordinate a time for further discussion

Move that we amend the proposed resolution as indicated and ask the City Attorney to do the drafting necessary to make that happen and confirm with Committee members to allow this to get back to Council to get this back to the March ballot.

Item closes at 3:48PM

5. Lake St Shared Use Path Concept Plans

- Corey Mims, Maddy Suender
- 10 Minutes
- [Presentation](#)

See presentation.

Councilor Bergman – Supportive of concept.

Chair Barlow – Supportive as well. Will support commuter and recreational traffic that uses Depot Street, or people going to waterfront. What are long-term plans for Depot Street?

Director Chapin Spencer – It has been on our paving list for several years but given financial challenges and high paving bids over last few years we have not been able to do this. Still have it in our paving plans as soon as it is feasible.

6. Main Street Great Streets Update

- Laura Wheelock, Olivia Darisse
- 15 Minutes
- [Memo](#)

Memo summary by Olivia Darisse, see memo.

Councilor Gene Bergman – We need to stay on business relations and disruptions from this project. A CEDO concern as well.

Laura Wheelock - Going to DPW Commission on Wednesday at 6:30. Will have a presentation from the consultant that will be helpful. Informational meeting, we hope to know what they will feel comfortable with moving forward. No ordinances proposed so no action to be taken.

GB – BWBC and Local Motion and other folks that raised concerns with the shared use path should be made aware of meeting.

Director Chapin Spencer – Important to note City ordinance already lists these intersections are signalized so our plan is to move ahead if no intervention. We want to get input now. We will reach out to those groups.

Chair Mark Barlow – Section on roundabouts was helpful. Revine sewers – does it need to be stabilized?

Laura Wheelock – Yes, certain sections will be abandoned and filled.

MB – Parking study – how were they counted?

OD – We looked at historic peak parking and physically collected data during that time. Working with Parking to see trends and revenue to compare current to historic data.

MB – Can there be recommendations on ways to implement mitigation of loss of diagonal parking in report published in January? Will there be additional input opportunities for businesses?

LW – Good suggestion. Wayfinding will be installed through the project.

OD – We are looking to make sure the spaces are signed in the best way possible to fit the parking needs of the specific area. Will take recommendation to businesses for feedback.

Item ends at 4:17PM

7. Bike Share RFP Process

- Rob Goulding, Chapin Spencer
- 15 Minutes

Director Chapin Spencer – Tech Services is down planning staff but will be taking over this project. CATMA is working on proposals for new bikeshare program starting in 2023. CATMA is including language that reflects the concerns we heard from the community and local bike shops throughout process.

Sandy Thibault, Executive director at CATMA – Bikeshare is a key option that compliments that system we have in place. Committed to seeing it continue. CATMA is regional system so we are appropriate group to be moving this RFP forward.

Josh Katz, CATMA – Timeline Update: RFP released this week, proposals until end of January. Will work with partners to choose vendor by end of February and get bikes implemented by May. We recently did a community bikeshare survey to gauge what the community wants. We saw support from over 75% of respondents to reboot the system. We received great feedback and worked to incorporate it.

Councilor Gene Bergman – Want to ensure proposal is able to be integrated into Zoning requirements. To provide a bikeshare membership to all residents/employees for all for the first two years and then a 50% discount thereafter.

ST – Dependent on how the vendor operates. A membership option was great and we would like to continue this.

GB – Would like to have RFP be responsive to membership option.

MB – Local Bike shops and waterfront concerns from first program. How are you incorporating that into RFP so we don't repeat that?

CS – We received an email from Zandy Wheeler, Skirack, during meeting with feedback. Ongoing conversation.

Josh Katz – We have met with bike shops to see what they would like from new system. As a result, we are emphasizing need for hubs in neighborhoods and continual engagement with local bike shops is included in RFP. City is having some initiatives to allow for vendor space on the waterfront.

Item ends at 4:33PM

8. Director's Report

Director Chapin Spencer – N Winooski Ave - finalizing shared parking option. Proposing City offer to manage and enforce at times and in places when the owners would welcome that. Plan is to go out after Holidays. Mapped out a timeline to talk to owners about shared parking option, parking regulations on

street, Will Clavel, CEDO, will be joining us to talk about loan support programs. On street regulatory changes taken to Commission at February meeting. Following up with CHC to see how we can assist with their off-street parking needs.

Councilor Bergman – Would like to join on site outreach.

9. Councilors' Update

Councilor Bergman – Thinks we should tackle District Energy and question of renewable fuels at a January or February Special Meeting.

Chair Mark Barlow – Agree. We should have broader conversation about base line measurement of emissions of both BED and Airport.

10. Next Meeting TBD

- ~~— Early January meeting available as needed.~~
- Standard time booked: 1/24/23 5PM at 645 Pine.
 - o Move forward with this time.

11. Adjourn 4:30PM

Councilor Bergman moves to adjourn. Seconded by Chair Barlow. All in favor. Passes Unanimously.

Meeting ends 4:39PM