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LESSONS LEARNED AND MOVING FORWARD
FROM BURLINGTON TELECOM

In the year Two Thousand Eleven.....
Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

That WHEREAS, in 2000, the voters of Burlington overwhelmingly showed their support for
an amendment to the City Charter confirming the City’s authority to engage in
telecommunications services; and

WHEREAS, in September 2005, the City received a Certificate of Public Good from the
Public Service Board to provide cable services to residents and businesses and municipal
departments and city-owned buildings in Burlington; and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged by industry experts that Burlington Telecom’s fiber-to-
the-home system is a “first class” fiber optic technology; and

WHEREAS, it is also universally acknowledged both by the industry experts the City has
consulted with as well as by the Blue Ribbon Committee, the City Council and the
Administration that while the system is state of the art, we overpaid for the system; and

WHEREAS, the eventual challenges, financial and otherwise, that BT was faced with
have had a profound effect on the City, the Administration, the City Council and the community
on many levels; and

WHEREAS, while this Council are focused on looking forward so we can address the
challenges and put BT on stable ground while coming up with a plan to restore taxpayer money
to the pooled cash management system from BT, the Council is also very cognizant of the need

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38 to address the steps and in retrospect, the mis-steps that were made that led to the extreme
39 challenges that have faced BT; and

40 WHEREAS, this Council at our meeting on January 27, 2011, heard clearly from the
41 community that it is important to learn from the events surrounding Burlington Telecom and that
42 it is incumbent upon this Council to see that what happened with BT does not happen again;

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council requests that the
44 Administration, and in particular the office of the Clerk/Treasurer, work with the Council and the
45 Blue Ribbon Committee to do as follows,

46 1. Have a clear and open policy in place to make sure that any project undertaken by the
47 City that involves a marketplace competitive aspect only be undertaken with a fully
48 vetted business model that is presented before an independent board or committee
49 comprised of public- and private-sector participants;

50 2. That this Council, upon completion of a process to be determined by the President of the
51 Council in consultation with the Administration and the Chair of the Blue Ribbon
52 Committee, direct the Charter Change Committee to draft language to be inserted into the
53 Charter that would establish clear and reasonable oversight, failsafe mechanisms (such as
54 perhaps the immediate formation of an oversight board upon the creation of such an
55 entity so there will not again be a time when lack of oversight from knowledgeable and
56 seasoned professionals with expertise in business and industry-specific expertise are not
57 guiding an emerging enterprise under the financial or otherwise umbrella or
58 responsibility of the city; a responsibility that could at some time have repercussions for
59 the taxpayers and the city’s long-term fiscal health and financial stability.

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65 AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council approves this resolution so as a
66 community we can begin to restore trust and faith in government, qualities that have been badly
67 marred by the events surrounding Burlington Telecom but qualities that can be renewed,
68 reaffirmed and healed with thoughtful resolve.

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70 lb/kas/c: Resolutions 2011/Burlington Telecom – Lessons Learned and Moving Forward
71 11/9/11