



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL

18 AUGUST 2026

The South Burlington City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, 18 August 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in the Auditorium, 180 Market Street, and by Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT: T. Barritt, Chair; L. Smith, A. Chalnack, Dr. B. Zigmund

ALSO PRESENT: J. Baker, City Manager; N. Storellicastro, Deputy City Manager; C. McNeil, City Attorney; Chief B. Breault, Police Department; Chief S. Locke, Fire Department; Deputy Chief C. Corbin, Fire Department; M. Machar, Finance Director; E. Towle, Interim Public Works Director; S. Carlson, R. Doyle, A. Allen

1. Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Instructions on exiting the building in case of emergency and review of technology options:

Ms. Baker provided instructions on emergency exit from the building and reviewed technology options.

3. Additions, deletions or changes in the order of Agenda items:

No changes were made to the Agenda.

4. Comments and questions from the public not related to the agenda:

Mr. Carlson, a resident of Whatley Street, asked what it will take to get the Parks Department to take down the trees that are blocking the view. He said one of those trees is dead. Residents were told years ago that those trees would come down. Mr. Barritt noted that some of those trees were put there to prevent

headlights from shining into people's homes. Mr. Carlson said the trees are 15 feet higher than the rooftops.

Ms. Allen said that in the summer of 2023, residents asked about traffic calming, etc. They were told the processes were being streamlined. To date, nothing has been done. She felt that residents who do not have "a friend" on the City Council are left with nowhere to turn. She stressed that residents need better options.

5. Councilors Announcements and Reports on Committee Assignments and City Manager's Report:

Council members reported on recent meetings and events they had attended.

Ms. Baker: Thanked voters for having approved the bond issue.

A Green Community Festival will take place in front of City Hall on 19 September.

Milling and paving will start on Dorset Street this week.

Steel piles for the bike-ped bridge will start being installed this week or next.

The Library Staff will be marching with Burlington Pride.

Registration for the Fly By 5K event at the Airport is full.

Congratulations to Fire Chief Steve Locke who has been sworn in as the 150th President of the International Association of Fire Chief. Chief Locke will wear his South Burlington Fire Department patch for the duration of his terms.

6. Consent Agenda:

- a. Consider and Sign Disbursements**
- b. Designate SP&F Attorneys, P.C. to conduct the City's tax sale process**
- c. Authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with William & Lee Incorporated regarding the easement acquisition for Parcel 12 of the Williston Road Streetscape Project**
- d. Approve the request to apply for Northern Border Regional Commission Catalyst Program grant funding to support Phase II**

- of the Walk Bike Bridge and authorize the submittal of a letter of support and commitment to match grant funds
- e. **Receive Amendment #1 to the Grant Agreement with SB3C to reflect FY27 budgeted funds and updated priorities**
 - f. **Approve Minutes from 3 June 2026, 17 June 2026, 29 June 2026, 7 July 2026, and 20 July 2026 City Council Meetings**

Mr. Chalnick moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

7. Approval of State Revolving Loan Program Application for Bartlett Bay Wastewater Treatment Facility Refurbishment Project – Construction Phase (Step III) Loan:

Ms. Baker said this increases the amount based on the positive bond vote. It also becomes part of the low-interest loan for the full amount.

Dr. Zigmund moved to approve the submission of the loan application for \$12,981,570 to the Revolving Loan Program for construction of the Bartlett Bay Wastewater Treatment Facility Reconstruction Project and authorized the Director of Public Works to execute and manage the loan. Mr. Chalnick seconded. The motion was carried 4-0.

8. Approve the construction contract for the Bartlett Bay Wastewater Treatment Facility:

Ms. Towle said the contractor has been holding the bid price until the bond vote was passed.

Mr. Chalnick moved to approve the construction contract for planned Bartlett Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements following the successful bond authorization vote on 11 August 2026, and authorize the Director of Public Works to execute and manage the contract.

9. Receive and hold a first reading of an update to South Burlington City Ordinance Chapter 14 (Environment), Chapter 20 (Miscellaneous Offenses), Chapter 32 (Streets, Sidewalks, and other Public Spaces), and Chapter 36 (Traffic and Vehicles), and rescind City Council Policy 2022-05 and 2025-03. Possibly set a public hearing for September 8, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. These changes address behaviors related to unmet

social needs that impact both an individual's quality of life and the quality of life of the greater community:

Ms. Baker said this is a follow-up to what the Council heard on 1 June.

Chief Breault said the changes can be defined as addressing critical, non-criminal issues related to not receiving adequate social, medical, or community support. They address how to get people to the right services and eliminate unnecessary law enforcement contact. The approach is to do what is best to help each person get connected to appropriate services.

Chief Breault then outlined elements of the program:

- a. To encourage people to accept services
- b. To identify gaps in services
- c. To help remove obstacles
- d. To provide the community with a single point of contact
- e. To identify needs on an individual basis

Specific actions will include:

- a. Finalizing an agreement for contracted services
- b. Enacting a Civil Ordinance (tonight)
- c. Providing training to Officers and City staff
- d. Developing and maintaining data

Dr. Zigmund said this is a very compassionate and rational approach. She asked how it works in practice.

Specific Ordinance recommendations were then addressed as follows:

1. Prohibit the unsafe disposal of drug paraphernalia that would harm a child who might get in contact with it (Chapter 14, Article II, Section 14-85)
2. Prohibit consumption of an alcoholic beverage in a public place. Prohibit having in one's possession an open alcoholic or intoxicating beverage container (Chapter 20, Article IV, Section 20-27)
3. Prohibits the erection of a shelter or tent within any public right-of-way, sidewalk, or public space within the City without a permit issued by the City (Chapter 32, Article IV, Section 32-96)

4. Prohibits any pedestrian from stopping or standing on any portion of the roadway including traffic islands (Chapter 36, Article III, Section 36-234)

Mr. McNeil recommended language allowing for violations to be diverted to either a community justice center or another appropriate diversion program.

Dr. Zigmund asked if these changes might have the result of having folks move to another community. Chief Breault said that is not the intent. The intent is to connect people to services.

Mr. Smith asked what happens with individuals who continue to be resistant to being connected to services. Chief Breault said they will issue an appearance to Civil Court and will bring all the evidence of opportunities that have been offered to the individual. The Judge will be asked to assist the City. The Chief cited the need to hold people accountable.

Mr. Chalnack asked what the "accountability" is. Mr. McNeil said a civil ticket or fine. He added that in some places in the country these offenses become criminal after a period of time. South Burlington does not have a criminal ordinance. That is left to the State.

Mr. Chalnack questioned whether a person can be prevented from standing on a median. Chief Breault showed a photo of a crash where a vehicle went onto the median and would have injured someone standing there. He stressed this is a safety issue. Mr. McNeil presented language to this effect.

Mr. McNeil noted that some activities are allowed on medians if the City Manager has deemed them safe. Chief Breault said the Police would put out cones and advance warnings for such events.

With regard to the erecting of structures, Chief Breault said people would be given reasonable notice and would be given help in finding shelter and services. He stressed it is not the intent to criminalize homelessness. Immediate needs will be addressed.

Mr. Smith asked if this approach has been shared with other jurisdictions, as a regional approach would be helpful. Ms. Baker said the Community Outreach team is regional. This approach has been shared with them. Chief Breault said they are dealing with people in crisis, and what South Burlington is attempting to do is to get to people between crises.

Mr. Chalnack moved to hold a public hearing on 8 September 2026 and approve changes to the South Burlington City Ordinance Chapter 14, Chapter 20, and Chapter 26 and rescind City Council Policy 2022-05 and City Council Policy 2025-03. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

10. Receive and hold a final reading of updates to South Burlington City Ordinance Chapter 22 (Parks and Recreation) and Chapter 36 (Traffic and Vehicles). Possibly set a public hearing for September 8, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. These changes address electric mobility devices as recommended by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee:

Chief Breault noted this issue is at the forefront of the Bike/Ped Committee. The recommendations come from them and are endorsed by the Police Department.

Mr. McNeil said some e-bikes would be allowed, others would not. Section 36-401 would eliminate skateboards from the prohibition. Section 36-403 reads that pedestrians have the right of way on trails.

Mr. Smith noted he has seen pedestrians walking 4 abreast or wearing headphones. He stressed these are transportation paths. He suggested a code of conduct for pedestrians as well as for vehicles. Mr. McNeil said as they go forward, they can look at changes to the ordinance. Chief Breault noted that section 406 says that all users should stay to the right except when passing.

Dr. Zigmund asked about enforcement. She is getting more and more calls from members of the public. Chief Breault said they have taken action against illegal operation of a vehicle by a minor and have educated parents as to why this is illegal. Officers are on the paths on foot and on bicycles and can deal with enforcement when appropriate.

Mr. Chalnack asked if a bike could be confiscated. Chief Breault said they can with a minor, and the parents would be required to pick up the child, the bike, and a ticket. He stressed that the intent is to change the behaviors.

Mr. Smith cited an incident with minors on the Burlington bike path this past weekend and was grateful this issue is being addressed now. Dr. Zigmund said her concern with children operating motorized bikes is that there could be an accident that results in injury or death.

Mr. Chalnack moved to hold a second reading and public hearing on 8 September 2026 on amendments to South Burlington City Ordinance Chapter 22 and Chapter 36 and to make a typographical correction as noted. Dr. Zigmund seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

11. Receive an update on the Emergency Operations Center modernization and possibly approve a request for the use of up to \$48,500 from ARPA Inspired Reserve Funds for the purpose:

Deputy Fire Chief Corbin said he and Chief Breault are requesting using the funds to establish a modern modular emergency center. They have thought the Police Station was the best location with City Hall as a second choice. The Miller Room would not lose its present functions. The funds would be used for equipment, storage, etc., and would be a one-time allocation.

Ms. Machar has said this will leave \$1,772,000 remaining in ARPA Inspired Reserve Funds.

Dr. Zigmund asked if specific equipment has been priced out. Deputy Chief Corbin said "to the nearest dollar."

Mr. Chalnack moved to authorize the use of not more than \$48,500 of ARPA Inspired Reserve Funds to purchase the necessary infrastructure and equipment to fit up a modular and modern Emergency Operations Center. Dr. Zigmund seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

12. Discuss and possible approve a Naming Policy for Public Assets:

Ms. Baker reviewed the history. She noted the Council had not made a decision regarding employees and noted there are several situations that could be considered:

- a. Do nothing
- b. Allow for activities outside of the person's employment
- c. Consider a former employee who has done exceptional things

Mr. Smith liked the "do nothing" option as there could be a situation that can't be imagined at this time.

Both Mr. Chalnick and Dr. Zigmund would like some statement regarding employees. Mr. Barritt didn't want to name something for a current City employee, nothing more.

Dr. Zigmund said there are other ways to recognize an employee.

Dr. Zigmund moved to approve amended language. Mr. Smith seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Dr. Zigmund then moved to exclude naming public assets after City employees who are currently employed. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

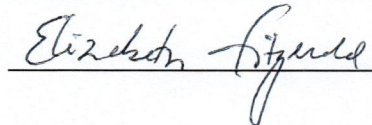
13. Review the significant agenda topics for the Council's 8 September 2026 Council meeting:

- a. Interview Development Review Board candidates**
- b. Receive an update on the Building and Thermal Implementation Plan and consider what actions to take in parallel**
- c. Hear a presentation from Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity**
- d. Discuss and possibly approve the FY28 Budget schedule**
- e. Discuss and possibly approve a process to develop a 2027 Legislative agenda**

14. Other Business:

No other business was presented.

As there was no further business to come before the Council Mr. Smith moved to adjourn. Mr. Chalnick seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

 Clerk