



MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL 8 SEPTEMBER 2026

The South Burlington City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, 8 September 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in the Auditorium, 180 Market Street, and by Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT: T. Barritt, Chair; E. Fitzgerald, A. Chalnack,

ALSO PRESENT: J. Baker, City Manager; N. Storellicastro, Deputy City Manager; C. McNeil, City Attorney; Chief W. Breault, Police Department; Chief C. Corbin, Fire Department; M. Machar, Finance Director; A. Pugh, T. Grayson, C. Hartman, L. Marriott, M. Sypes

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. Sypes asked if the Council can help with an issue involving mail delivery. Residents of Dorset Farms have been getting only a little of their mail. They have

been told by USPS that they are a "rural route" and that they have to go to Pine Street to get their mail. They would appreciate any help the City can give them.

Mr. Hartman said he has created a "First Step Vermont" app of resources for people in need. He said this is a first step to get them help. Ms. Baker thanked Mr. Hartman for connecting with Chief Breault.

Ms. Marriott noted issues at Red Rocks Park need attention including serious erosion and damage to the rock wall which supports the trails. She said she has some suggestions as to what to do. Ms. Marriott noted that Mr. Storellicastro had called her today. Mr. Chalnack suggested Ms. Marriott contact Mr. Storellicastro and/or Public Works people who can bring the issues to the Council.

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: The 21 September Council meeting has been rescheduled for 22 September.

The "Green Festival" on 19 September is in need of volunteers.

Volunteers are also needed for the Fly By 5K event at the Airport.

The Secretary of State's office will be mailing ballots for the 3 November election on 21 September. City Hall will then become a voting center with no campaigning allowed.

There is an application at the DRB for subdivision and conversion of a congregate care building to apartments.

The Tier 1A application is in, and there will be a site visit this week. The City will hear the response later in the fall.

Work on Garden Street continues, and the road will open in late November.

The Economic Mobility Program, of which the City is a member, had its first presentation in August. The program serves people who are looking to grow their businesses.

Ms. Baker thanked the Recreation Department for hosting a number of concurrent events during a 24-hour period last week.

6. Consent Agenda:

- a. Consider and Sign Disbursements**
- b. Adopt 2026 Town Road and Bridge Standards**
- c. Award the construction contract for the DPW Site Improvements project to SD Ireland and authorize the Interim Director of Public Works to execute and manage the contract**
- d. Approve the truck financing**

Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Barritt seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

NOTE: Some of the following Agenda items were heard out of order but will be recorded here in the order they appeared on the agenda.

- 7. Warned for 7 p.m., Hold a second reading and Public Hearing on updates 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. 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:**

Chief Breault said these updates will provide Officers with a tool to help get people with unmet social needs to appropriate services.

Mr. McNeil noted that the Ordinance prohibiting people from standing on medians is a safety measure.

Ms. Fitzgerald moved to read the Ordinance by Title and to open a public hearing on updates to Chapter 14 (Environment), Chapter 20 (Miscellaneous Offenses), Chapter 32 (Streets, Sidewalks and other Public Spaces) and Chapter 36 (Traffic and Vehicles). Mr. Barritt seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Chief Breault noted that Chapter 14 includes safe disposal of drug paraphernalia. This is to prevent contact by children. In addition, alcohol cannot be consumed in

public, nor can there be open containers of alcohol in public spaces without a permit.

Mr. McNeil said there is also a provision against littering in the City.

Mr. Chalnack asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

Ms. Fitzgerald moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Barritt seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

8. Possibly approve updates 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 Council Policy 2022-05 and 2025-03:

Ms. Fitzgerald said she was contacted by a person who does clean-up, which can include drug paraphernalia. That person asked if any appropriate container is allowed. Chief Breault said it is as long as the paraphernalia is not exposed.

Ms. Fitzgerald said the same person asked about "soliciting" on medians. Chief Breault said asking for money is a constitutionally protected act but must be done so in a safe location. He cited a recent accident in which a vehicle wound up on a median in a place where a solicitor often sits and would have been seriously injured. Mr. McNeil added that most medians are very narrow.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked if bus stops are non-smoking areas. Staff will check on this as no one present was sure.

Ms. Fitzgerald then moved to adopt the updates to South Burlington Ordinances Chapters 14, 20, 43, and 36 as presented and rescind Council Policy 2022-05 and 2025-03. Mr. Barritt seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

9. Warned for 7:00 p.m.: Hold a Second Reading and Public Hearing on updates to South Burlington City Ordinance Chapter 22 (Parks and Recreation) and Chapter 36 (Traffic and Vehicles). These changes address electric mobility devices as recommended by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee:

Chief Breault said these updates are in response to complaints the Police Department has received and to requests from the Bike/Ped Committee. What was previously in Chapter 22 has been moved to Chapter 36. The updates prohibit e-motos on the City's rec paths.

Ms. Fitzgerald moved to read the Ordinances by Title and to open a public hearing on updates to Chapter 22 (Parks and Recreation) and Chapter 36 (Traffic and Vehicles). Mr. Barritt seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Chalnack asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

Ms. Fitzgerald moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Barritt seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

10. Possibly approve updates to South Burlington City Ordinance Chapter 22 (Parks and Recreation) and Chapter 36 (Traffic and Vehicles):

Ms. Fitzgerald felt this was a move in the right direction, but what is being marketed to youth may require an ongoing conversation and is something to keep an eye on.

Mr. Chalnack noted that State Law already covers most of this. The city is prohibiting e-motos on rec paths even if the driver is licensed and the vehicle is registered.

Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve updates to South Burlington City Ordinances Chapters 22 and 36 as presented. Mr. Barritt seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

11. Approve Contract with Howard Center to support a Service Coordinator to connect individuals with unmet social needs to appropriate social services as part of the City's overall response to assisting individuals experiencing an unmet social need.

Chief Breault said there is now an agreement with the Howard Center that will help to meet the needs of people in the community with unmet social needs. The agreement is for a 30-hour-per-week Caseworker embedded in the Police Department. The aim is to eliminate future police involvement. The program will continue to be developed over the coming years based on data.

Mr. Hartman said this program will fit well with the First Step Vermont program with the hope of helping everyone involved.

Ms. Fitzgerald noted that Chief Breault had already responded to a number of her questions regarding credentials, monitoring, etc. She also noted there could be up to a \$77,000 expenditure for such things as mileage and supervision. Chief Breault said that is a worst-case scenario, and he didn't anticipate anything like that amount. He also noted that opiate funding that the city has received would cover such costs. Members agreed this was a very good use of those funds and expressed the hope that the program would be very successful.

Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the contract with the Howard Center as presented. Mr. Barritt seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

12. Interview Development Review Board Candidates:

The Council interviewed Theodore Reicin for appointment to the Development Review Board.

The other potential candidate was not present, and members agreed to interview him if he later arrived.

13. Receive a presentation from the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity on plans to locate a 100-bed low-barrier shelter at 1717 Williston Road:

Ms. Baker noted that CVOEO had requested to remove their attendance from this Agenda. She added that the Council has no action to take at this meeting.

Ms. Baker said the City is encouraging CVOEO and Champlain Housing Trust to engage in deep community engagement. She noted that in May, staff met with those organizations to discuss the concept of having a low barrier shelter somewhere in Chittenden County. On August 24th CVOEO and CHT presented plans for such a shelter at 1717 Williston Road.

Ms. Baker stressed that the city is open to working in partnership with CVOEO and CHT on a service and location that best meet the needs of our neighbors.

Mr. Chalnack expressed the hope that the City can work with those groups regarding a facility in the right place and of the right size.

Ms. Fitzgerald said she felt the City asked the right questions and also felt the community would have questions. She shared the concern with location and size and supported ongoing conversations including staffing and budget implications.

Mr. Barritt enumerated the numerous affordable housing locations that the City has supported in past years. He, too, wanted the conversation to continue.

Public comment was solicited. There was no public comment.

14. Discuss and possibly approve the FY 28 Budget Schedule:

Ms. Machar drew attention to the schedule outline and process. She noted that the Budget Retreat is scheduled for 16 December. This will be preceded by goal setting on 22 September and by public listening sessions.

Ms. Machar noted that new software is very accurate and eliminates the possibility of errors. It is also very time saving.

Mr. Chalnack moved to approve the FY 28 Budget Schedule as presented. Ms. Fitzgerald seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

15. Discuss and possibly approve a process to develop a 2027 Legislative agenda:

Mr. Storellicastro cited the importance of having a voice in the Legislative process and said the more specific that voice is, the better.

Ms. Baker suggested an early meeting with the City's current delegation and 2 City Councilors. She noted that Dr. Zigmund has expressed an interest in being one of those delegates. Other Council members also expressed their interest.

Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the process to develop a Legislative agenda. Mr. Chalnack seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Ms. Pugh noted that with a November 3rd election, it is important not to give the impression that the City is supporting certain candidates and recognize availability may be limited due to campaigning.

16. Designate a Voting Delegate to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns annual meeting scheduled for Town Fair on 6 October 2026:

Ms. Fitzgerald moved to designate Jessie Baker as Voting Delegate to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns annual meeting. Mr. Barritt seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

17. Convene as Liquor Control Commission to consider the following applications for approval: Stewart's Shop #507, Second Class Liquor License, Tobacco/Tobacco Substitute Endorsement; Stewart's Shop #504, Second Class Liquor License, Tobacco/Tobacco Substitute Endorsement; Top Choice Convenience & Tobacco, LLC, Tobacco/Tobacco Substitute Endorsement; Zachary's Pizza, Third Class Liquor License:

Ms. Fitzgerald moved to convene as Liquor Control Commission. Mr. Barritt seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Ms. Fitzgerald moved to approve the applications for approval as presented. Mr. Barritt seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Ms. Fitzgerald moved to reconvene as City Council. Mr. Barritt seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

18. Review the significant agenda topics below for the Council's 21 September 2026 Council Meeting:

- a. East Terrace Residents re: traffic calming**
- b. Receive the FY26 year end projections**
- c. FY28 Budget: Receive projections from staff and establish goals for the FY28 Budget**
- d. Receive the FY27 Policy, Priorities and Strategies – Report #1**

Ms. Baker suggested removing item "d."

19. Other Business:

Ms. Fitzgerald suggested an agenda item to discuss improvement to the process of capital improvement funding and the monitoring of high visibility projects and those which have exceeded original budgeted amounts or engineering estimates

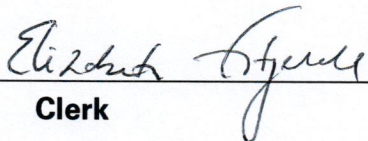
to include such projects as the Bartlett Bay Waste Water Treatment Facility, the TIF District and the I-89 bike/ped bridge. After action discussions may assist process improvements.

Ms. Fitzgerald suggested discussing a standard for responding to communication from residents who raise questions/issues. She noted that at this time, some people get a response while others do not. Media response may be another area to discuss.

20. Considering entering an executive session, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313(a)(3) for the purpose of discussing appointments to the Development Review Board:

As the second DRB candidate did not appear, members agreed to postpone the Executive Session to determine if he is still interested.

As there was no further business to come before the Council, Mr. Chalnack moved to adjourn. Ms. Fitzgerald seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.


Clerk