



DRAFT MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL

22 September 2026

The South Burlington City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, 22 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, Dr. B. Zigmund

ALSO PRESENT: J. Baker, City Manager; N. Storellicastro, Deputy City Manager; M. Machar, Finance Director; N. & C. Atherton, M. Higgins, C. McGlaughlin, R., E., and A. Pyle, R. Doyle, A., D., and E. Treston, P. Vashighta, S. Julius, M. & J. Materna, A. & J. Allen, N. Thali, N. & J. Hudson, A. Gallagher

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:

No issues were raised.

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

Council members reported on recent meetings and events they had attended. Mr. Chalnack specifically discussed CCRPC's two efforts of a population projection and the future housing goals.

Ms. Baker thanked those who staged the Green Community Festival and noted that 5 of the City's committees participated in the event.

This is Water Quality Week, and Ms. Baker thanked the City's Water Quality team.

Early voting began yesterday. If voters do not receive their mailed ballots by 13 October, they should notify City Hall.

There will be one-lane closures happening in conjunction with the Bike/Ped Bridge. The City has also been invited to submit a full grant proposal for funding for that bridge.

The Airport staged a full Public Safety Drill last week in which the City's public safety teams participated.

The City has submitted its Tier 1A proposal, and a public hearing was held in the City last week. Feedback should be received within a week or so.

The new Library Catalog Service goes online tomorrow.

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

6. Consent Agenda:

- a. Consider and Sign Disbursements**
- b. Approve and sign Resolution #2026-13 to confirm the current procedures for appeals of penalty imposed for failing to file or filing a late Homestead Declaration**
- c. Approve Minutes from 6 April 2026, 20 April 2026, 3 August 2026, 10 August 2026, 18 August 2026, and 8 September 2026 Council meetings**
- d. Receive the FY27 July 2026 Financial Report**

Mr. Chalnack moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ms. Fitzgerald seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

7. Receive a presentation from East Terrace on traffic safety concerns:

Mr. Storellicastro said the two main concerns are speed and parking on the street. Residents submitted a Traffic Evaluation request in 2023, which was scored at 18 out of 72. The standard is 35, so they did not meet the threshold for the city to take action. There were other parts of the City that scored higher than 18 but still below 35.

Mr. Storellicastro said he met with residents on the street in August and then took some steps with the Police Department, which helped a little. There have been 26 patrols since June, and 2 drivers have been stopped. This is not a long-term solution, just a band-aid. A possible next step is allocation of funds for traffic calming.

Public comment was then solicited and received as follows:

Mr. Gallagher: At 9:50 this morning, there were 46 cars and one boat parked on the street. A lot of the cars are from students and commuters. Student renters could park on their property but often don't. Mr. Gallagher cited an accident in which a moving vehicle was going so fast that it flipped and struck parked vehicles. A resident was standing in a car next to one that was hit.

Ms. Pyle: Noted that residents have asked many times for help but have always been told "no." They have asked for a posted speed limit because the Police have told them that if there is no posted limit, the speed limit becomes 50 mph. There are many young children on the street. Ms. Pyle noted the city removed trees on Spear Street to help provide views for residents; they have also put signage on the rec paths, but refuse to help East Terrace residents with safety issues even though some things would cost a fraction of what the other "fixes cost."

Ms. McGlaughlin: She could not understand how DPW came up with the number 18. She has witnessed 2 accidents on the street in the last 2 years. There are also other criteria which she feels they meet, and DPW did not (e.g., they do not have sidewalks on both sides of the street; they are less than half a mile from UVM which is a "school"). She said that by her calculation, they would rank a "31." She also noted that 23 of the homes are rented to students, and they get a "new batch" every year. The tennis club also generates traffic. People drive illegally

down the “emergency vehicles only” path. She also cited the proximity to UVM athletic events and said there are factors that the DPW matrix does not address. She suggested at least temporary speed bumps.

Mr. Higgins: He is a long-term renter and hospital employee. This is the only home his family knows. He cited traffic issues, particularly speeding, and noted they are constantly “blown off” by college students, particularly athletes going for early morning training. He asked for a 25 mph speed limit sign. He also noted that with parking on both sides of the street, emergency vehicles have a hard time getting through. His car was one of the cars hit when the speeding vehicle flipped. He cited the recent car/pedestrian fatalities in Burlington and said it doesn’t look good for South Burlington not to do something.

Emily Pyle: Likes to bike with her friends, but there are lots of cars on the street.

Mr. Vashighta: He is an engineer with 3 small children. He cited issues with parking on both sides of the street. He also said, “Don’t always rely on data; use common sense.”

Mr. Steinzor: Willing to share a “parking census” he did. The bulk of the problem is connected to UVM. The street is designed for parking on one side, but it is frequently clogged with parking on both sides. Parking near driveways also blocks the line of sight for drivers backing out. The Traffic Evaluation form is a good attempt, but it doesn’t address the problems on East Terrace. It is more geared to moving traffic. East Terrace has both that and parking problems.

Ms. Atherton: A new resident on the street, she was surprised that the “No Parking” signs are not enforced. There are 7 cars from the students at the house next door to her. She showed photos of the congestion on the street and noted that when the tennis club has an event, it’s even worse. It is hazardous to walk or bike, and the lack of enforcement is frustrating.

Elliott Treston: Likes to bike with his friends. Since the crash, he doesn’t feel safe. If a car hits another car, it could hit him.

Ms. Hudson: This is a community-based street. She is a big fan of signage, less of a fan of speed bumps.

Mr. Doyle: The street is 30 feet wide, which is very wide for a residential street. There is 17 feet between the mirrors of the parked cars. He felt it was reasonable

to talk with Burlington people about how their system works. There have been 3 crashes on that street in the past few years; there have been 5 fatal injuries in the city. There are a lot of low-cost changes that can be done.

Mr. Storellicastro said the City has ordered signs that will be placed at the entrances to the City indicating that unless otherwise posted, the speed limit is 25 mph.

Dr. Zigmund questioned whether the speed limit test captured the severity of the issue. She asked about more robust testing. She also questioned whether the City has a reserve fund for issues such as this.

Mr. Storellicastro reviewed the list of projects that have been completed based on the DPW protocol. Dr. Zigmund asked for the City to be more nimble and noted that even with priorities, residents' concerns are well-founded.

Mr. Chalnack felt that allowing parking on only one side of the street makes sense. He agreed with Dr. Zigmund that you can't always rely on a matrix.

Ms. Fitzgerald said any "tool" is open to improvement. She felt the level of experience on East Terrace doesn't align with the data. She was concerned with a precedent having been set with parking on both sides of the street. A resident responded that "no parking" signs are not enforced.

A resident cited the very professional responses of the South Burlington Police but questioned the responses of the UVM Police.

Mr. Chalnack then moved to direct City Staff to look carefully at adding a speed limit sign and traffic calming to East Terrace and to come back to the Council with recommendations within one month. Dr. Zigmund seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

8. Receive the FY26 Year-End Financial Reports, year-end projections, and possibly make allocations:

Ms. Machar reported that the unaudited year-end figures show that expenditures were at 96% of projections while the year-end revenues were at 96.9% of projections. This resulted in a surplus of \$300,000. Mr. Barritt noted that the City received \$23,000 more in local option taxes than anticipated.

Ms. Machar noted that the \$28,000 for Social Services was not spent and suggested that the Council make a motion that this money not be included in the surplus.

Mr. Chalnack then moved to approve using \$28,000 as funding for the Howard Center. Dr. Zigmund seconded the motion.

Ms. Fitzgerald said her preference would be to understand the full potential cost for the Howard Center (e.g., mileage, etc.) which could go up to \$75,000.

In the vote that followed, the motion passed 4-0.

9. FY28 Budget: Receive Budget projections from staff and establish goals for the FY28 Budget:

Ms. Machar reviewed the assumptions on which budget projections are based:

- a. Maintain municipal services at the current level
- b. Implement the CIP
- c. Explore options to update the City's fee structures.

Ms. Machar then reviewed the projections made by staff:

- a. A 4% increase in CIP items based on inflation and what is not currently known
- b. An estimated 10% increase in liability insurance and a 12% increase in Workers Compensation
- c. Between a 5% and 6% increase in approved capital projects based on an anticipated cost for those projects.

On the revenue side, projections include,

- a. a Grand List increase of 1.5% resulting in an additional \$370,000 revenue
- b. an assumed 5% increase in local option taxes
- c. an increase in the fee structure
- d. no increase in fire/inspection fees
- e. no change in earned interest

Based on these figures, it would take a 6.8% tax rate increase to fund the FY28 budget.

Mr. Chalnack said he would not want an increase that is more than the inflation rate. Ms. Baker said that it is 3.9%. Mr. Barritt agreed that he would want to stay under 4%. Both Mr. Chalnack and Mr. Barritt favored reviewing the fee structures.

Ms. Fitzgerald said she would like to see the 5-year FTE analysis. She also favored a hard look at the CIP and one-time items. She felt the tax rate should be no more than the CIP.

Ms. Baker asked if the Council is willing to be more risk-tolerant regarding impacts on tariffs and gasoline costs.

Ms. Fitzgerald did not want to use the fund balance for the unexpected. Mr. Chalnack wanted a "worst-case scenario" regarding tariffs and fuel. Dr. Zigmund agreed.

Dr. Zigmund also wanted to know if revenues would cover additional parking enforcement. Ms. Baker said revenue from City Center parking fees would cover parking enforcement, but the City is not ready for that complete plan at this time. Mr. Chalnack did not favor a new position for parking enforcement. Ms. Machar noted there is \$1,770,000 in the ARPA Inspired Fund.

10. Review the significant Agenda topics for City Council meeting of 5 October:

- a. FY28 Budget: Community listening session**
- b. Receive an update on the Building & Thermal Implementation Plan
And consider what actions to take in parallel**
- c. Receive the FY27 Policy Priorities & Strategies Report #1**
- d. Receive the Community Investment Agreement for City Center Step
3 application**
- e. Discuss the next steps for Conversation with a Councilor**

Mr. Chalnack asked to postpone item "b" as he wants to participate in that discussion but cannot be present at the 5 October meeting. Members agreed to that.

A resident of Brewer Parkway noted that they still have a problem with water pressure at the top of the street and asked to be on a future agenda. Mr. Barritt suggested raising the issue with Agenda Item #4 at the next Council meeting.

11. Other Business:

No new issues were raised.

As there was no further business to come before the Council, Mr. Chalnack moved to adjourn. Ms. Fitzgerald seconded. Motion passed 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Clerk