



City of Winooski

Vermont's Opportunity City

27 West Allen Street
Winooski Vermont 05404
802 655 6410
winooski.vt.gov

Winooski City Council Meeting

Monday, August 3, 2026, at 6 PM

Attend in person: Winooski City Hall (27 W Allen St)

Attend online: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84364849328>

Attend by phone: 1 646 558 8656

Webinar ID: 843 6484 9328

Members Present: Mayor Thomas Renner; Deputy Mayor Bryn Oakleaf; Councilor Elsie Goodrich; Councilor Al Turkos; Councilor Eli Ogilvie

Officers Present: Elaine Wang, City Manager; Ravi Venkataraman, Director of City Planning; Jon Rauscher, Public Works Director; Jesse Acri, Human Resources Director; John Audy, Fire Chief; Ray Coffey, Community Services Director; Angela Aldieri, Finance Director; Paul Sarne, Communications Director; Jazmine Hurley, Housing Initiative Director; Jenny Willingham, City Clerk; Adam Hoffnung-Warantz, Assistant City Clerk

Others Present: Melissa Corbin, Chris Balzano, Mary Lummis, Jarron Khan, Doug Nedde, Terry Zigmund, Razan Alrubaii, GBA Architect Representative

I. Call to Order at 6:03 PM

II. Agenda Review

Minutes: The Mayor mentioned a time requirement for Regular Item F - Boards, Committees, and Commission Structure, to be reviewable by 8:30 PM, and if not, the item will not be discussed at this meeting.

III. Public Comment

Minutes: Terry Zigmund shared concerns related to ADA compliance in front of Donwoori and asked about consequences for non-compliance. The Mayor replied about working with businesses with these concerns and City Staff will follow up at a later date. In addition, Terry shared a concern from a response from Front Porch Forum they recently received on behalf of the Winooski Alliance for Active Transportation; A Zach Zilius gave feedback to Terry about West Canal Street and raising the sidewalks for ADA accessibility and was read verbatim by Terry. Lastly, Terry made comments related to the discussion of impact fees this evening and asked for more transparency for specific items on future warnings.

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Approval: City Council Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2026

B. Approval: Payroll Warrant July 5 - July 18, 2026

C. Approval: Accounts Payable Warrant July 30, 2026

D. Approval: Subsequent to Payout Warrants May and June 2026

E. Approval: Recognizing International Youth Day in Winooski Resolution - Mayor Thomas Renner

~~F. Approval: Commission Appointments - Jon Rauscher, Public Works Director, Ravi Venkataraman, Director of City Planning, and Jazmine Hurley, Housing Initiative Director~~



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G. Approval: Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission Committee Reappointments - Elaine Wang, City Manager

H. Approval: Event Permit: Neighborhood Block Party, North Street - Ray Coffey, Community Services Director

I. Approval: External Commission Report: Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission - Mayor Thomas Renner

Minutes: Deputy Mayor Oakleaf asked Council to move Consent Item F to Regular Item A.

Motion: Motion to approve Consent Agenda made by Councilor Turkos and seconded by Deputy Mayor Oakleaf. Motion passed 4-0.

V. Council Reports

Mayor Thomas Renner: The Planning Commission did not meet at the last meeting as it was canceled. They will be meeting on August 13th. A reminder that there is an election coming up on August 11th. You can vote at the Senior Center 7 AM to 7 PM sharp. Those doors will close at 7. There are lots of candidates to research and look for. I believe they all have social media where you can find out more information about them. There's information now on the Secretary of State's website. I encourage every member of our community who is able to vote to vote on that day. This is quite literally when you pick the people who will represent you in Montpelier and there are lots of repercussions to that. It's very important to show up, circle those little ovals, and just figure out who the best candidate is for you. Again, August 11th, at the Senior Center, 7 to 7.

Deputy Mayor Oakleaf: The Safe, Healthy, Connected People Commission met on July 14th, a day after our last council meeting. We welcomed new commissioners and thanked our outgoing commissioners. We reviewed updates to the Comprehensive Plan as it relates to the Safe, Healthy, Connected People chapter. That took up the bulk of the meeting and then a really exciting update from Ray that our THRIVE afterschool program has been awarded five stars. That's a huge accomplishment and really major kudos to everyone involved in attaining that; thanks so much.

Housing Commission met on the 28th. We also welcomed one new commissioner, and we hopefully will appoint another one tonight. We reviewed housing quality and code enforcement work with Chief Audy. Had a chance to review some of the data, some of the major concerns and trends that come up. Had a chance to look at the ESO data warehouse that used now and answer questions relating to housing quality review and frequency of inspections. Another component of the meeting was reviewing recent updates to the zoning ordinance (Unified Land Use and Development Regulations - ULUDR) and had a discussion/approval for additional lenders for the housing trust fund. The group voted to have our Housing Initiative Director explore additional partnerships with North Country Federal Credit Union, the Vermont Federal Credit Union, and Community Bank. More to come on that.

The Chittenden Solid Waste District met on July 29th. There was an extensive executive session, after which we came out and voted to approve lease equipment for optical sorting, which will help with improving the quality of the products that are sorted and go out for market for sale.

Additional meetings will be warned soon. I know that our Safe, Healthy, Connected People meeting will be moved because that is typically scheduled for next Tuesday, which would be the night of the Primary so we will be adjusting that. Further updates will be through our standard city channel notifications.



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Councilor Al Turkos:

Airport Commission Meeting

The next Burlington International Airport Commission meeting is this Wednesday, August 5, at 4:00 PM. Meetings are open to the public, and I encourage anyone interested in airport operations, sound mitigation, or airport-related issues to attend. You can attend both virtually or in-person.

Inclusion & Belonging Committee

The next Winooski Inclusion & Belonging Committee will meet on Thursday, August 13, at 6:00 PM. If you're interested in helping make Winooski a more welcoming, equitable, and inclusive community, we'd love to have you join us. We are also actively looking for new members to join us so please reach out to me if you have any questions, or you can apply directly online.

Winooski Clean-Up Day – Saturday, August 8

Join me for a Winooski Clean-Up Day on Saturday, August 8, from 8:30 – 11:00 AM. We'll meet outside Scout Coffee at the top of the circle before heading out to help keep our city beautiful. Everyone is welcome—bring a friend, and we'll provide supplies!

A heartfelt thank you to Sarah and everyone who works so hard to set up, break down, and keep our Downtown Winooski Block Parties and Farmers Market running so smoothly. These events don't just happen, they take an incredible amount of planning and behind-the-scenes work. Thank you to all of the staff, volunteers, vendors, musicians, and community members who help make downtown such a vibrant place to gather each week.

Councilor Elsie Goodrich: The Winooski Finance Commission met July 14th to discuss the payment agreement procedure which governs the rules and responsibility for setting up payment plan for money owed to the City such as parking tickets, property taxes, utility bills and other approved charges. Payment plans are intended to help people who cannot pay the full amount right away without experiencing financial hardship while also protecting the City's financial interests. The next meeting of the Finance Commission, which was to be held on the Primary election date of August 11th will either be rescheduled or canceled depending on the availability of the commissioners.

Councilor Eli Ogilvie: This month's Municipal Infrastructure meeting was unfortunately canceled due to lack of quorum. With that being said, we were able to get a good turnout for the municipal infrastructure open house that occurred on Wednesday, July 29th. I want to thank city staff, the Winooski Alliance for Active Transportation, residents and commissioners for showing up and giving their input for the comprehensive plan. Your feedback will be the guiding documents our city will use over the next decade. Additionally, on July 16th, the Deputy Mayor and I had wonderful conversations with residents at our temporary library location. A few items that were brought up were related to housing and infrastructure. The main concerns and questions were regarding the need for housing. The main questions and interest were related to the addition of more affordable housing and the focus of more family housing. There was a focus for more single-family homes as well as town houses and green space was considered extremely important for the folks we had.

Regarding infrastructure, there was general excitement for the end of the Main Street construction and praise for how it's coming together. There were questions and concerns regarding the upcoming bridge project, and it seems that folks are somewhat unaware of the upcoming street intersection and sidewalk extension project on East Spring Street. I want to thank all the folks that we chatted with and if you have any more questions, please reach out.



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VI. City Updates

Elaine Wang, City Manager, gave the following updates

The City of Winooski is updating our Master Plan. Now known as the “**Comprehensive Plan**”, this document serves as the guide for local government projects and budgeting for the community. If you're new to this concept, cities adopt a comprehensive plan every 8 years. Winooski is due to adopt our next one in March of 2027 and need community voices informing the plan! To do this, we're hosting Open House events throughout the summer. The final open house event will take place on Thursday, August 27 from 5 – 7 PM at the Winooski Senior Center. This event will focus on the “Safe, Healthy, and Connected” area of the Strategic Vision – give feedback on how the City can improve its livability in terms of parks, community programming, public health, and public safety. Light refreshments will be provided. If you haven't been able to attend these events, online feedback forms are available at winooski.vt.gov/plan.

Speaking of events:

- We're hosting our **quarterly blood drive at City Hall** on Friday, August 14, from 12 – 4:30 PM. Blood donations are in critical need – please visit redcrossblood.org or call 1 800 RED CROSS to schedule. Participants who donate during this event will receive a \$20 Amazon Gift Card – visit winooski.vt.gov/news to learn more.
- The **2026 Statewide Primary Election** is on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 from 7 AM to 7 PM at the Winooski Senior Center. To view the official warning, sample ballots, and to register to vote, visit winooski.vt.gov/vote.
- Don't miss the **Friendship Festival** on Sunday, August 30, from 2 – 9 PM at the Winooski School District! This free family-friendly event is designed to celebrate the people, cultures, and stories that make Winooski such a vibrant and welcoming community. Residents and visitors of all ages are invited to spend the day connecting with neighbors, enjoying local food, experiencing live performances, and participating in activities that bring people together. For full event details, visit downtownwinooski.org/friendshipfestival. And, FYI: This event is part of a larger community-strengthening initiative supported through the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's Welcoming Communities program and the Vermont Community Foundation's Social Cohesion Grant, in partnership with Downtown Winooski and the Winooski School District.

Lastly, a gentle reminder that **property tax and utility payments are due August 15**. Payments will be accepted on time before 8:00 am on Wednesday, August 19th, since City Hall is closed on Monday, August 17, for Bennington Battle Day. Postmarks are not accepted as on-time payments. Make your payments online at winooski.vt.gov/pay or in person at Winooski City Hall. Payment plans, direct debit, and paperless billing are available.

VII. Regular Items

- A. Approval: Commission Appointments – Jon Rauscher, Public Works Director, Ravi Venkataraman, Director of City Planning, and Jazmine Hurley, Housing Initiative Director

Minutes: Jarron Khan introduced themselves to the Council and shared their appreciation towards serving on the commission.



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Motion: A motion to approve James Paradissis and Jarron Khan, with Jarron being a full-time appointment as opposed to an alternate made by Councilor Turkos and seconded by Councilor Goodrich. Motion passed 4-0.

B. Discussion/Approval: 111 Winooski Falls Way Sign Master Plan Application and Act 250 Permit Amendment Application - Ravi Venkataraman, Director of City Planning

Minutes: Doug Nedde gave an introduction and mentioned the hotel is planning to open on September 21. They shared their appreciation of the processes in place for the signage and shared with Council and the public the sign plans.

The Director of City Planning spoke extensively about the applicant proposal and reviewed criteria needed with downtown sign code. The sign does not completely conform with the City's sign code, however, there is some flexibility that can be given based on comparisons to apartments and other buildings in the vicinity who also have signage. They asked the Council for some latitude due to multiple uses of this property.

Deputy Mayor Oakleaf inquired about sign lighting and Doug Nedde mentioned that these signs will not have any lighting features included.

Motion: Motion to approve the 111 Winooski Falls Way Sign Master Plan as presented and approve the application to submit the Act 250 Permit Application made by Deputy Mayor Oakleaf and seconded by Councilor Turkos. Motion passed 4-0.

C. Discussion/Approval: Downtown Winooski Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - Elaine Wang, City Manager

Minutes: City Manager Wang gave an overview about the downtown organization and necessity of working with them. Melissa Corbin, the Executive Director for Downtown Winooski then gave an extensive overview and presentation about Downtown Winooski's work over the previous year as well as the need for their work related to economic vitality, equity, and access, in addition to the Downtown Winooski's program schedule. They also shared some information about sponsorships decreasing this current year, yet they are working on finding new funding opportunities. They have been working with Vermont's Department of Liquor and Lottery and have collaborated with Four Quarters Brewing on a new revenue opportunity that may be implemented soon. There are currently three changes in the MOU that were reviewed and allowed Council to solicit feedback and questions.

The Council shared their appreciation for the work and collaboration efforts the organization has made for the city. Deputy Mayor Oakleaf made some suggestions for possible opportunities for sponsorships and program ideas. There was further discussion amongst Council members and Downtown Winooski related to revising this proposed MOU regarding event coordination with Councilor Turkos and Councilor Goodrich both sharing their opinions on the need for having certain events clearly outlined in the MOU. There are aspirations to have a minimum number of events in place rather than ambiguity for potential celebrations. Downtown Winooski took the suggestions of Council into consideration and stated they would appreciate some flexibility in planning future events but understand the need for concrete dates for bigger events being established well in advance.



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Motion: A motion to authorize the City Manager to sign the FY27 MOU with Downtown Winooski as presented with the change of item 1A after annually to say may include a list of events subject to a schedule to be submitted by our March 31st meeting made by Councilor Goodrich and seconded by Councilor Turkos. Motion passed 4-0

D. Discussion/Approval: Position Descriptions for Assistant Fire Marshal and Career Lieutenant - John Audy, Fire Chief and Jesse Acri, Human Resources Director

Minutes: Fire Chief Audy reviewed the position descriptions with Council, as these will better reflect operational needs for the Fire Department. The Lieutenant position will be a full twenty four hour (24) position and help with a shift in needs for the department's future operational growth. The benefits of having an Assistant Fire Marshal will clarify responsibilities, recruitment, and succession planning for the department as well. The Human Resources Director added that there is some appealability for these new positions, as there has been a drop in candidates due to the current position descriptions.

The Mayor shared their appreciation to hear that there is interest in fulfilling these new possible positions and asked some questions about scheduling. Deputy Mayor Oakleaf also asked about the possible impact these new positions would may have on inspections. The Fire Chief was able to respond to their questions and clarified that they are confident that these changes can continue to support all inspections in the future.

Motion: Motion to approve the Assistant Fire Marshal and Career Lieutenant position descriptions as presented made by Councilor Turkos and seconded by Councilor Goodrich. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

E. Discussion/Approval: Position Description for Thrive Program Assistant Director (Part Time) - Ray Coffey, Community Services Director and Jesse Acri, Human Resources Director

Minutes: The Community Services Director mentioned that this item was initially slated for discussion during the budget season, but due to the current Thrive Program Director stepping down from the position soon, it was important to present this to the Council at this time. The Thrive program recently received a five-star designation, and this designation allows for growth with the program. Ray spoke about the costs associated with this position as well as the opportunity to allow for growth amongst its staff for leadership opportunities.

The Mayor shared their appreciation of the program and asked some questions about offsetting costs and current staffing. Deputy Mayor Oakleaf asked questions about the adjusting of positions having any possible effects for increasing participation in the program as well as current capacity and the need for a waitlist. The Community Services Director was able to answer Council's questions and currently there is not a waitlist; current staffing levels are well above the required ratios, but they are expecting continued growth with Thrive.

Motion: Motion to approve the Thrive Program Assistant Director position description as presented made by Councilor Turkos and seconded by Deputy Mayor Oakleaf. Motion carried 4-0.

F. Discussion: Strategic Vision Goal Updates - Elaine Wang, City Manager, Jazmine Hurley, Housing Initiative Director, Ray Coffey, Community Services Director, Justin Huizenga, Police Chief, John Audy, Fire Chief, and Jon Rauscher, Public Works Director



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Minutes: Various departments presented to the Council with updates from the fourth quarter of the previous fiscal year.

The Community Services Director commented that overall, everything is moving along well. Sidra Hoffman, the Trails and Park Steward, has been fabulous with basic maintenance and has been a great addition to the team. There is a ton going on behind the scenes which has also made great progress. Next week, they are anticipating the Landry Park pavilion walls to be raised. Deputy Mayor Oakleaf acknowledged the work the department is doing and asked about the O'Brien Community Center, which is currently moving along slower than anticipated, due to fundraising. They have been meeting with vendors and planning, which is making progress. Councilor Turkos also gave appreciation for the work Sidra has done and commented that it has been wonderful being out in the community and appreciates the additional support.

The Fire Chief reviewed recruitment and retention and are excited for some upcoming interviews this week. There will be an RFP for EMS services soon and acknowledged St. Michael's with their assistance. On July 1st dispatchers in the Police Department took over fire calls and they acknowledged their collaboration and efforts and shared kudos.

The Director of City Planning spoke about impact fees as a tool to offset costs due to added impact from development (e.g., a greenfield and five hundred new units could have an impact fee that could be leveled for improved levels of service). They have collaborated with Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, which can offer support for impact studies, on how other municipalities work with these fees and they are usually tied to new development or expectations of population growth. Impact fees are tied to impact growth, and the benefits could be used for the whole city or just a portion but must be proportional. The Mayor gave thanks for the work done on this item and noted that residents have some concerns about growth and seeing some repercussions of previous impact fees. Deputy Mayor Oakleaf then had a discussion related to growth, line striping, and road use and how to mitigate the adverse impacts. Councilor Ogilvie asked about the scope of the impact fee and the Director of City Planning clarified that it depends on specific capital items and what exactly the benefit is for. Further discussion ensued related to specific examples, projections, and calculations with the Public Works Director sharing input related to water and sewer projects.

The Housing Initiative Director talked about policies that are proceeding as planned. Some highlights include effective collaboration efforts with the Housing and Planning Commissions. In addition, the housing needs assessment is currently in the community engagement phase. They mentioned some updates related to the Armory project with more information coming. Short-term rentals ended with only one property out of compliance (fiscal, not code), as well as the City's first property complaint related to an electrical issue, which is a great first step in this process. The total number of licenses at the end of the fiscal year totaled fifty-four. Lastly, more information related to airport noise mitigation will be presented on September 21.

The Finance Director spoke about the cross-cutting update, and specifically about focus groups. There is a new onboarding process to compensate focus groups without filling out paperwork.

City Manager Wang shared their appreciation for the equity component from the work Jazmine and Angela did. In addition, they shared information related to parking, as they are not having any luck with the volume of parking space agreements. They will be following up with larger landlords soon to gauge interest.



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- G. Discussion/Approval: Boards, Committees, and Commission Structure - Deputy Mayor Bryn Oakleaf and Mayor Thomas Renner

Minutes: Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.

VIII. Adjourn

Motion: Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Turkos and seconded by Councilor Goodrich. Motion passed unanimously 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Attest: _____
Adam Hoffnung-Warantz, Assistant City Clerk