



City of Winooski

Vermont's Opportunity City

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

Winooski City Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 8, 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 Al Turkos; Councilor Elsie Goodrich; Councilor Eli Ogilvie

Officers Present: Elaine Wang, City Manager; Angela Aldieri, Finance Director; Paul Sarne, Communications Director; Jesse Acri, Human Resources Director; Ray Coffey, Community Services Director; Jenny Willingham, City Clerk; Adam Hoffnung-Warantz, Assistant City Clerk

Others Present: Betsy Nolan; Micayla Schambura; Tom Buckley; Michelle Metzler; Anna Vold; Tim Cece

I. Call to Order at 6:06 PM

II. Agenda Review

Minutes: There was no discussion with the agenda being accepted as presented.

III. Public Comment

Minutes: Betsy Nolan gave comments related to parking tickets and the timeframe for which the amount doubles. They believe that having a citation double in less than thirty days does not align with Winooski's values and believes that thirty days is a more appropriate turnaround time for payments.

IV. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval: City Council Meeting Minutes of August 3 and September 2, 2026, Liquor Control Board Meeting Minutes of August 3, 2026
- B. Approval: Payroll Warrants: July 19 - August 1, August 2 - August 15, August 16 - 29, 2026
- C. Approval: Accounts Payable Warrants: August 26 and September 2, 2026
- D. Approval: Resolution - Hispanic Heritage Month
- E. Approval: Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission Committee Corrected
- F. Approval: Downtown Winooski Letter of Attestation
- G. Approval: Local Resources Advisory Board Reappointments
- H. Approval: Event Permit - West/River Streets Block Party
- I. Approval: External Commission Representative Quarterly Report: Town Meeting TV
- J. Discussion/Approval: Printing and Mailing of the Justice of the Peace Candidates on the Back of the General Election Ballot to all Active, Not-Challenged, US Citizen Voters - Jenny Willingham, City Clerk

Minutes: Deputy Mayor Oakleaf asked Council if they need to recuse themselves from approving previous meeting minutes due to their absence. The mayor stated that isn't an issue.



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Motion: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Councilor Turkos and seconded by Councilor Goodrich. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

V. Council Reports

Mayor Thomas Renner: The Planning Commission will be meeting this Thursday at 6:30 at City Hall. You can also watch online. As always, I encourage folks to attend Planning Commission meetings. There is a lot of work that gets done there with what our city looks like and what it will look like which is very important to a lot of residents, so I encourage your attendance.

Deputy Mayor Oakleaf: I want to thank the Councilors for covering for me while I was away in August and Safe, Healthy, Connected People has been cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. The Housing Commission has been cancelled for the same reason. CSWD will meet at its regular time on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6 PM at their offices in Williston or available online. The agenda for that will be posted the week before the meeting.

Councilor Al Turkos: On both August 5th and September 2nd, the Burlington Airport Commission met. I want to remind folks that on September 21st later this month, the team from the Burlington Airport will be here to update Winooski residents. I've also had a few Colchester residents reach out, so neighboring residents are obviously welcome to attend as well and the team from the airport will specifically updating us around the Sound Mitigation work that they're doing. That is on our next City Council meeting on September 21st.

The Downtown Winooski board met on Wednesday, August 19th, and we are preparing for our next event which will be next Wednesday, September 16th, which is our annual Winooski Pride event. This is an event that is welcome to all ages, families, everyone should come, new UVM students are welcome to come. We will have DJs; Specs will be there distributing drinks. We have food. I will be there and is one of my favorite events outside of Halloween. I highly recommend that if everyone is around, you should come.

Other things that I want to highlight were the Winooski School District held an amazing back to school barbecue that Councilor Goodrich, Councilor Ogilvie, myself, Elaine, our amazing City Manager were there. I want to thank that partnership between us and the school district. We've had an easy back to school. I have been a greater in the mornings and it's been wonderful to see the kiddos and open the doors for them. Pre-K started today, which has been great.

I want to give a big shoutout to the Winooski Community Services Department. I joined them on Thursday, August 13th, for a Landry Park Cleanup. Sidra, who is our Parks and Trails Steward, has been doing an amazing job organizing these and we met and potentially talked about doing a bird walk. They have been doing some amazing work, and I am super grateful for them.

This Saturday, September 12th, at 8:30 AM, I am organizing our new Winooski Cleanup Crew. We'll be meeting outside of Specs at 8:30 at 7 West Canal Street. This is the second time we're doing this. It was so successful in the month of August that folks asked me to bring it back. I will be distributing latex gloves, garbage bags, buckets, etc. We do a loop around the circle and distribute off into other neighborhoods as well. If folks are interested, I posted it on Front Porch Forum, or you can follow up with me directly. It's really about keeping our city clean, and we pick up trash, meet neighbors, and connect.



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Councilor Elsie Goodrich: The Finance Commission met on August 18th. The first order of business was electing a new secretary, so thank you to Autumn Crabtree. The primary topic of the meeting was a discussion around the community outreach efforts for the economic vitality section of the Comprehensive Plan Open House series. Since we had low turnout and limited public feedback for that section, the commission brainstormed some improvements and ideas while recognizing the limitations the city has to actually implement those. Members suggested after the process is done, the city could debrief and reflect on what worked for outreach to reflect and improve future engagement. Their next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15th. I covered the Housing Commission meeting for Deputy Mayor Oakleaf at the August 25th meeting. The Housing Commission received a presentation from the Director of Planning on the Building Typologies Report and a presentation from the Housing Director on the fiscal year 2026 landlord survey. One of the primary takeaways of that survey is that Winooski's rental housing markets seems to be less competitive than it was last year, suggesting some easing of market pressures compared to recent years. Due to low attendance, the other items were postponed until a later meeting.

Councilor Eli Ogilvie: On August 27th, the Municipal Infrastructure Commission met, and we had some wonderful conversations. We spent a majority of the meeting discussing infrastructure and what's been working and what hasn't been. The commission also was updated on a citywide traffic calming study that was conducted this summer. The city expects to receive the final report in the coming months. Lastly, we reviewed the DPW fiscal year 2027 priority list. If folks would like to read more about the commission's discussions, the unofficial minutes are posted on the Winooski City website.

VI. City Updates

Elaine Wang, City Manager, gave the following updates

Many thanks to everyone who attended and provided feedback during the **Comprehensive Plan** Open House series of events this summer. If you could not attend, or are new to this process, the City of Winooski must readopt a municipal plan (a high-level plan that guides the City's future) by the end of 2027. The current plan, known as the Master Plan, is being updated and will be called the "Comprehensive Plan".

Community feedback is needed to guide the Comprehensive Plan. Please take a moment to fill out a community survey by visiting winooski.vt.gov/plan. There is one survey per area, including:

- Land Use Goals and Actions (How does Winooski change and grow?)
- Municipal Infrastructure (How does Winooski improve our water, sewer, stormwater, transportation, and energy network?)
- Economic Vitality (How does Winooski maintain/expand our economy?)
- Safe, Healthy, Connected People How does Winooski improve livability, parks, community programs, health, and safety?
- For context, there is no survey for the Housing section, as it is being shaped by the ongoing Housing Needs Assessment process

Road repair and resurfacing began today and will occur until September 18th, which includes Brisson Court, North St., Cedar St., Dufresne Drive, and Pine Grove Terrace. For details about this work including the schedule, traffic impacts, parking restrictions, and driveway access, please visit winooski.vt.gov/news.



VII. Regular Items

A. Discussion/Approval: Grant Agreement with Vermont Community Development Program for Pedestrian Access to Casavant Natural Area to Reimburse Nedde Real Estate for Eligible Construction Costs, and Related Council Actions Needed - Jon Rauscher, Director of Public Works

Minutes: City Manager Wang spoke on behalf of the Public Works Director about the grant agreement related to improving pedestrian access to the Casavant Natural Area. The City Manager reviewed the timeline of the project for Lot 7D, which was previously approved by Council, and this new access will now be of higher quality and accessible to those with mobility challenges. The grant outlines specific guidelines that the City must adhere to, and Council is responsible for signing off on the expectations and approval to allow the developer to be reimbursed for the work done. The Mayor reiterated the financial responsibility for the development and mentioned that with this grant, this access will be cost neutral for the City.

Council had some follow-up questions related to the timeframe for completion as well as defining what cost-neutrality means on behalf of city staff. The City Manager was able to provide clarifying answers.

Motion: Motion to approve the City Manager to execute the VCDP grant agreement for improvements related to pedestrian access to the Casavant Natural Area contingent on executing the agreement between the city and Nedde Real Estate that ensures grant compliance, if needed by Councilor Turkos and seconded by Councilor Goodrich. Motion carried 4-0.

B. Discussion: Introduction - Non-Union Longevity Bonus Pay Policy - Jesse Acri, Human Resources Director

Minutes: The Human Resources Director spoke about the proposed policy related to city staff who have already reached their maximum step allowance in their pay range. Employees are given a cost-of-living allowance increase each year, as well as a step increase, but those who no longer have additional steps do not get extra compensation compared to those who increase in their step range. Tim Cece asked the Council about previous policies the City had as well as how the numerical amount was established in this new policy, as well as questions about COLA increases overall. This policy is already in place previously for both employees that participate in ASFCME as well as the Police Union, and this proposed policy matches their language as well.

Discussion ensued amongst the Council and City Staff, as this proposed policy cannot be adopted immediately, and needs time for members of the public to give possible feedback. With this discussion, this item can be brought to the Council at the next meeting for approval. The Council shared their opinions around this policy and were able to ask any questions. The City Manager asked Council for an inclination of support at the end of the discussion.

C. Discussion: Leave Pool Policy - Jessi Acri, Human Resources Director

Minutes: The Human Resources Director reviewed the possible new policy as there is no current formal policy in place and would create a consistent process that aligns with the current policies in place.

A conversation with Council and City Staff followed the introduction of the policy related to current policies already in place and its rationale. Currently, the City has a sick leave policy in place as well as a sick leave bank for those that may need additional hours. Questions regarding the importance of



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utilizing time off through already established policies in place and questioned the need for establishing this new policy. All members of the Council shared their thoughts with additional questions throughout this discussion. In addition, Tom Buckley gave public comments and asked the Council whether this policy is the same for union and non-union employees and whether there is an opportunity for disparities during further conversations, with the Human Resources director stating it would apply for everyone.

The Mayor described hearing a desire to review the current leave pool policy, as the idea of establishing a temporary new policy had mixed opinions on behalf of Council members. In addition, Council asked if staff had an opportunity to review this policy and the Human Resources Director stated no feedback was received. At the end of the discussion, the City Manager thanked Council for their concerns about City Staff.

D. Discussion/Approval: Reserve Request: Supplement Training Budget - Jesse Aciri, Human Resources Director

Minutes: The Human Resources Director reviewed the reserve request with Council, asking for an additional ten thousand dollars for supplementing the training budget this current fiscal year. This is traditionally reviewed during budget discussions, but training opportunities for staff have exceeded this year's current allotted amount. The Finance Director clarified they are asking for more than is currently needed but allows for a buffer in case further training comes up during this fiscal year. Currently there it isn't expected that this trend will continue in the following fiscal year.

Questions were raised by the Council related to which specific funding this will be taken from, especially as the Mayor made mention they have concerns about moving money from the reserve accounts, with City Staff being able to share more clarifying information. Questions related to per diem and mileage reimbursement were reviewed as those amounts are updated by the Federal Government and at different times throughout the year.

Motion: A motion to approve the use of ten thousand dollars from the training reserve fund to support employee training and professional development opportunities made by Councilor Turkos and seconded by Councilor Goodrich. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

The Council took a recess from 7:19 PM and continued the meeting at 7:26 PM.

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

Minutes: The Mayor started the discussion by thanking the Deputy Mayor's leadership on this item. This current commission structure was created during the last Master Plan and is asking for revisions as the City works to develop the upcoming Comprehensive Plan. The Mayor continued to acknowledge that these bodies are useful for the City and wants to ensure that in the future it remains an engaging process and ensure that the continued work is useful.

A memo created by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor outlined possible alternatives to the current commission structure and the Council had an extensive discussion with a chance to give feedback on what each believes would work best. Other possible alternatives included in the discussion were to possibly have one ad-hoc committee which would take all (except for the Planning Commission and Development Review Board as these must remain separate unless having a joint meeting) important topics at the present moment to have a larger conversation related to whatever the current needs are.



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Another alternative would be to merge some of the commissions (e.g. the Inclusion and Belonging Commission joining with the Safe, Healthy, People Commission).

Throughout the Council discussion, the need to review these alternatives with each commission at their next meetings was important to guide any changes to the current structure. Most Councilors agree on a commission model and did not want to move forward with the first idea presented in the memo (e.g., having a ward model), and the Mayor agrees that feedback should be solicited from all commissions before determining any next steps. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor agreed that they can update the current memo to reflect the discussion before the next council meeting. No vote was taken to change the commission structure.

Motion: A motion to seek input from existing commissions on the discussion that we've had tonight that will be guided by the memo that the Deputy Mayor and Mayor will provide to Council no later than next Wednesday made by Councilor Turkos and seconded by Councilor Goodrich. Motion passed 4-0.

VIII. Adjourn

Motion: Motion to adjourn at 8:41 PM made by Deputy Mayor Oakleaf and seconded by Councilor Turkos. Motion passed 4-0.

Attest: _____
Adam Hoffnung-Warantz, Assistant City Clerk