



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, September 21, 2026, at 6 PM

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

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

Officers Present: Elaine Wang, City Manager; Jesse Acri, Human Resources Director; John Audy, Fire Chief; Angela Aldieri, Finance Director; Paul Sarne, Communications Director; Jazmine Hurley, Housing Initiative Director; Jenny Willingham, City Clerk; Kim Hier; Assistant City Clerk; Ray Coffey, Community Services Director

Others Present: Nic Longo, Patrick Leahy Burlington Airport; Madison Reagan, Patrick Leahy Burlington Airport; Larry Lackey, Patrick Leahy Burlington Airport; Wendy Critchlow; Daisy Berbeco, Michael Pietraskiewicz, Jen Berger, Kim Jordan, Brian Colombini

- I. Call to Order** at 6 PM
- II. Pledge of Allegiance** Led by Deputy Mayor Oakleaf
- III. Agenda Review**

Minutes: Agenda was accepted as presented.

IV. Public Comment

Minutes: There was no public comment.

V. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval: City Council Meeting Minutes of September, 8, 2026, Cannabis Control Board Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2026, and Liquor Control Board Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2026
- B. Approval: Payroll Warrant August 30 - September 12, 2026
- C. Approval: Accounts Payable Warrants: September 9 and September 17, 2026
- D. Approval: Energy Efficiency Day Resolution - Mayor Thomas Renner
- E. Approval: Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) Annual Meeting Voting Delegate - Elaine Wang, City Manager
- F. Approval: Short-Term Public Art Policy - Ray Coffey, Community Services Director

Minutes: Consent Agenda was accepted as presented.

Motion: Motion made by Councilor Turkos to accept the Consent Agenda, seconded by Deputy Mayor Oakleaf. Motion carried 3-0.



VI. Council Reports

Mayor Thomas Renner: The Planning Commission will meet this Thursday at 6:30 PM at City Hall. You can also watch online. I encourage folks to check out the update regarding the Planning Commission that I put out on Front Porch Forum and other City channels. It is a broader update on the Planning Commission, not just the last few meetings. I would like to encourage people to attend those meetings either in person or virtually. Thank you to everybody who came out for the Pride event in Winooski last Wednesday. It was a really lovely showing once again of our community coming together. Thank you to Downtown Winooski for their organizing efforts, particularly their amazing staffer, Sarah who does so much work to get these events planned and up and running. Thank you to all of the volunteers as well.

Deputy Mayor Oakleaf: Safe, Healthy, Connected People and the Housing Commission did not meet this month due to the lack of topics for the groups. We plan to have our regular meetings in October so keep an eye out for the agendas. The Chittenden Solid Waste District has their full board meeting on Wednesday evening at 6:00 PM. You can join online or in person at their office in South Burlington. There will be a board education topic on process glass aggregate and then an executive session. No other agenda items are planned for the meeting.

Councilor Al Turkos: Our next Airport Commission meeting is Wednesday, October 7 at 4 PM. Our next Inclusion & Belonging Commission meeting will also take place in October, where we will discuss the commission model memo. We are currently finalizing the date and will share that information with the community as soon as it is confirmed.

Wednesday, October 7 is Walk to School Day! We'll have opportunities for community members to help make the morning welcoming, safe, and fun for our students. If you're interested in volunteering, please reach out to me directly. I'd love to have you join us.

Our most recent community clean-up was held on Saturday, September 12, and I'm already looking forward to the next one. We're planning another clean-up for next month. I'm deeply grateful to everyone who came out on September 12, helped make our community a little cleaner, and shared their interest in joining us for future clean-ups. These efforts are a great reminder that taking care of our community is something we do together. I'm excited to keep building on that momentum.

Councilor Elsie Goodrich: The Finance Commission met September 15th, and discussed the Boards, Committees, and Commission Structure, after reviewing the August version of the memo from Deputy Mayor Oakleaf. Some of the discussion echoed the Municipal Infrastructure Commission comments:

1. A clarification of the purpose, expectations, and direction from City Council and staff, and more collaboration between Commissions and Council.
2. A need for more action-oriented work, tangible outcomes, and a desire for Commission recommendations to influence decisions & policies.
3. An appetite for more community engagement and outreach responsibilities.
4. Interest in a "Super Commission" model or combining commissions, with frequent meetings, and combined "Mega Meetings" and meaningful agendas that include the intersection of Housing, Infrastructure, and City initiatives with financial matters.
5. And a concern that limiting access to infrequent meetings can inhibit opportunities for feedback and public engagement.

The commission also had a brief discussion on the Goals & Objectives for Economic Vitality in the Economic Development Strategic Plan. While the body of the Commission felt that since they are



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newer, they don't have a great deal of feedback at this time, but considered that it might be helpful to flag when work is done towards a goal and give more feedback. They also plan to meet with Melissa from Downtown Winooski and be guided through this for each of these points.

Councilor Eli Ogilvie: Not present.

VII. City Updates

Elaine Wang, City Manager, gave the following updates:

Winooski is updating its Master Plan into a new Comprehensive Plan, which will guide the city's future through 2027 and beyond. Thank you to everyone who attended our **Comprehensive Plan Open Houses** and shared your feedback this summer. If you couldn't attend, your input is important, so please take a moment to complete the community surveys at winooskivt.gov/plan. There are surveys covering land use, infrastructure, economic vitality, and safe, healthy, connected people.

Everyone is invited to the **Main Street Revitalization Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony**, which starts at 10 AM on September 30, 2026 at the Winooski VFW on Main Street. To read the full press release which includes all of the details and summarizes the large amount of work that went into this tremendously important project, please visit winooskivt.gov/news.

Are you a resident with an extra vehicle? Are you a college student, business owner, or employee looking for a steady parking option? Need a spot in the parking garage during winter parking bans? Just looking for a place to park? **The City of Winooski is now offering long-term parking space agreements in the Winooski Parking Garage on Cascade Way to individuals or households.** Multi-month and month-to-month agreements are available – to learn more and fill out the inquiry survey to get started, please visit winooskivt.gov/news.

The **General Election** is Tuesday, November 3rd, from 7 AM to 7 PM at the Winooski Senior Center. The Vermont Secretary of State will mail ballots to registered and active Winooski voters beginning in October, using the address on your voter registration. This is your ballot! Once you receive your ballot, you can return it by mail to Winooski City Hall, drop it off at the City Clerk's Office, or bring it to the Winooski Senior Center on Election Day. You can check your ballot status and register to vote at vote.vermont.gov.

Residents are invited to join their friends, families, and neighbors tomorrow for the **Landry Park Volunteer Cleanup event** that takes place tomorrow, Tuesday, September 22, from 4 to 6:30 PM. Volunteers can swing by Landry Park to make space for new Community Garden plots or, through our partnership with Fellowship of the Wheel, help maintain the mountain bike trails.

Then, this weekend on Saturday, September 26, enjoy the **Memorial Park Bird Walk** with the Friends of the Winooski River and Trish O'Kane, local ornithologist (meaning someone who studies birds) and educator. Enjoy learning more about nature in Winooski and discover Memorial Park - binoculars are provided!

Learn more about both events at winooskivt.gov/programs.

VIII. Regular Items

A. Discussion/Approval: Longevity Bonus Pay Policy - Seeking Approval - Jesse Acri, Human Resources Director



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Minutes: Human Resource Director Jesse Acri gave an overview of the policy, which was presented to Council on September 8, 2026. The policy mimics what we already have in place for the two collective bargaining units that we have for Public Works and the Police Department. It is for those who have been with the city long enough to come off of the step scale and are not eligible for an increase outside of the cost-of-living adjustment. It is a way to help preserve institutional knowledge and keep services for the city with "familiar faces".

Motion: Motion to approve the longevity bonus pay policy made by Deputy Mayor Oakleaf and seconded by Councilor Turkos. Motion Carried 3-0.

B. Discussion/Approval: Leave Pool Policy - Seeking Approval - Jesse Acri, Human Resources Director

Minutes: Director of Human Resources, Jesse Acri, gave an overview of the policy, which was presented to Council on September 8, 2026. The policy was amended after feedback from City Council. The proposed policy would establish a city-wide leave pool available to regular year-round employees who meet eligibility requirements. Revisions include what types of time off can be donated, clarification of eligibility, addressing concerns about negative balances, city staff being able to retain their own time, and making sure IRS guidelines are followed. Mayor Renner reiterated that Council wants to make sure staff is taking their time off and taking care of themselves. Councilor Goodrich expressed that she was uncomfortable with anything other than sick time being included in the policy, and she would be interested in talking to the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to get their feedback on a compassionate leave policy. She stated she would prefer to look at leave policies in general before considering a leave pool. Councilor Turkos stated that she "seconded" what Councilor Goodrich had just stated. Finance Director Angela Aldieri provided an overview of donations as well as usage of the pool. Further discussion included narrowing the hours that can be donated to only sick leave until the Vermont League of Cities and Towns can be consulted and other options can be explored. Finance Director Aldieri stated that the sick leave bank is very small compared to other forms of time off based on how much is accrued overall. City Manager Wang stated that she would recommend that they accept the policy as is and there is no current problem except not having a formal policy in place. There are several people who could be impacted soon if there is no policy. If the goal is to make sure no one is harmed, it will have the opposite effect. If the policy is passed, other options can be looked at more carefully when there is more time.

Motion: Motion by Deputy Mayor Oakleaf to approve the leave policy as presented, seconded by Councilor Turkos. Motion carried 3-1, with Mayor Renner, Councilor Turkos and Deputy Mayor Oakleaf voting yes, and Councilor Goodrich voting no.

C. Discussion: Burlington Airport (BTV) Noise Mitigation Update - Jazmine Hurley, Housing Initiative Director, Nic Longo, Director of Aviation, Larry Lackey, Director of Planning Engineering and Sustainability, and Madison Reagan, Environmental Compliance and Project Manager

Minutes: Representatives of the Patrick Leahy Burlington Airport (BTV) provided a presentation regarding the status of their soundproofing efforts. Among the items covered were passengers served over the last several years, status as second busiest airport in New England in terms of operations, and the role of the Vermont National Guard. An overview was given of the history of the noise mitigation program including the use and of noise exposure maps and process for updating those maps, noise compatibility planning, and the residential sound insulation program. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Part 150 guidelines were discussed. An overview was given of the components of the noise compatibility program including sound insulation, sales assistance and purchase assurance. Real time noise monitoring was discussed. An update of statistics for the residential sound insulation



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program as it relates to Winooski was provided, with twenty-two units currently in the program. The next FAA grant (Phase 6) was discussed along with outreach and eligibility. It was stated that a non-local company was winning the bids due to the specialized nature of the work involved, but they often sub-contract locally. An overview was given of the airport's efforts to monitor wildlife habitats around the airport. It was brought up by Council that the public portal to view the real time noise monitoring needs to be more easily accessible on the airport's website.

Wendy Critchlow of Colchester spoke at the public comment portion of the presentation. She stated she lives very close to Winooski and is concerned about the level of noise at her residence. She requested someone perform a decibel reading at her house. Nic Longo discussed some of the details around contour and noise exposure maps, noise monitors and decibel readings. They will talk offline about the concerns that were expressed.

D. Discussion/Approval: Fundraising Campaign for 111 Weaver St. (Fire House Annex) - John Audy, Fire Chief

Minutes: Fire Chief John Audy stated this is an effort to furnish the two rooms at 111 Weaver St. for full-time staff. This will assist in the purchase of furniture and other necessary items and assist in the rigorous cleaning and maintenance involved with the house. City Manager Wang stated that there were some questions from individual members of council about soliciting from the general public due to current economic conditions. Other general outreach options were included as a way to mitigate the possible perception the developer community might infer that there is some kind of "tit for tat" for donating. She stated that is the other way around, as it is a large reason why we need the secure 24x7 staffing. They are already getting something. The Council indicated support for the Fire Department to do fundraising, with recognition that there will be directed "asks". It was also recognized that some in the community are facing more difficult economic circumstances. Continuous fundraising was discussed rather than one time fundraising, as well as continued engagement of the community. Appreciation was expressed for the staff's willingness to obtain second-hand furniture as well as asking for donation of goods.

Motion: Motion by Councilor Turkos to approve staff conduction a fundraising campaign to renovate 111 Weaver St., seconded by Councilor Goodrich. Motion carried 3-0.

E. Discussion/Approval: Fiscal Year 28 Budget Planning - Angela Aldieri, Finance Director

Minutes: Finance Director Aldieri stated the presentation was a recommendation by staff to follow the precedent set in prior years in terms of scheduling. Staff has started meeting on the fiscal year 28 budget process and will continue to meet until the Council's first meeting in December. The Council will be asked to have a budget goal setting session on October 5th to give staff guidance on what they should be presenting. Clarification regarding schedule dates was provided to the Council. City Manager Wang gave an overview of the presentation schedule beginning with a high-level presentation and then detailed presentations with other staff taking place. It was discussed to continue with a running question and answer reference document similar to previous years. The status of language access was discussed. City Manager Wang stated that it is still in initial phases of implementation. A new phase is being entered into and there needs to be a meeting with the Communications Director to discuss a best path forward. Deputy Mayor Oakleaf stated she would appreciate a summary as to the status of the language access program and what staff are considering as it relates to the budget season.



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Motion: Motion by Councilor Turkos to approve the fiscal year 28 budget plan and schedule as presented with the addition that the running question and answer document be added among the materials provided to council as in years past, seconded by Councilor Goodrich. Motion carried 3-0.

IX. Proposed Executive Session

A. Discussion: City Manager Evaluation Questions and Process - Elaine Wang, City Manager

Motion: Motion by Deputy Mayor Oakleaf to find that pursuant to state statute 1 V.S.A §313 that discussion of the City Manager evaluation and process to the public will put the city at a disadvantage and so should be discussed in Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Turkos. Executive session entered into at 7:45 PM.

Motion: Motion by Deputy Mayor Oakleaf to come out of Executive Session at 8:01 PM, seconded by Councilor Turkos. Motion carried 3-0.

X. Regular Items

A. Discussion/Approval: City Manager Evaluation Questions and Process

Minutes: There was no discussion.

Motion: Motion by Deputy Mayor Oakleaf to approve the questions and process as presented, seconded by Councilor Turkos. Motion carried 3-0.

IX. Adjourn

Motion: Motion to adjourn at 8:02 PM by Deputy Mayor Oakleaf, seconded by Councilor Turkos. Motion carried 3-0.

Attest: _____
Kim Hier, Assistant City Clerk