



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, October 5, 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 Eli Ogilve; Councilor Al Turkos

Officers Present: Elaine Wang, City Manager; 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: Matt Gile

I. **Call to Order** at 6:08 PM

II. **Agenda Review**

Minutes: There were no changes to the agenda.

III. **Public Comment**

Minutes: There was no public comment.

IV. **Consent Agenda**

A. Approval: City Council Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2026

B. Approval: Payroll Warrant September 13 - September 26, 2026

C. Approval: Accounts Payable Warrant as of October 1, 2026

D. Approval: External Commission Representative Quarterly Reports:

Chittenden Solid Waste District and Winooski Valley Parks District - Mayor Thomas Renner

E. Approval: Review of Boards, Committees, and Commission Structure - Mayor Thomas Renner

F. Approval: VLCT Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) and VLCT Employment Resource and Benefits Trust (VERB) - Designate a) a person to complete and submit ballots for Directors and b) representative to Annual Meetings - Elaine Wang, City Manager

Minutes: No changes were made to the consent agenda.

Motion: Motion to approve the consent agenda by Councilor Turkos, seconded by Councilor Goodrich. Motion carried 4-0.



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Council Reports

Mayor Thomas Renner: Mayor Renner was not present for Council Reports.

Deputy Mayor Oakleaf: The Safe, Healthy, Connected People Commission is anticipated to meet on October 13th at 6 PM at City Hall and on Zoom. Details will be posted leading up to the meeting. The Housing Commission is anticipated to meet on October 27th. Details will be posted online as the meeting nears.

Councilor Al Turkos

- Wednesday, October 7, is Walk to School Day here in Winooski! There will be organized walking and rolling groups throughout Winooski; neighbors will be helping and supporting students and families get to school safely. Local Motion will be outside WSD to hand out prizes and snacks to those who walk, bike, or roll to school. A big thank you to the families, volunteers, and community members helping make this happen. If you see students and families walking or rolling Wednesday morning, please give them some extra space and a wave! And remember that you can always support the effort from your porch by waving to the kiddos!
- The Burlington Airport Commission will meet on Wednesday, October 7th at 4 PM. The meeting is open to the public, with an opportunity for public comment at the beginning of the meeting. We'll be gathering for another community clean-up this Saturday at 9 AM outside Specs. Materials will be provided, so just bring yourself, a neighbor, and a love of our City. Everyone is welcome, and this is a great way to spend a Saturday morning taking care of our city together.
- The Inclusion and Belonging Commission will meet on Monday, Oct 26, at 6 PM We will be engaging in a follow up discussion of the background check policy as well as the memo just approved re Commission structure.
- The Downtown Winooski Board held its first in-person board meeting of the year at the newly opened Sneakeasy on Main Street. It was great to gather in person and continue the work of supporting a vibrant, welcoming downtown. And thank you to Sneakeasy for hosting us and being part of our downtown community.
- Finally, I want to thank Trish O'Kane, Friends of the Winooski River, and Sidra from the Winooski Recreation Department for hosting the Memorial Park Bird Walk on Saturday, September 26.
- It was a wonderful opportunity to slow down, spend time outside, and learn more about the birds and natural spaces right here in Winooski. I'm grateful to everyone who continues to create opportunities for our community to connect with one another and with the places we share.

Councilor Elsie Goodrich: The Finance Commission will next meet Tuesday October 16th at 6pm here at City Hall and on Zoom.



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Councilor Eli Ogilvie: I want to apologize. Last month's MIC meeting was unfortunately canceled due to my absence. I learned the hard way that the city email doesn't work internationally. This coming MIC meeting will continue to focus on how to better manage and improve the commission structure, with an emphasis on improving the MIC."

V. City Updates

Elaine Wang, City Manager, gave the following updates:

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 winooski.vt.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.

VI. Regular Items

A. Discussion: Presentation from "Tax the Rich to Fund Vermont" Coalition Member - Mayor Thomas Renner

Minutes: Winooski resident Matt Gile, a coalition member from "Tax the Rich Fund Vermont" discussed their initiative to get a measure on the town meeting day ballot that proposes raising taxes on the wealthiest 5% of Vermonters in order to help pay for various social programs that have had funding cuts. They would like to collect over 300 signatures and are carrying out this initiative in several Vermont communities. They would like the support of the Winooski City Council. Mayor Renner stated that before the start of the legislative session, municipalities send lists of their priorities to the legislature. If this ballot measure is passed by voters, and/or the City Council recommends items to the legislature, it does not mean the measure is enacted. We are demonstrating what we want, we are not implementing the measure until there is legislative action. Mr. Gile stated that if the measure passes it would be advising Council to inform the legislature that they should be imposing a tax on the top 5% of income earners in order to fund robust social programming.

B. Discussion/Approval: Fiscal Year 2028 Budget Goal Setting - Angela Aldieri, Finance Director, and Elaine Wang, City Manager

Minutes: City Manager Wang reviewed the memorandum from Finance Director Aldieri regarding the FY28 goal discussion. Strategic vs. level services vs. level funded budgets was discussed. A strategic budget would allow for updating costs for existing services and allocating additional resources to priority areas. A level services budget allows for costs to existing services to be updated for estimated increases due to inflation and cost of living increases but does not increase funding to catch up on deficiencies. Level funded would essentially mean a reduction in the budget due to inflation.



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Discussion followed regarding the difficulty of budget discussions as there are so many things that Council would like to do while recognizing the reality that our residents are living in. It was brought up that residents do not want to pay higher taxes, but they also would like services as well as infrastructure repairs. There is a need to explain to residents where investments are going. Council members indicated that level services or level funded budgets are not feasible as it hurts the city in the long run, even if it is financially appealing. All indicated they prefer a strategic approach.

Motion: Motion by Councilor Turkos to direct City Manager Wang and Staff to begin the budget work on a strategic investment budget, seconded by Councilor Goodrich. Motion carried 4-0.

C. Discussion: Goal Update - Elaine Wang, City Manager

Minutes: City Manager Wang provided highlights from the memos in the Council Packet regarding Goal Updates. For cross-cutting (tasks that affect more than one vision area of the comprehensive plan), items discussed were the Cascades parking garage and the status of the renting of spaces and revenue generation. City Manager Wang thanked Finance Director Aldieri for her work on single space rentals. Approaches to stabilizing the parking fund were discussed such as outreach to landlords and their tenants, as well as the status and logistics of mass mailings. Regarding economic vitality, the work of the Community Liaison for the Burlington Winooski bridge replacement project was discussed. The liaison is facilitating an advisory group task force focusing on business engagement both in Burlington and Winooski, as well as representatives from the Vermont Agency of Transportation. A business engagement support plan has been drafted. City Manager Wang stated it was heartening to see how supportive the state is and the regional partners are.

Regarding Economic Vitality, initiatives of the Economic Mobility Manager Cymone Bedford were discussed. This includes a workshop related to a business networking and learning series, developing a community program to help people get engaged in governance, and regular economic communities of practice meetings for each focus area.

There are highlights related to Housing, which Housing Initiatives Director Jazmine Hurley will present at a future meeting.

City Manager Wang stated that Paul Sarne, Communications Director, has been doing a great job maintaining the language access procedure. He just finished the first update of the language list with the help of the Winooski School District.

Questions and discussion from Council involved use of lawn signs with QR codes to invoke feedback from residents regarding the comprehensive plan, avoiding "survey fatigue", a request for updates on the Senior Center now that there is full-time staff, and outreach to the public regarding parking garage space availability.

D. Discussion/Approval: Council Engagement on City Budget - Councilor Al Turkos

Minutes: Councilor Turkos discussed their thoughts regarding expanding community participation in the FY2028 budget process. The goal would to not just focus on attendance at meetings but also to create other opportunities for residents to learn about the budget and have input in the budgeting process. Items discussed included doing year-round outreach, that every conversation should be a budget outreach, and how priorities come from hearing from the people in the community. There are items people want that are not feasible, but something else may alleviate the situation.



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As an example, the new bus route to Shaw's in lieu of having a grocery store in the City. Outreach to the school system in the form of the Youth Budget Lab was discussed, along with the possibility of reaching out to school staff to identify classes that might want to meet with City Councilors. Bringing the "budget game" to the farmer's market was discussed as well as "Council in the Community" and the need to identify events where the Council could go to the community rather than the community come to them. Engaging with people when quarterly taxes are due was discussed, with the idea that taxes are first and foremost on taxpayers' mind at that time. Use of a shared document for Councilors to input conversations and questions was discussed. City Manager Wang asked to be kept informed of events that City Council will be attending.

Motion: After discussion it was determined that no motion was necessary for this item.

VII. Adjourn

Motion: Motion by to adjourn at 7:24 PM by Councilor Turkos, seconded by Councilor Goodrich. Motion carried 4-0.

Attest: _____
Kim Hier, Assistant City Clerk