



**VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL**

**DRAFT – COUNCIL APPROVAL REQUIRED AT NEXT MEETING.**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOMGOV

**9:00 A.M TO 9:18 A.M.**

**Members Attending Virtually:** Chair John Davis, John Russell, Mark Nicholson, Rep. Charlie Kimbell, Sen. Cheryl Hooker, Rachel Smith, Mike Donohue, Heather Chase, Michael Keane and Thad Richardson.

**Staff Present:** Abbie Sherman, Executive Director; Angie Farrington, VEPC Programs Manager; Randall Szott, Economic Development Specialist

**Others Present:** Richard Haesler (City of Burlington); Katherine Schad (City of Burlington); and John Kessler (General Counsel, ACCD)

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**9:02 a.m. Roll Call and Agenda Review**

Chair John Davis called the meeting to order. Members present are noted above.

**At 9:02 p.m.** Heather Chase moved to approve the agenda. Mark Nicholson seconded the motion. Chair John Davis requested a roll call for the vote, all voted in favor and the motion passed. 7-0-0.

- ❖ Aye: Chair John Davis, John Russell, Mark Nicholson, Rep. Charlie Kimbell, Sen. Cheryl Hooker, Heather Chase, and Thad Richardson
- ❖ Nay: None
- ❖ Abstain: None

**9:04 a.m. TIF Districts: Burlington Downtown Champlain College Development Fee – Issue Resolution - Set up Sub-Committee**

Chair John Davis noted the meeting is purely to set up the subcommittee and clarify what the charge of the subcommittee is. One of the purposes is for the subcommittee to assess what the options are regarding how it will be addressed by the Council. He added that the Council is not in the position to negotiate with the City regarding the resolution.

Mike Donohue, Michael Keane, and Rachel Smith then joined the meeting.

Abbie Sherman added that the subcommittee would refresh the review of the 2020 and 2021 substantial change requests. John Kessler advised the subcommittee to review past decisions of the Council against the city of Burlington's explanation. The subcommittee should report what the numbers look like using the city of Burlington's understanding and the Council's understanding. He said the subcommittee should establish options for the Council to resolve

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the difference. John Davis noted that the Council does not have the authority to sign off on a change without going with a more formal process.

Chair John Davis inquired as to interest in serving on the subcommittee. John Russell, Mike Donohue and Michael Keane volunteered. They will form the subcommittee.

Rep. Kimbell asked if the Secretary of ACCD has final authority to decide on a course of action. John Kessler said the subcommittee will report to the Council and help determine if it is a formal dispute which would entail the Secretary deciding, but it could be within the bounds of the substantial change process which would be the Council's prerogative. He further advised that the city of Burlington wait for the subcommittee's findings before consulting City Council.

**9:17 a.m. Public Comment**

Chair John Davis inquired as to whether any members of the public present wish to provide public comment or announcements.

Richard Haesler expressed thanks to the Council for considering the city's position.

**At 9:18 a.m.** Sen. Hooker moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike Donohue seconded the motion. Chair John Davis requested a roll call for the vote, all voted in favor and the motion passed. 10-0-0.

- ❖ Aye: Chair John Davis, John Russell, Mark Nicholson, Rachel Smith, Rep. Charlie Kimbell, Sen. Cheryl Hooker, Heather Chase, Mike Donohue, Thad Richardson, and Michael Keane
- ❖ Nay: None
- ❖ Abstain: None

*Minutes taken by Randall Szott: December 21, 2022*

*Revised by Abbie Sherman: December 21, 2022*

*Approved by the Council:*