

APPROVED ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
SOUTH BURLINGTON SCHOOL BOARD  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2018 at 5:30 P.M.  
City Hall Conference Room  
575 Dorset Street**

**PRESENT**

Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Bridget Burkhardt, Martin LaLonde, Alex McHenry, Steve Wisloski

**Also Present:** H. Riehle, Chair; M. Emery, T. Barritt, T. Chittenden, D. Kaufman K. Dorn, City Manager; T. Hubbard, Deputy City Manager; D. Young, Superintendent of Schools; I. Blanchard, Project Manager; L. Murray, Librarian; J. Rabidoux, Public Works Director; P. Conner, Director of Planning & Zoning; H. Rees, Head of Recreation Department; S. Roy, M. Cole, J. Kochman, S. Dooley, B. Sirvis  
Attorney Steve Stitzel

The City Council meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. The South Burlington City Council held a regular meeting on Wednesday, August 15, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. The School Board joined the Council for the first portion of the meeting.

**From Minutes taken by City Council**

**Instructions on exiting building in case of emergency:**

Mr. Dorn provided instructions on emergency evacuation of the building.

**Agenda Review: Additions, deletions or changes in order of agenda items:**

No changes were made to the Agenda.

**Comments and Questions from the public not related to the agenda:**

No issues were raised.

**Joint Meeting with School Board to consider and possibly approve an Agreement for the Exchange of Rights and Interests in Real Property:**

Ms. Riehle reviewed the special Council meeting of Monday evening. She noted that the architect was asked to come back with numbers if only a Library were to be built. She also explained the soils issue and the expense of having to use different footings (\$1,500,000) for just the Library. The Council also asked if it is possible to reduce the footprint and eliminate the need for a land swap with the School District. However, there would still be a need for space for utilities, sewer, and parking. The question was raised as to how firm the School District is for their need to use the existing City Hall for administrative offices.

Ms. Emery said the Council is trying to answer questions from the community as to whether the building will have 1, 2, or 3 uses. She emphasized that this is just for the purpose of seeing options.

Mr. Kaufman stressed that the Council wants the city's schools to be as good as they can be. The Council just has to look at "what ifs." Ms. Fitzgerald noted the School Board would be meeting immediately following this meeting, and that there is a warning for a vote on November 6. She asked if a November vote is still on the table.

It was noted that the vote on the proposed building could be on a separate ballot from the State ballot which would allow for more time (an extra month) to make decisions. The Council wants to hear that the City Hall building is important to the School District's long-range plans.

Ms. Fitzgerald said they could extend the binding MOU to allow the Council to pursue their options. She felt it was premature to talk about the MOU.

Superintendent Young said there have been extensive conversations about the MOU. It is not something the Board entered into without due diligence. There is active master planning and visioning going forward.

Mr. Kaufman said he felt the Council should proceed on the premise that the MOU is in place and try to make the building affordable. He felt this was possible.

Mr. Lalonde said if the City doesn't need that land from the School District, it is a different question.

Ms. Fitzgerald said the School Board has not discussed the MOU in public and could delay that discussion. Ms. Emery stressed that this is not what the Council wanted.

Ms. Fitzgerald said one of the requirements for this evening for the School Board was that both parties were willing to go forward. She felt she was hearing from the Council that they need more information. Ms. Riehle said the information the Council needs is a final number for the ballot and a decision whether the city center would be for two or three uses.

Mr. Kaufman added that the hope is to go forward with just some modifications to the design. The MOU is great. The Council needs a number, and there is time to do that. He stressed that this is a building that will last 100 years. If it takes a little more time to get a number, so be it.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The School Board left the City Council meeting at 6:03 p.m. as they had a regularly scheduled School Board meeting at Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School.

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Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Chair

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Bridget Burkhardt, Clerk