

Keeping Up With the Council

Tim Miller, City Council

September 5, 2024

August is now behind us. The air is crisp in the morning, the children are back to school, the fair is gone, and we are now thinking of apple picking and decorating for fall. This also means I find myself typing up another City Council summary. For those folks that may have missed it, I previously summarized the August 14th meeting, and that can be found here: <https://www.essexjunction.org/meeting/city-council-08-14-2024>.

The August 28th meeting started off with a presentation and discussion from our Water Quality Superintendent, Chelsea Mandigo, around the creation of a new Stormwater Utility fee. This was the first in a series of discussions and outreach that will occur around the creation of this new utility. The City has created a site to follow along as things progress

[Stormwater Utility -https://www.essexjunction.org/departments/stormwater/stormwater-utility](https://www.essexjunction.org/departments/stormwater/stormwater-utility) City of Essex Junction, Vermont, and watching the detailed presentation will benefit everyone as there are only four fee-exempt properties in Essex Junction. <https://youtu.be/LGefebpxcKo?t=279>.

Department Head briefs are a regular occurrence, and this meeting brought Chris Yuen before the Council. Chris is the Community Development Director, and as is typical for these briefs, he provided a look back over what his department has accomplished over the previous six-month period, as well as a glance into the future with what is still forthcoming. One of the biggest projects coming in the near future is Connect the Junction with a Community Design Charrette scheduled for October 4th through 7th. More information can be found at: <https://www.essexjunction.org/news/item/connect-the-junction-transit-oriented-development-master-plan-project-kicks-off> and for those looking for information around other such projects like the Amtrak Station or Main Street Park, Chris' entire presentation to the Council can be found here, <https://youtu.be/LGefebpxcKo?t=2189>.

Taking a brief break from the onslaught of information during this meeting, we squeezed in a conversation about City Committees. There has been no shortage of very well-qualified individuals coming forward to serve on these committees, and we are very grateful to those folks who give their time to help Essex Junction. This agenda item focused on proper sizing, the overall number of, and needs for future committees. The full conversation is here: <https://youtu.be/LGefebpxcKo?t=3736>.

The last two agenda items both pertained to EJP. Director Brad Luck came before the Council to give a general overview and a brief history of EJP. There is some uniqueness to EJP as they have a budgetary line item in the General Fund but also provide most of their funding through an Enterprise Fund, which is collected through user fees. As the newest member of the Council, I found this presentation informative <https://youtu.be/LGefebpxcKo?t=5809>.

Immediately following that presentation, there was discussion and consideration around forming a Recreational Advisory Committee. This is a committee that had previously existed under the Essex Junction School District prior to the merger and creation of Essex Westford School District. If you are interested in this Advisory Committee, there will be more information coming soon. The discussion in its entirety is linked here: <https://youtu.be/LGefebpxcKo?t=7831>.

As always, there is a period of time reserved at the start of every City Council meeting for Public to Be Heard. This is a chance for individuals to bring up items that are important to or impact them. We all

encourage engagement, and this provides an opportunity for that.