



**CITY OF ESSEX JUNCTION
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA OPEN FORUM**

Online & 145 Maple St.
Essex Junction, VT 05452
Wednesday, July 9, 2025
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

E-mail: admin@essexjunction.org

www.essexjunction.org

Phone: (802) 878-6944

This meeting will be in-person in the Community Room at the Essex Police Department located at 145 Maple Street and available remotely. Options to watch or join the meeting remotely:

- **WATCH:** the meeting will be live streamed on [Town Meeting TV](#)
- **JOIN ONLINE:** [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
- **JOIN CALLING:** (toll free audio only): (888) 788-0099 | Meeting ID: 944 6429 7825; Passcode: 635787

1. **CALL TO ORDER** [6:30 PM]
2. **AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES**
3. **APPROVE AGENDA**
4. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**
 - a. Open Forum - an opportunity to listen and discuss items of interest to the community
5. **BUSINESS ITEMS** – None
6. **CONSENT ITEMS**
 - a. Acting as the Liquor Control Commission – Approve Liquor/Tobacco Licenses
7. **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS & CITY MANAGER REPORT** - None
8. **READING FILE** - None
9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None
10. **ADJOURN**

Members of the public are encouraged to speak during the Public to Be Heard agenda item, during a Public Hearing, or, when recognized by the President, during consideration of a specific agenda item. The public will not be permitted to participate when a motion is being discussed except when specifically requested by the President. Regarding zoom participants, if individuals interrupt, they will be muted; and if they interrupt a second time they will be removed. This agenda is available in alternative formats upon request. Meetings of the City Council, like all programs and activities of the City of Essex Junction, are accessible to people with disabilities. For information on accessibility or this agenda, call the City Manager's office at 802-878-6944 TTY: 7-1-1 or (800) 253-0191.

City Council Rules for Public Participation
City of Essex Junction

Vermont's Open Meeting Law protects the public's right to attend and participate in meetings of local public bodies, but the purpose and function of these meetings is for the public body to do the work of the public; they are not meetings of the public (i.e., public forums). Consequently, these rules are necessary to manage the public's participation to ensure an environment in which the public feels safe to express their views on matters considered by the public body while minimizing disruptions so that the public body can get its work done. The full City Council Rules of Procedures for Meetings can be found here: www.essexjunction.org/codes/policies.

1. Please raise your hand to speak, whether in person or attending virtually.
2. You may only speak after you have been recognized by the president.
3. Before speaking, please state your name and address for the record.
4. All remarks must be addressed to the president.
5. Comments must be germane to the agenda item being addressed.
6. Comments under "Public to be Heard" must pertain to the business of the public body.
7. Repetitive and irrelevant comments are not allowed.
8. Please wait your turn; do not interrupt others.
9. Each person will be limited to two minutes of comment. This time may be extended only by permission of the president. The balance of time not used by each person will expire and cannot be reserved or yielded to another.
10. Each person may only speak once on the same agenda item, time permitting, with the consent of the president.
11. Those yet to be heard will be given priority over those who have already spoken.
12. You do not have the right to vote on agenda items.
13. Please obey orders and rulings of the president.
14. Keep your cool. Disruptive people will be asked to leave and removed if necessary.
15. Listen well, pay attention, and participate.

**CITY OF ESSEX JUNCTION
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA OPEN FORUM
MINUTES OF MEETING
July 9, 2025**

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Amber Thibeault, President; Marcus Certa, Vice President; Tim Miller, Clerk; Elaine Haney, Brian Shelden.

ADMINISTRATION: Regina Mahony, City Manager;

OTHERS PRESENT: Bethany Clark, Steve Eustis, Michael Lalancette, John O'Brien, Sheila Porter, Dennis Thibeault, Jim Waite, Stephen Wille Padnos, Resa.

1. CALL TO ORDER

City Council President Thibeault called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

None needed.

4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

a. Comments from Public

Steve Eustis asked whether Councilors and members of the Essex Selectboard met to discuss the old Colchester Road Tree Farm and the outcome of those discussions, noting that the trails have not yet been mowed. City Manager Mahony provided an update on discussions between the Town Selectboard and City Council related to renewing the Tree Farm Management Group's lease, noting that they will be reviewing draft amendment language with the Tree Farm Management Group later this month. She said she would inquire about trail maintenance during non-school seasons. Mr. Eustis then noted several comments from members of the public related to the Connect the Junction draft report regarding concerns with increased traffic, and he pointed out that some of this may be due to the increased housing coming online that the community has been pushing for. He spoke about the Crescent Connector project, noting that at one time the plan had been to turn Main Street into a pedestrian thoroughfare, and asked that any proposals take into account the flow of car traffic. He asked that the Council be thinking with a long-term view when making its plans and decisions related to infrastructure, given that short-term changes (such as remote workers moving back to commuting full-time) can occur quickly.

Resa spoke about the proposal to make Main Street pedestrian, saying that that would result in more traffic on Maple Street or cutting through Lincoln Street to Central Street. She spoke about the merits of walking, but noted that it is not feasible in some instances (grocery shopping with many bags, or during the winter if there is snow). She also expressed concern about the plans for an Amazon warehouse to be potentially located in the Town and the negative impacts that will have on traffic. Resa then asked for an update on the 2 Lincoln Street renovation project. City Manager Mahony noted that the project is progressing, and that the elevator was installed and is slated to be inspected during the last week in July. She said they will likely be able to move back into the 2 Lincoln Space in August.

John O'Brien spoke about bikeability and walkability in general, noting that municipalities that give thoroughfares to bicycles and alternate transportation see a reduction in car traffic. He spoke about the potential increased traffic in the northwestern quadrant of the City with the consolidation of the district schools. He also discussed concerns about the lack of well-designated or well-practiced routes for those who choose to walk or bike to school in that area, and said he would like to see trial projects to determine recommended routes. Councilors discussed the possibility of setting up a bike bus and engaging with the School Board and Local Motion to explore this further. Councilors and Mr. O'Brien discussed the difficulties around traffic on Hiawatha Avenue during school drop-off and pick-up times, and Councilor Certa suggested

having the Bike Walk Advisory Committee explore this issue further. Councilor Certa also suggested that the Bike Walk Advisory Committee explore the feasibility of having a continuous biking/walking path down the entirety of West Street. Councilor Haney suggested making Hiawatha Avenue one-way during certain times of the day.

Stephen Wille Padnos also spoke about traffic issues at the Five Corners intersection and asked that the traffic signals be improved/smartened. He agreed with concerns about traffic increases related to an increased population in the Junction over the next several years. He noted a right-of-way between Taft Street and Athens Street that contains a bridge structure going over a creek. He noted that the bridge is deteriorating and asked who is responsible for maintaining that structure. City Manager Mahony replied that she will follow up with more information. Mr. Wille Padnos then expressed concern about the number of intentionally loud vehicles driving down Pearl Street and asked about enforcement, and City Council President Thibeault replied that the Police Department is aware of these incidents but that enforcing the City's noise ordinance related to loud vehicles is a challenge.

Resa noted that there should be calming measures in place, especially on South Street headed toward Park Street, given heavy tractor trailer traffic on narrow roads.

Sheila Porter spoke about safety concerns crossing the Crescent Connector intersection as a pedestrian. She noted that the crosswalk button at that intersection does not have a noise, and asked that this be looked into as an improvement, especially for the visually impaired.

5. **BUSINESS ITEMS** - None

6. **CONSENT ITEMS**

a. Acting as the Liquor Control Commission – Approve Liquor/Tobacco Licenses

Councilor Certa made a motion, seconded by Councilor Miller, to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 5-0.

7. **COUNCILOR COMMENTS & CITY MANAGER REPORT** – Councilor Certa thanked Nick Myer from the Tree Advisory Committee for helping a resident arrange for tree removal after the last large storm, and also thanked the Fire Department for responding so promptly and professionally to several structural fire incidents that have occurred recently. City Council President Thibeault noted that this extended public forum session was a trial but that they will conduct more similarly-formatted City Council meetings in future to encourage more engagement with the public.

8. **READING FILE** – None

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

10. **ADJOURN**

Councilor Certa made a motion, seconded by Councilor Miller, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0 at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Coonradt