



**CITY OF ESSEX JUNCTION
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

Online & 145 Maple St.
Essex Junction, VT 05452
Wednesday, May 6, 2026
6:30 PM

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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:

- **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. **REORGANIZATION**
 - a. Election of President, Vice President, and Clerk
3. **AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES**
4. **APPROVE AGENDA**
5. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**
 - a. Comments from Public
6. **PUBLIC HEARING**
 - a. *Potentially Vicious Dog Bite Hearing
7. **BUSINESS ITEMS** - none
8. **DELIBERATIVE SESSION**
 - a. *A deliberative session may be needed
9. **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.

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**CITY OF ESSEX JUNCTION
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING
MAY 6, 2026
Approved May 27, 2026**

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Amber Thibeault, President; Tim Miller, Vice-President; Bethany Clark, Clerk; Raj Chawla; Brian Shelden

ADMINISTRATION: Regina Mahony, City Manager; JoAnn Nichols, Animal Control Officer; Robert Welch, Police Officer

OTHERS PRESENT: Marcus Certa, Heidi Clark, Kerri McCarthy-Beam, Resa Mehren, Dennis Thibeault, Alison Wermer, Stephen Wille Padnos, NBC5, J

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

In lieu of a chair, Ms. Mahony called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

2. **REORGANIZATION**

RAJ CHAWLA made a motion, seconded by TIM MILLER, to nominate AMBER THIBEAULT as President. Motion passed 5-0.

BETHANY CLARK made a motion, seconded by BRIAN SHELDEN, to nominate TIM MILLER as Vice-President. Motion passed 5-0.

TIM MILLER made a motion, seconded by RAJ CHAWLA, to nominate BETHANY CLARK as Clerk. Motion passed 5-0.

3. **AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES**

None.

4. **APPROVE AGENDA**

No changes, thus no approval required.

5. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

None.

6. **PUBLIC HEARING**

a. Potentially Vicious Dog Bite Hearing

Ms. Thibeault read the following complaint into the record:

To the City Council of Essex Junction, a report of a” potentially vicious dog” event.

The encounter occurred at 4:55 PM on Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at Summit Street School playground. The victim of the attack was [redacted], age 5 years old, of [redacted] Essex Junction, VT, 05452.

I am [redacted] grandmother, [redacted] was leaving the playground on the sidewalk leading to the School Street parking lot. I was leaving the playground via the sidewalk leading to the Holy Family parking lot.

52 I saw a woman with two dogs enter the playground from the School Street parking lot. One dog was a black
53 lab, about 60# and the other a white and tan pit-bull mix, about 80#. The woman either dropped the leashes
54 or the dogs pulled free. When they saw [redacted] they rushed at him, the pit-bull mix jumped on him and
55 knocked him to the ground. [redacted] weighs about 40#. He screamed in fright.

56
57 The woman began shouting at the dogs to come back, which they did not do. She had to run to them before
58 she could grab the leashes and get them away from [redacted].

59
60 I started shouting and running across the playground telling her dogs are not allowed in the school yard and
61 to leave. That they had knocked down my grandson. I repeatedly told her to leave.

62
63 By the time she had loaded the dogs back to her car my grandson had left the area via the School Street parking
64 lot. He later said he was not injured.

65
66 I have a photo of the woman and her license plate. We did not exchange any personal information.

67
68 I refer you to ordinance 503:F, 507 and 510. I think all are relevant here.

69
70 Sincerely,
71 Alison Wermer
72 [redacted]
73 Essex Junction, VT 05452

74
75 Ms. Thibeault swore in all those present who would be providing testimony. She requested conflicts of
76 interest or ex-parte communications, of which there were none. Ms. Wermer, complainant, read a series of
77 ordinances which she believes the dogs in question were in violation of. She requested an apology from the
78 dog owner for knocking down and scaring her grandson, and for swearing at her in front of her grandson. She
79 said there is a dog park on West Street and that the dog owner made an illegal left hand leaving the Summit
80 Street parking lot. Answering a question from Ms. Mahony, Ms. Wermer said she was unsure if the dog
81 handler ever had her dogs leashed during the encounter.

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83 Ms. Thibeault swore in Ms. McCarthy-Beam, owner of the dogs involved with the incident. She said her dog
84 barked at the child but did not touch him. She claims he fell on his own. She frequently brings her dogs to
85 Summit Street School playground and allows them to run off-leash. She said she is not aware that this is not
86 allowed. The dogs are not registered. She has proof of their rabies vaccinations. Ms. McCarthy-Beam claims
87 that Ms. Wermer was too far away to see the situation accurately.

88
89 Officer Welch discussed an incident which occurred on School Street in Essex Junction. Ms. McCarthy-
90 Beam's dogs were dragging leashes, unaccompanied by a handler at visible distance, and the Labrador
91 attacked a leashed Husky. The mixed-breed dog circled the dog and its owner. He recently received additional
92 communication identifying Ms. McCarthy-Beam as the owner of the dogs involved. No citations were issued,
93 as he did not have a method of identifying the owner of the dogs until recently. No definite injuries to the
94 Husky were reported, however there were suspected injuries. Ms. Nichols, Animal Control Officer, said she
95 has had minimal interactions regarding these dogs.

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97 As Ms. McCarthy-Beam was not present earlier in the meeting, Ms. Wermer re-read her statement citing
98 several ordinances and dog licensing requirements that she believes were violated in this incident. In response,
99 Ms. McCarthy-Beam asked why Ms. Wermer's grandson was walking by himself in the playground. Mr.
100 Miller said there are no ordinances prohibiting such.

102 **RAJ CHAWLA made a motion, seconded by TIM MILLER, to close the proceedings, evidence and**
103 **enter into Deliberative Session. Motion passed 5-0.**

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105 A written decision will be issued following Deliberative Session.

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107 7. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

108 None.

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110 8. **DELIBRATIVE SESSION**

111 **TIM MILLER made a motion, seconded by BETHANY CLARK to exit Deliberative Session. Motion**
112 **passed 5-0 at 7:25 PM.**

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114 9. **ADJOURN**

115 **RAJ CHAWLA made a motion, seconded by TIM MILLER, to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0 at 7:25**
116 **PM.**

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118 Respectfully Submitted,

119 Darby Mayville

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