



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

Online & 2 Lincoln St.
Essex Junction, VT 05452
Wednesday, June 10, 2026
6:30 PM

E-mail: admin@essexjunction.org

www.essexjunction.org

Phone: (802) 878-6944

This meeting will be in-person 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. Comments from Public
5. **BUSINESS ITEMS**
 - a. *Interview and Consideration of Appointments to Bike Walk Advisory Committee, Capital Review Committee, Development Review Board, Moderator, Planning Commission, Recreation Advisory Committee, and Tree Advisory Committee [60 Minutes]
 - b. Discussion and Consideration of Green Mountain Transit's #4 Bus Service [15 Minutes]
 - c. Discussion and Consideration of Essex Junction – Vermont's 10th City – Historical Marker Application [5 Minutes]
 - d. **Discussion and Consideration of an Executive Session to Discuss Personnel
6. **CONSENT ITEMS**
 - a. Approve Meeting Minutes: 05/27/26
 - b. Acting as the Liquor Control Commission – Approve Liquor/Tobacco Licenses
 - c. Approve Local Match Commitment for the All Hazard Mitigation Plan
 - d. Approve VT Route 15 (Main Street) Shared Use Path, Phase 2 - Approval of VTrans bicycle and Pedestrian Program Grant Application
7. **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS & CITY MANAGER REPORT**
8. **READING FILE**
 - a. Check Warrant # 24119 05/29/26
 - b. May Financial Reports
 - c. Regional Boards and Committees Minutes Memo
 - d. Development Review Board Minutes 05/21/26
9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
 - a. *An Executive Session may be needed to Discuss Public Officials
 - b. **An Executive Session may be needed to Discuss Personnel
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.

**Upcoming City Council Meetings
(Meeting Dates are Subject to Change)
(* denotes special meeting or date change)**

June 24, 2026	September 9, 2026	*December 2, 2026
July 8, 2026	September 23, 2026	*December 16, 2026
July 22, 2026	October 14, 2026	
August 12, 2026	October 28, 2026	
August 26, 2026	*November 10, 2026	

**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
MINUTES OF MEETING
June 10, 2026
Approved June 24, 2026**

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

ADMINISTRATION: Regina Mahony, City Manager;

OTHERS PRESENT: Amanda Borok, Marcus Certa, Clayton Clark, Thomas Coen, Kevin Collins, Bridget Downey-Meyer, Rachel Hamm Vaughan, Jessie Huntley, Luca Karki, Pat Lynch, Dan Maxon, Nick Meyer, Michael Miller, Reed Nye, John O'Brien, Drew Perry, Mike Plageman, Justin Rabidoux, Heidi Swevens, Susan Swogger, 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

Dan Maxon said he would like to discuss concerns regarding City staff with the Council. City Council President Thibeault asked that he reach out to her directly to have this discussion.

Marcus Certa expressed concern about car and motorcycle speeds and the lack of police presence and enforcement. He summarized specific examples and asked for more information related to the Police Department's patrol plan. He also spoke about one of the City Council's topics from their annual retreat, regarding economic development. He emphasized the importance of prioritizing this topic this year, to decrease the burden on residents.

Heidi Swevens spoke about the potential change in the Green Mountain Transit #4 bus schedule, and expressed concern about how this will negatively impact her access to the community. She said that public transportation fills an important gap for many individuals and families. Councilor Miller suggested that she also speak to the Town Selectboard about this route change.

Bridget Meyer spoke about the traffic concerns expressed by Mr. Certa and said that traffic calming is important and needs a concerted effort to address safety concerns in Essex Junction. She also shared an idea of holding a meeting among the City's committees, to make sure that committees are communicating and coordinating with each other.

Resa also expressed concern about traffic concerns and noise in residential neighborhoods. She also spoke about the City's reappraisal process, noting that there have been concerns expressed in the community about inaccurate appraisals.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Interview and Consideration of Appointments to Bike Walk Advisory Committee, Capital Review Committee, Development Review Board, Moderator, Planning Commission, Recreation Advisory Committee, and Tree Advisory Committee

57
58 The Council interviewed Jessica Huntley and John O'Brien for open positions on the Bike Walk Advisory
59 Committee. The applicants spoke about their relevant experience, involvement in the community,
60 qualifications, and interest in participating on the Bike Walk Advisory Committee. Councilors asked them
61 questions related to the City's bike/walk infrastructure and their vision for this in the future.
62

63 The Council interviewed Marcus Certa, Thomas Coen, Kevin Collins, and Susan Swogger for open positions
64 on the Capital Review Committee. The applicants spoke about their relevant experience, involvement in the
65 community, qualifications, and interest in participating on the Capital Review Committee. Councilors asked
66 them questions related to projects on the Capital Review list that they would prioritize, and their interest in
67 serving on other committees if they are not appointed to the Capital Review Committee.
68

69 The Council interviewed Bridget Downey-Meyer, Rachel Hamm Vaughan, Patrick Lynch, and Drew Perry for
70 open positions on the Recreation Advisory Committee. The applicants spoke about their relevant experience,
71 involvement in the community qualifications, and their interest in participating on the Recreation Advisory
72 Committee. Councilors asked them questions related to recommendations related to meeting periodicity,
73 their past experience on the Recreation Advisory Committee (if they hold current seats), and their interest in
74 serving on other committees if they are not appointed to the Recreation Advisory Committee.
75

76 The Council interviewed Amanda Borok, Luca Karki, and Nick Meyer for open positions on the Tree Advisory
77 Committee. The applicants spoke about their relevant experience, involvement in the community
78 qualifications, and their interest in participating on the Tree Advisory Committee. Councilors asked them
79 questions related to their past experience on the Tree Advisory Committee (if they hold current seats), their
80 vision for more active involvement in the development of the City, and their interest in serving on other
81 committees if they are not appointed to the Tree Advisory Committee.
82

83 See item #9a below for appointments.
84

85 b. Discussion and Consideration of Green Mountain Transit's #4 Bus Service

86 City Manager Mahony began by noting that this topic relates to the #4 bus service, the challenges of funding
87 it, and exploring potential ways to continue the service. She said that keeping the #4 bus at its current service
88 level of around 50 runs per week has a \$112,000 funding gap, and that keeping it at a reduced service level
89 of 26 runs per week would close the funding gap to about \$58,000. She said that the final decision on this
90 will be made by the Green Mountain Transit Board at their June 16, 2026 meeting. She acknowledged that
91 the City is not in a decision-making spot on this topic, and noted that both scenarios above assume that the
92 City will continue to contribute to the #4 service at the level that has been budgeted (\$19,000 in the FY27 for
93 the #4 bus service). She also spoke about paratransit services, noting that GMT partially funds SSTA
94 services because of its connection to fixed route service, and that these paratransit services are provided
95 within a fixed geographic boundary for those who cannot walk and use that fixed route service. She said that
96 if this fixed route service for the #4 route is eliminated, paratransit services would be eliminated as well. She
97 said that it would be helpful for other stakeholders, such as the Town of Essex and the Essex Westford
98 School District, to know whether Essex Junction would be willing to maintain funding for the #4 service, even
99 in a reduced capacity, since those other stakeholders also access and use this route. Clayton Clark, the
100 General Manager of Green Mountain Transit, added that GMT is anticipating hearing from the School District
101 on their contribution, and added that GMT statutory authority could allow them to demand the full assessment
102 even if the service for the route is cut, but said that GMT would be reluctant to do so and potentially damage
103 its partnerships with municipalities. Councilor Chawla asked for clarification on the School District's obligation
104 and thinking, and Mr. Clark replied that the School District is focusing on the route as it pertains to running
105 during the school day and serving individuals during that time. Councilor Chawla asked for a summary of the
106 funding model, and Mr. Clark replied that costs are shared equally and assessments are based on origin and
107 destination of rides. Councilor Chawla asked what funding and operations would look like if they were to
108 reduce the #4 route to 26 runs per week, but preserve the paratransit option in full. Mr. Clark said that this
109 point is worth further discussion with the City and Council. Mr. Clark also spoke about the uncertainty of
110 future federal funding and the difficulties in exploring options now with that unknown future state. City
111 Manager Mahony said that the City can't determine funding implications for a reduced service and full

112 paratransit service until they know what the Town of Essex and the School District decide. Mr. Clark noted
 113 that the City is fully covering paratransit costs in its FY27 budget, regardless of the fixed route decision.
 114 Councilor Clark agreed about the importance of preserving the paratransit service, and said the City should
 115 do what it can to maintain the 50 runs per week of the #4 service. Councilor Miller said he would be interested
 116 in further exploring the details around the City’s funding obligation to maintaining service going forward.
 117 Councilor Sheldon agreed that some level of service should be maintained, and would be interested in seeing
 118 further details.

119
 120 The following public comments were received:

- 121 • Heidi Swevens said she would be interested in providing public comments to the GMT Board, the
 122 School District, and the Town of Essex.
- 123 • Marcus Certa asked about the implications for the Town of Essex and City of Essex Junction if the
 124 School District were to participate in cost-sharing. He also asked for statistics about ridership and
 125 utilization of GMT services for the City. Mr. Clark noted that there are 78 individuals who received
 126 ADA pickup on the #4 route.
- 127 • Resa noted that not everyone in the community can bike or walk, and expressed fear about the #4
 128 route being eliminated and what that means for the future. She emphasized the importance of mass
 129 transit for the City.

130
 131 The City Council discussed whether to fund GMT for its full assessment, which is included in the FY27 budget
 132 and was passed by voters, even if the #4 service is operating in a reduced capacity (or eliminated). Councilors
 133 expressed support for maintaining the GMT line item in the FY27 budget. Councilor Chawla asked how the
 134 City can better coordinate and communicate with the Town on this topic, given that there is a sense of
 135 urgency around this topic. City Manager Mahony said that she can relay to the Town of Essex Manager and
 136 the School Board Chair how the City Council feels about the topic. Mr. Clark noted that the Town of Essex
 137 may possibly vote at an upcoming meeting to no longer be a GMT member, but added that GMT serves non-
 138 members (such as Colchester).

139
 140 c. Discussion and Consideration of Essex Junction – Vermont’s 10th City – Historical Marker Application
 141 City Manager Mahony said the City is contemplating an application to the State of Vermont for a historical
 142 marker denoting Essex Junction as Vermont’s tenth city. She said that the hope is to have the marker, if
 143 approved by the State, for the City’s fifth birthday in July of 2027.

144
 145 **Councilor Clark made a motion, seconded by Councilor Miller, that the City Council authorize the**
 146 **City Manager to apply for the historic site marker sign, approve the text for the historic marker sign,**
 147 **with the understanding that the VDHP has a final say in text, approve the location of the historic**
 148 **marker sign in the flower bed by the flagpole in front of the 2 Lincoln building, and approve the**
 149 **installation if approved by VDHP. The motion passed 5-0.**

150
 151 d. ****Discussion and Consideration of an Executive Session to Discuss Personnel**
 152 **See item #9b below.**

153
 154 **6. CONSENT ITEMS**

- 155 a. Approve Meeting Minutes: May 27, 2026
- 156 b. Acting as the Liquor Control Commission – Approve Liquor/Tobacco Licenses
- 157 c. Approve Local Match Commitment for the All Hazard Mitigation Plan
- 158 d. Approve VT Route 15 (Main Street) Shared Use Path, Phase 2 – Approval of VTrans bicycle and
 159 Pedestrian Program Grant Application

160
 161 **Councilor Chawla made a motion, seconded by Councilor Miller, to approve the consent agenda. The**
 162 **motion passed 5-0.**

163
 164 **7. COUNCILOR COMMENTS & CITY MANAGER REPORT:** City Manager Mahony noted several
 165 infrastructure projects occurring currently, including the Railroad Avenue Water Line project, thanked
 166 VTrans for adding a section of Pearl Street to their paving schedule for 2026, and noted that sidewalk

work on Main Street will start next week. She noted that the Brownell Library roof replacement was completed. She noted that testing occurred for one lane westbound on Pearl Street from the West Street Extension to Susie Wilson Road, and said that they will return to the Council with the multimodal alternative for Pearl Street at a meeting in the near future. Councilor Miller noted that the Senior Center has reopened at 2 Lincoln Street and that the reopening event was well-attended and successful. He welcomed seniors back to the space.

8. **READING FILE**

- a. Check Warrant #24119 – May 29, 2026
- b. May Financial Reports
- c. Regional Boards and Committees Minutes Memo
- d. Development Review Board Minutes – May 21, 2026

9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a. *An Executive Session may be needed to Discuss Public Officials

City Council President Thibeault made a motion, seconded by Councilor Chawla that the City Council enter into executive session to discuss the appointment of public officials, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(3) to include the City Manager. The motion passed 5-0.

Councilor Chawla made a motion, seconded by Councilor Miller, to exit executive session. The motion passed 5-0 at 8:46 P.M.

Councilor Chawla made a motion, seconded by Councilor Miller, to appoint Robert Frederick to the Bike Walk Advisory Committee for a 2-year term ending June 30, 2028 and John O’Brien, Ian Van Kirk, and Jessical Huntley to the Bike Walk Advisory Committee for a 3-year term ending June 30, 2029. Further, to appoint Kevin Collins, Mike Plageman, and Justin Rabadoux to the Capital Program Review Committee for a 3-year term ending June 30, 2029. Further, to appoint Steve Eustis as Moderator for a 1-year term ending June 30, 2027. Further, to appoint Kirstie Paschall to the Planning Commission for a 3-year term ending June 30, 2029. Further, to appoint Bridget Downey-Meyer, Patrick Lynch, Rachel Hamm Vaughan, and Drew Perry to the Recreation Advisory Committee for a 2-year term ending June 30, 2028. Further, to appoint Amanda Borok to a vacant position on the Tree Advisory Committee for the remaining 1-year term ending June 30, 2027 and Luca Karki and Nick Meyer to the Tree Advisory Committee for a 3year term ending June 30, 2029. The motion passed 5-0.

- b. **An Executive Session may be needed to Discuss Personnel

Councilor Miller made a motion, seconded by Councilor Clark, that the City Council enter into executive session to discuss a personnel evaluation (check-in), pursuant to 1 V.S.A. §313(a)(3) to include the City Council and the City Manager. The motion passed 5-0.

10. **ADJOURN**

Councilor Clark made a motion, seconded by Councilor Miller, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0 at 8:51 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Coonradt