

THE WORK SESSION OF THE CITY OF BURLINGTON COMMON COUNCIL, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026, AT 7:00 PM, IN THE CITY HALL, 525 HIGH STREET, BURLINGTON, NJ, PURSUANT TO THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT.

This meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting of July 14, 2026, was included in a list of meetings notice sent to the Burlington County Times and the Trenton Times and advertised in said newspapers and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on January 7, 2026, and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the Statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

Cindy A. Crivaro, RMC
Municipal Clerk

The Municipal Clerk advised the public of the location of the two fire exits: one on the left after exiting the Council Chamber and the other being the entrance to the building.

Governing Body Members present: Dave Ballard, Dawn Bergner-Thompson, George Chachis, Clayton Long, Richard Spaulding, Mary Wirth, Suzanne Woodard.

Also present: Mayor Barry Conaway, Municipal Attorney Stuart Platt, DPW Chuck Ercol, Police Police Capt. O'Brien, Sewer Engineer Ken Shine.

SALUTE TO FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sam Richter, 2 E. Pearl Street – Expressed concern about the newly adopted e-bike legislation, noting that it seems complicated and hard to understand. Asked for Police enforcement and suggested the City make sure everyone is aware of the new law.

Patrick Mulhern, Bristol, PA, representative of the Friends of Burlington Island - Spoke about the group's cleanup efforts on the island. Noted that a previous cleanup was completed as a joint venture with the Board of Island Managers, and the Friends are now planning their next cleanup. Metals collected from the previous cleanup are already staged in two piles awaiting pickup, and the upcoming project is expected to span two days. The group intends to fundraise \$16,500 to cover the cost of a barge and push/pull boats, with the total project estimated at approximately \$22,000; insurance was also discussed. Also noted that Allied Recycling would sort the metals. It is not valuable material. Asked, on behalf of The Friends of Burlington Island, that the City provide Public Works Department support.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Wirth, Councilman Spaulding and Councilman Long spoke in support of the Friends of Burlington Island clean up efforts and support provided by the City.

Councilman Chachis, as Ward 1 Councilman, expressed concern for the 3rd failed senior housing project in the New Yorkshire; Recalled a suggestion by the Business Administrator, during the last quarterly meeting, to change the zoning in that area; Suggested Council wait; Spoke of NJDEP water run-off solutions.

Councilman Chachis then offered a motion that Council hold-off changing the zoning.

Solicitor Platt reminded Councilman Chachis that this is a Work Session and Council cannot take official action at a Work Session.

President Bergner-Thompson thanked the Public Works Department and the Administration for the lights downtown. Added that she is honored to see great projects happening in the City.

PRESENTATION(S)

Burlington County Historical Society - Lisa Fox-Pfeiffer, Executive Director

Ms. Fox-Pfeiffer gave a presentation outlining the organization's activities over the past year and upcoming plans. Over the past year, they have created the Burlington NJ 250 Committee (with its next meeting set for 8/19/26) and met with the County to help with marketing events. Also built out its public presence by creating a Facebook page and designing a logo, while staying active in the community through speaking engagements, hosting exhibits, lectures and programs, and marching in the Christmas parade with the cannon. They also took part in the public reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, joined a potluck event on the promenade, and will be at the Farm Fair. Looking ahead, plans include creating trading cards and restarting/reimagining interactive history walking tours.

County Stormwater – Tom Stanuikynas, Burlington County Supervising Planner

Burlington City Climate Vulnerability Assessment

Mr. Stanuikynas gave a presentation on the City of Burlington Climate Change-Related Hazard Vulnerability Assessment as required by NJ law in Land Use Plan Element updates. It builds on decades of county-municipal coordination along Route 130.

Community Engagement

- 86 attendees at stakeholder meetings; 123 additional online inputs.
- Multiple engagement channels boosted turnout; residents valued cross-border discussion.

Hazard Findings

- Flooding & Sea Level Rise: High risk, concentrated in city center.
- Heat: Moderate risk, worst downtown due to pavement/low green space.
- Landslide & Wildfire: Low risk, localized near Burlington Island/river.
- Drought: Very low risk.
- Vulnerable populations: low-income, uninsured, limited-English, single-parent, minority, and mobile-home residents.

Proposed Actions

- Local: Assiscunk Creek levee, Mitchell Ave/Columbus Rd drainage upgrades, pump station improvements, Scott/Pine/McNeil/Rt 130 drainage, flood-risk outreach.
- Regional: Stream cleaning/bank stabilization, road maintenance, coordinated power-outage response, expanded Blue Acres buyout program.

The full report is posted on the County website; Asked the City to post the link as well.

Mr. Stanuikynas suggested that the city will be the 5th or 6th municipality that has adopted the element by Resolution.

Solicitor Platt explained that a resolution of Council is required to authorize the Land Use Board to amend the Master Plan adding in the climate change element. Then the Land Use Board will hold a presentation and Public Hearing for formal adoption.

Consensus: Solicitor to prepare a resolution for the next meeting.

Mayor Conaway spoke of a scheduled meeting with PSE&G to discuss the gas line replacement project; Informed that work is being done on 33 homes with lead pipes; The Walnut Street Park Improvement Project will begin in the next two weeks; The Kennedy Park Improvement Project has started.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon the motion of Councilwoman Woodard, seconded by Councilman Ballard, this meeting of July 14, 2026, was adjourned.


Cindy A. Crivaro, RMC
Municipal Clerk


Dawn Bergner-Thompson, President
Common Council