

Resolution Relating to

RESOLUTION
 Board of Finance _____
 Sponsor(s): Councilors Keogh, _____
 Energy & Utilities Com. _____
 Introduced: 10/22/07
 Referred to: _____
 Action: Passed
 Date: 10/22/07
 Signed by Mayor: _____

Montroll, Davis: Transportation, Energy & Utilities Com. 8/6/07
 Referred to BOF

EXPANSION OF BURLINGTON TELECOM SERVICES
 TO OTHER COMMUNITIES

DP

CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Seven.....

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

That WHEREAS, the City of Burlington has already made a major investment in building a universal state-of-the-art broadband telecommunications network; and

WHEREAS, the Burlington Telecom network is substantially built out and operating, successfully serving the needs of many Burlington residents, and is expected to be available to serve the vast majority of residents during the course of the next year; and

WHEREAS, in the course of building and operating Burlington Telecom, Burlington has created a team of experts who are highly skilled in building, maintaining and operating fiber-to-the-home networks; and

WHEREAS, the "heart and brains" of this network, the "Hub" has capacity to serve far more customers than exist in Burlington; and

WHEREAS, other towns and localities in Vermont desire modern broadband telecommunications as much as does Burlington; and

WHEREAS, very few such towns and localities have sufficient resources to build their own hubs or assemble expert teams comparable to Burlington Telecom; and

WHEREAS, the City Council previously adopted a resolution in February, 2007 asking its Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee (TEUC) to investigate whether there are opportunities for Burlington Telecom to provide assistance to and/or serve these other communities and if so, whether it can do so in a manner that does not negatively impact the services of

Resolution Relating to

EXPANSION OF BURLINGTON TELECOM SERVICES TO OTHER COMMUNITIES

Burlington Telecom to Burlington residents, and whether it would impose any financial risk and/or requirements on Burlington Telecom; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Finance and TEUC have also concluded that utilizing spare capacity in Burlington Telecom's Hub and Burlington Telecom's expertise to assist and/or serve other towns and localities could potentially benefit the City because it would generate extra revenues for the city, and it would benefit the other towns and localities whose residents could enjoy the advanced services offered by Burlington Telecom; and

WHEREAS, many cities and towns throughout Vermont have already approached the administration to provide services to their communities; and

WHEREAS, the administration would like to be able to respond to these inquiries in a way that is amenable to the Burlington City Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Burlington City Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and/or his designees to negotiate, subject to final approval by the City Council, with such other towns and localities who may be interested in receiving assistance and services from Burlington Telecom. As guidelines, any such arrangements that result from the negotiations must satisfy the following criteria: (a) they must not jeopardize the current scheduled rollout of services to Burlington residents; (b) they must not jeopardize the quality of service or profitability of Burlington Telecom's activities in the City of Burlington; (c) they must not increase the financial, regulatory, or commercial risks to the City of Burlington beyond what they would be in the absence of such arrangements; and (d) they must be materially and mutually beneficial to all parties; and

Resolution Relating to

EXPANSION OF BURLINGTON TELECOM SERVICES TO OTHER COMMUNITIES

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council charges the Board of Finance and TEUC to continue working with the Mayor and/or his designees to monitor the progress of negotiations with the other communities, and to develop a recommendation as to the best way to achieve the goals stated in this resolution, and to report back to the Council on its progress and recommendations on a periodic basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council reaffirms responsibility the Board of Finance to continue to oversee, monitor and review Burlington Telecom due to the considerable financial obligations and liabilities of the telecom project and further affirms the role of the TEUC to monitor and oversee the programmatic operations and functions of Burlington Telecom.