RESOLUTION

Sponsor(s): Councilors Hanson, Pine, Stromberg
Introduced: _________________
Referred to: _________________
___________________________
Action: _____________________
Date: _____________________
Signed by Mayor: _______________

CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Twenty .................................................................

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

That WHEREAS, in a resolution passed by an 11-1 vote on September 23, 2019, the Burlington City Council declared that a climate emergency exists which threatens our community and human health and safety, biodiversity, and our common environment; and

WHEREAS, in the same resolution, the Council committed to the goal of achieving Net Zero Energy by 2030, which includes eliminating the use of fossil fuels in the thermal sector; and

WHEREAS, the Net Zero Energy Roadmap notes that efficient electric buildings represent “the largest opportunity“ to make gains towards Net Zero, and details pathways needed to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of fossil fuels in the thermal sector by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the council issued a call to action for all Burlingtonians to reduce and eventually eliminate fossil fuel use through the installation of efficient electric heating and cooling technologies; and

WHEREAS, fossil fuels currently provide over 90% of the energy used in the thermal sector in Burlington; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of cities, such as Brookline, MA and Berkeley, CA have recently implemented bans or partial bans of fossil fuel connections in new buildings, with dozens of other cities actively considering regulations on fossil fuel use for heating and appliances in buildings; and

WHEREAS, on October 28, 2019, the council unanimously adopted a resolution calling on the Burlington Electric Department, the Department of Permitting and Inspections and the Department of Planning to bring a proposal for changes to zoning, permitting, and building code ordinances related to new construction for new building electrification where technically feasible and economically feasible; and

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2020, these departments filed recommendations with the council regarding new standards and a process to review the economics and other aspects of the proposals and a ninety (90) day period to gather public and stakeholder input; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed the pace at which all levels of city government can perform non-Covid-19 related activities such that the 90 day period from January 21st was not feasible for the departments to conduct this work, thereby necessitating an extended timeline;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Burlington City Council calls on the above-mentioned departments to initiate their review and public/stakeholder outreach and input process and report back to the City Council by its first meeting in September, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Attorney’s Office draft and submit to the Ordinance Committee draft ordinance language based on the September 2020 report of the departments no later than the Ordinance Committee’s October 2020 meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a ban, with limited or no exceptions, on fossil fuel hookups in new developments shall be included in the policy proposals explored and presented by the departments during the review and public/stakeholder outreach and input process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the draft ordinance not only address new construction, but also create policy mechanisms that will convert existing buildings to renewable heating systems, consistent with the City’s goal of eliminating fossil fuel use across the thermal sector by 2030.