



City Council Meeting

Thursday, August 15, 2024, 6:00 PM, Sharon Bushor Conference Room, 1st Floor, City Hall

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/99302828514>

Or Telephone: +1 305 224 1968 US

Webinar ID: 993 0282 8514

****CCTV link: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIjLFn4BZd2PwCge7lNoKug676jIf_iUA ****

To participate in the Public Hearing in person, sign up at the meeting.

To participate in the Public Hearing via ZOOM sign up here:

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/citycouncil/publicforum>

****ONLINE closes one hour prior to the beginning of the Public Hearing****

Do not sign up in person and via Zoom - select one only

1. Agenda

Subject	1.1. Motion to adopt agenda
Meeting	August 15, 2024 - First Public Hearing On Proposed Charter Amendments For November 5, 2024 Special City Meeting - Thursday, August 15, 2024, 6:00 PM, Sharon Bushor Conference Room, 1st Floor, City Hall
Category	1. Agenda
Department	Council and Board
Type	Action Procedural
Recommended Action	Motion to adopt agenda

2. First Public Hearing On Proposed Amendments For November 5, 2024 Special City Meeting

Subject	2.1. First Public Hearing On Proposed Amendments For November 5, 2024 Special City Meeting
Meeting	August 15, 2024 - First Public Hearing On Proposed Charter Amendments For November 5, 2024 Special City Meeting - Thursday, August 15, 2024, 6:00 PM, Sharon Bushor Conference Room, 1st Floor, City Hall
Category	2. First Public Hearing On Proposed Amendments For November 5, 2024 Special City Meeting
Department	Clerk/Treasurer's Office
Type	Action Public Hearing
Recommended Action	open Public Hearing close Public Hearing

3. Adjournment

Subject	3.1. Motion to adjourn
Meeting	August 15, 2024 - First Public Hearing On Proposed Charter Amendments For November 5, 2024 Special City Meeting - Thursday, August 15, 2024, 6:00 PM, Sharon Bushor Conference Room, 1st Floor, City Hall
Category	3. Adjournment
Department	Council and Board
Type	Action Procedural
Recommended Action	Motion to adjourn

4. Informational and Non-Discrimination Statements

Subject	4.1. This agenda is available in alternative formats upon request. For more information on access, call Lori Olberg, Licensing, Voting and Records Coordinator (802-865-7136)(TTY 802-865-7142). Persons with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate are encouraged to contact 802-865-7000 (voice) or 802-865-7142 (TTY) at least 72 hours in advance so that proper arrangements can be made. This meeting will also air on Town Meeting TV the Wednesday after the meeting, starting at 8:00 pm and repeating at 1:00 am and 7:00 am the following day. The City of Burlington will not tolerate unlawful harassment or discrimination on the basis of political or religious affiliation, race, color, national origin, place of birth, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, veteran status, disability, HIV positive status, crime victim status or genetic information.
Meeting	August 15, 2024 - First Public Hearing On Proposed Charter Amendments For November 5, 2024 Special City Meeting - Thursday, August 15, 2024, 6:00 PM, Sharon Bushor Conference Room, 1st Floor, City Hall
Category	4. Informational and Non-Discrimination Statements
Department	Council and Board

Type

Information

NOTICE OF FIRST AND SECOND PUBLIC HEARINGS
ON PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS
FOR NOVEMBER 5, 2024 SPECIAL CITY MEETING

Pursuant to the requirements of 17 V.S.A. Sec. 2645, the first public hearing concerning proposed amendments to the Burlington City Charter will be held on Thursday, August 15th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in Sharon Bushor Conference Room, 1st Floor, City Hall, Burlington, Vermont and will also be streamed via Zoom.

When: Aug 15, 2024 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/99302828514>

Or Telephone: +1 305 224 1968 US

Webinar ID: 993 0282 8514

Pursuant to the requirements of 17 V.S.A. Sec. 2645, the second public hearing concerning proposed amendments to the Burlington City Charter will be held on Thursday, August 22nd, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in Sharon Bushor Conference Room, 1st Floor, City Hall, Burlington, Vermont and will also be streamed via Zoom.

When: Aug 22, 2024 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/95785546725>

Or Telephone: +1 646 931 3860 US

Webinar ID: 957 8554 6725

This charter amendment is proposed to be voted on at the Tuesday, November 5, 2024 Special City Meeting.

“Shall the Charter of the City of Burlington, Acts of 1949, No. 298 as amended, be further amended to 27 amend Article 62, Police Department; Article 63, Chief of Police and Captain; and Article 65, Removal or 28 Suspension, thereto to read as follows:

ARTICLE 62. POLICE DEPARTMENT

183 Board of police commissioners; composition; terms.

The board of police commissioners shall consist of seven (7) legal voters ~~and should represent the diverse nature~~ of said city’s ~~constituents, including those from historically marginalized communities,~~ to be appointed by the city council with mayor presiding to serve for three (3) years and until their successors are appointed and qualified.

184 Same-powers and duties.

(a) The city council shall make rules and regulations for the government of the entire police ~~force~~ ~~department~~ and shall fix the qualifications of applicants for positions and service on said ~~force~~

department and, to the extent permitted by applicable law, the chief of police shall furnish the city council with any information they may require concerning the finances of the police department. The chief of police shall be responsible for all expenditures made by the police department and no expenditures shall be made by the department except in conformity with the standards promulgated by the city council.

(b) The board of police commissioners shall have such authority and responsibility relating to the management, auditing, or monitoring of the police department, its services and facilities, as may be delegated from time to time by resolution, ordinances, and orders of the city council. Said board shall notify the mayor, and the chief administrative officer, and city council, in writing, of any and all changes, modifications or additions to the rules and regulations of the department.

(c) Without limitation to the foregoing, the board of police commissioners and the chief of police may propose rules and regulations for the government of the entire police department in a manner not inconsistent with those established by the city council. Adoption of such proposed rules and regulations requires joint approval by the board of police commissioners and the chief of police. In the event joint approval is not provided by the board of police commissioners and the chief of police, either party may bring forward to the city council the proposed rule or regulation for the city council's consideration.

(d) The board of police commissioners shall have the authority to receive and review all civilian and internal allegations of misconduct by members of the police department. The mayor's proposed budget and the city council shall annually appropriate an amount necessary for the adequate support and facilitation of such review. To the greatest extent permitted by law, the chief of police shall provide the board of police commissioners timely updates of any review, investigation, or disposition of alleged misconduct. The board of police commissioners shall have the ability to request additional information from the chief of police and access to those documents or other evidence relied upon by the chief of police in reviewing allegations of misconduct as the city council shall designate by ordinance. For complaints of alleged misconduct that constitute an offense subject to an investigation of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council pursuant to 20 V.S.A 2401 et seq. or for which the chief of police intends to impose discipline constituting loss of pay, suspension, or termination, the complaint may not be disposed until the board of police commissioners is notified of the proposed disposition.

After receiving notice from the chief of police of the recommended or actual disposition relating to the review of alleged misconduct, the board of police commissioners shall have the authority to:

(i) recommend an alternative disposition to the chief of police within a time established by ordinance; or

(ii) independently investigate any allegation of misconduct by members of the police department upon a 2/3 majority vote. Such investigation or review shall be conducted by an independent investigator hired by the board of police commissioners, and approved by the city attorney's office, and completed within a time established by ordinance. Upon the conclusion of such an investigation, the board of police commissioners may make a recommendation per subsection (i). The board of police commissioners shall not have the authority to investigate or impose discipline upon the chief of police. Matters regarding the alleged misconduct of the chief of police shall be addressed in conformity with section 190(b) of this Charter and other relevant Vermont statutes.

(e) Upon receiving a recommendation by the board of police commissioners in subsection (d), the chief of police may accept the recommendation subject to the notice and hearing provisions in Article 62, section 190(a) or reject the recommendation. In the event the chief of police rejects the recommendation, the chief of police shall immediately the notify board of police commissioners.

Upon receiving notice of the rejection, the board of police commissions may, upon a 2/3 majority vote, request that an independent panel decide the disposition of the matter within a time established by ordinance, subject to the notice and hearing provisions set forth in in Article 62, section 190(a). The disposition of the independent panel shall be final, subject to any applicable right of appeal or grievance process.

This independent panel shall consist of three (3) to five (5) persons appointed per ordinance.

ARTICLE 63. CHIEF OF POLICE AND CAPTAIN

185 Officers of police ~~force-department~~ designated.

(a) The direction and control of the entire police ~~force-department~~, except as herein otherwise provided, shall be vested in a police officer who shall be called the chief of police, and such other ranking police officers as the city council shall authorize, subject to the ordinances, resolutions, and orders of the city council; and, provided that the mayor shall retain the powers and duties of chief executive officer pursuant to §116. The order of rank and succession within the police department shall be as designated by the city council by regulation.

(b) Except as herein otherwise provided, such officers shall have the powers and duties granted to police officers by Vermont law and assigned to them by regulations adopted under section 184 of this Charter.

ARTICLE 65. REMOVAL OR SUSPENSION

190 Chief of police may remove member for cause; hearing.

(a) Whenever it shall appear to the chief of police that any member of said ~~force-police department~~ has become incompetent, inefficient or incapable from any cause, or is or has been negligent or derelict in his or her official duty, or is guilty of any misconduct in his or her private or official life, or whenever any well-grounded complaints or charges to such effect are made in writing to the chief of police by a responsible person against such member, the chief of police may investigate and, after appropriate notice and hearing, dismiss such member from the ~~force-police department~~, order a reduction in rank, or suspend the member without pay for a specified time period in excess of 14 days. In connection with any possible dismissal, demotion, or suspension for more than 14 days, the chief of police's notice to the member shall be given at least 48 hours prior to any hearing and shall include a description of the charges being considered. In connection therewith, the chief of police shall have the power to subpoena documents and witnesses and to administer the oath to such witnesses. Such a subpoena will be subject to enforcement or modification in conformity with the procedures set forth in 3 V.S.A. §§ 809a and 809b. The board of police commissioners, or in the case it has already offered an opinion on discipline pursuant to §184(d)(i), or in the case that the voting number of commissioners falls below four (4) due to declared actual or apparent conflict(s) of interest, an independent panel comprised as in §184(e) shall hear any appeal filed in a timely manner with respect to such actions of the police chief. The time of filing an appeal and the nature of the appellate process shall be as determined by such board of regulation. Following its consideration of any such appeal, the board may affirm, modify, or vacate the decision made by the police chief.

(b) Whenever it shall appear to the mayor that the chief has become incompetent, inefficient, or incapable from any cause, or has been negligent or derelict in his or her official duty, or is guilty of any misconduct in his or her private or official life, or whenever any well-grounded complaints or charges to such effect are made in writing to the mayor by a responsible person, the mayor may suspend the chief of police from duty pending a hearing thereon by the city council. The city council

shall forth-with notify the chief of police of the charges preferred by them, or of the complaints or charges presented by such responsible person in writing, and shall thereupon proceed to consider and investigate the same. It shall appoint a time and place for the hearing of such complaints and charges so made, shall give the chief of police reasonable notice of the same, not less than 48 hours, and the city council shall have the power to subpoena documents and witnesses and to administer the oath to such witnesses. Such a subpoena will be subject to enforcement or modification in conformity with the procedures set forth in 3 V.S.A. §§ 809a and 809b.

(c) If, upon hearing, the city council shall find such complaints or charges to be well founded, it may dismiss the chief of police from the ~~free police department~~, demote him or her in rank, or suspend him or her without pay for a period not to exceed 60 days. The procedures outlined in this section shall control in the event of any conflict with section 129 of this Charter as pertains to the removal of the chief of police.

(d) The chief of police may, without notice or hearing for any infraction, violation, or disobedience of any of the rules and regulations of the police department that may seem to the chief of police sufficient, suspend from duty without pay any member of the police ~~free-department~~ for a period not to exceed 14 days.

* Material underlined added

** Material struck out deleted

The official copy of the proposed charter amendments will be posted for public viewing by August 5th, 2024. Should any revisions be made to the proposed charter change amendments, they will be posted by October 16th, 2024.

Resolution Relating to

**CHANGES TO CITY CHARTER ARTICLES 62, 63, AND 65
REGARDING POLICE OVERSIGHT**

RESOLUTION 7.5.

Sponsor(s): Charter Change
Committee

Introduced: 07/15/24

Referred to: _____

Action: adopted as amended

Date: 07/15/24

Signed by Mayor: 07/17/24

CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Twenty-Four.....

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

1 That WHEREAS, over the past several years, as part of its continued commitment to oversight and
2 accountability, the City Council and the Administration have continued to take steps to revise Burlington's
3 police oversight, transparency, and accountability practices; and

4 WHEREAS, pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Council on February 6, 2023, the City Council
5 requested the Ordinance Committee and Charter Change Committee to hold joint meetings, allowing for
6 community and stakeholder input on the disciplinary authority of the Chief of Police, the oversight role of the
7 Police Commission, and the creation of a separate community oversight body independent from the
8 Burlington Police Department; and

9 WHEREAS, over a span of eight months, the Joint Ordinance and Charter Change Committee met
10 fourteen times, seeking and receiving community and stakeholder input on the issues; and

11 WHEREAS, the Joint Committee voted to move forward a proposed charter change for public
12 comment with the understanding it may be placed upon the ballot after a final vote of the Burlington City
13 Council; however, after the first public hearing before the City Council on January 16, 2024 it was referred to
14 the Police Commission for review and comment; and

15 WHEREAS, the Police Commission met over the span of three months and brought forth their
16 thoughts to the City Council prior to the proposed Charter Change being brought back up by the Charter
17 Change Committee who met substantively four times regarding police oversight between June 12, 2024 and
18 July 1, 2024; and

19 WHEREAS, the Charter Change Committee unanimously referred the proposed language below to the
20 full City Council for consideration and voted 2-1 to place the proposed language on the November 5, 2024
21 ballot and warn the language for public hearing;

* * * * *

DISTRIBUTION:

I hereby certify that this resolution
has been sent to the following
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RESOLUTION RELATING TO

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Adopted by the City Council

....., 20
..... Clerk

Approved....., 20

..... Mayor

Vol. Page

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council approves the amendments to the city charter recommended by the Charter Change Committee and requests the Mayor to place the following question on the ballot of the General Election to be held on November 5, 2024 and the City Clerk to set public hearings on the this question in accordance with Charter §303 and 17 V.S.A. § 2645:

"Shall the Charter of the City of Burlington, Acts of 1949, No. 298 as amended, be further amended to amend Article 62, Police Department; Article 63, Chief of Police and Captain; and Article 65, Removal or Suspension, thereto to read as follows:

ARTICLE 62. POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Adopted by the City Council

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..... Clerk

Approved....., 20

..... Mayor

Vol. Page

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charges being considered. In connection therewith, the chief of police shall have the power to subpoena documents and witnesses and to administer the oath to such witnesses. Such a subpoena will be subject to enforcement or modification in conformity with the procedures set forth in 3 V.S.A. §§ 809a and 809b. The board of police commissioners, or in the case it has already offered an opinion on discipline pursuant to §184(d)(i), or in the case that the voting number of commissioners falls below four (4) due to declared actual or apparent conflict(s) of interest, an independent panel comprised as in §184(e) shall hear any appeal filed in a timely manner with respect to such actions of the police chief. The time of filing an appeal and the nature of the appellate process shall be as determined by such board of regulation. Following its consideration of any such appeal, the board may affirm, modify, or vacate the decision made by the police chief.

(b) Whenever it shall appear to the mayor that the chief has become incompetent, inefficient, or incapable from any cause, or has been negligent or derelict in his or her official duty, or is guilty of any misconduct in his or her private or official life, or whenever any well-grounded complaints or charges to such effect are made in writing to the mayor by a responsible person, the mayor may suspend the chief of police from duty pending a hearing thereon by the city council. The city council shall forth-with notify the chief of police of the charges preferred by them, or of the complaints or charges presented by such responsible person in writing, and shall thereupon proceed to consider and investigate the same. It shall appoint a time and place for the hearing of such complaints and charges so made, shall give the chief of police reasonable notice of the same, not less than 48 hours, and the city council shall have the power to subpoena documents and witnesses and to administer the oath to such witnesses. Such a subpoena will be subject to enforcement or modification in conformity with the procedures set forth in 3 V.S.A. §§ 809a and 809b.

(c) If, upon hearing, the city council shall find such complaints or charges to be well founded, it may dismiss the chief of police from the ~~free~~ police department, demote him or her in rank, or suspend him or her without pay for a period not to exceed 60 days. The procedures outlined in this section shall control in the event of any conflict with section 129 of this Charter as pertains to the removal of the chief of police.

(d) The chief of police may, without notice or hearing for any infraction, violation, or disobedience of any of the rules and regulations of the police department that may seem to the chief of police sufficient, suspend from duty without pay any member of the police ~~free-department~~ for a period not to exceed 14 days.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ordinance Committee shall prepare a draft ordinance outlining the composition of the independent panel authorized by §184(e) of the amended City Charter, if enacted, and shall transmit the draft ordinance to the City Council on or by its meeting on September 23, 2024.

*Materials underlined added

**Materials stricken deleted

KS/Resolutions 2024/Changes to City Charter Arts. 62, 63, & 65 Regarding Police Oversight
7/11/24

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RESOLUTION RELATING TO

Changes to City Charter Articles 62, 63, and 65 Regarding Police Oversight
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As amended
Adopted by the City Council

July 15....., 20 24.....

[Signature] Clerk

Approved..... July 17....., 20 27.....

[Signature] Mayor

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