

**BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL
BUSHOR CONFERENCE ROOM 1ST FLOOR, CITY HALL
OR
REMOTE MEETING WITH CALL-IN
BURLINGTON, VERMONT
MINUTES OF MEETING
August 15, 2024
DRAFT**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sarah E Carpenter
Mark Barlow
Gene Bergman
Ben Traverse
Melo Grant (via Zoom)
Evan Litwin
Marek Broderick

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sarah Montgomery

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by City Council President Traverse at 6:04 PM.

2. FIRST PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR NOVEMBER 5, 2024 SPECIAL CITY MEETING

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

City Council President Traverse began by noting that statute requires two public hearings on this potential charter change prior to it appearing on the November election ballot. He noted that the first public hearing is tonight and the second will be held on August 21, 2024. He noted that any amendments that arise based on feedback heard during the public hearings could be brought for consideration to a Special City Council meeting after the second public hearing on August 22nd. He noted that any amendments will also require a revised short-form ballot item description.

City Council President Traverse opened the public hearing.

Councilor Grant expressed deep concern about not showing the proper balance of representation for a public oversight body moving forward, noting past occasions where the Chief of Police has attended and participated in Police Commission meetings while members of the public and even members of the City Council have not been present or represented. She spoke about her experience as a Police Commissioner and not being able to discuss specific examples of untrue arguments in the context of police investigations, as she is bound by confidentiality and the rules around executive session, which has been difficult. She noted a significant amount of public concern for officers, which isn't necessarily

justified because officers have conducted themselves in ways that are in violation of their directives and policies, which have led to lawsuits. She noted distrust with the complaint process and concern from people about retaliation if they lodge a complaint against the Police Department. She said that the community needs to heal, rather than continuously experience pushback when they strive for something better. She said that this proposed charter change is better than nothing, but not by much.

City Council President Traverse closed the public hearing.

3. ADJOURNMENT

3.1 Motion to adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

RScty: AACoonradt