

Charter Change Committee
Thursday, November 21, 2024
Bushor Conference Room, City Hall and Remote
DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Councilor Bergman (Chair), Councilor Carpenter, Councilor Doherty

Staff Present: Jessica Brown (City Attorney)

Public Present: *None.*

Meeting called to order at 5:37 PM.

1. Agenda

1.01 Motion to amend/adopt agenda

Motion to Adopt Agenda as is.

Motion by Councilor Carpenter, Seconded by Councilor Doherty.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

2. Adopt Draft Minutes from 10/30

2.01 Adopt Draft Minutes from 10/30

Motion to Adopt Draft Minutes from October 30.

Motion by Councilor Carpenter, Seconded by Councilor Bergman.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Councilors Bergman and Carpenter

Abstain: Councilor Doherty

3. Public Forum

No members of the public present.

4. Charter Change Ballot Item: City Council Authority to Pledge Credit of the City

Attorney Brown explained that this change would raise the amount that the city can borrow without a vote by the voters from the current two million dollars per year up to five million in 2028 and up to ten million by 2031.

Councilor Bergman noted that, according to the current charter, the limit was last raised in 2005 and 2009.

Councilor Doherty said this charter change would also create additional bonding limit specifically for the Water Division.

Councilor Bergman asked for the Administration to draft a memo that explains the rationale for the amounts and sequencing for this charter change.

Councilor Carpenter said all of the additional bonding decisions will still go to Board of Finance and City Council for approval regardless of this limit increase.

Motion to refer the draft charter change back to the full City Council for inclusion on the 2025 Town Meeting Day ballot with a request to the Administration to provide more information on the rationale for the new limits chosen.

Motion by Councilor Doherty, Seconded by Councilor Carpenter.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

5. Any Other Committee Business

The meeting set for November 25 is cancelled.

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by Councilor Bergman, without objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 PM.