



BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL CHARTER CHANGE COMMITTEE

12/8/2016

Charter Change Committee Meeting

December 8, 2016

Minutes

Present: Kurt Wright (KW), Chair; Sara Giannoni (SG); Joan Shannon (JS)

Staff: Eileen Blackwood, City Attorney (EB); Amy Bovee (AB) as noted below

Meeting called to order at 3:06 pm by Chair Wright.

1. Agenda: JS moved to accept the agenda, SG seconded. Unanimous.
2. Minutes of Nov. 15, 2016 & Minutes of Nov. 29, 2016: Correct section in discussion of other governments in Minutes of Nov. 29 to be clear that Burlington has a more complex government than Rutland (not vice versa). SG moved adoption as amended; JS seconded. Unanimous.
3. Public forum: No speakers
- 4.01 Charter Changes to Due Dates of Property Tax Payments: EB reported that Assessor Vickery is fine with the proposed changes. KW will vote to take this forward to the Council, but reserves his right to change his mind if there is public outcry against this change. **JS moved to recommend the resolution (with date changes to public hearings) to the Council; SG seconded. Unanimous.**
- 4.02 Charter Changes to Councilor Pay: **JS moved to recommend the resolution (with date changes to public hearings) to the Council; SG seconded. Unanimous.**
- 4.03 Charter Changes to Board for Registration of Voters (BRV): The Committee discussed the issue of what limit should be put on how many members should be of the same political party. The proposal presented has 13 members, only 6 of whom can be of the same party. KW said he would support this idea, as no party can have a majority, but JS was concerned that currently with 10 members and a limit of 5 of the same party, while those members cannot force an action



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without convincing someone from another party to join them, they can block a vote, and the proposed change would not allow that. JS would like to see 12 members with a limit of 6 of one party. SG was concerned whether this would meet the approval of the BRV.

The meeting was suspended for 5 minutes at 3:30 for EB to ask Amy Bovee (AB), who attended the BRV discussion on the matter, to join meeting. AB joined and the meeting resumed at 3:35.

KW explained issue to AB. AB said majority of BRV didn't have strong opinion—they wanted to add members and discussed 12 and 13. She doesn't think the majority would be upset with 12. KW asked if the BRV ever had split votes (that would make an odd number preferable). AB said rarely. They look at additions and deletions to the checklist, but don't need to vote very often. They do vote if there is a challenge to a decision.

The Committee discussed various situations that may occur about registration of voters. AB explained that the BRV meets once a month and approves additions to checklist. They also talk about voter outreach. AB explained the process for removing voters who have registered elsewhere, died, moved away, etc.

SG is comfortable with 12. KW is as well. **JS moved to amend the draft proposal to increase the size of the BRV to 12 members. SG seconded. Unanimous. JS then moved to recommend the amended resolution (with date changes to public hearings) to the Council. SG seconded. Unanimous.**

4.04 EB noted that in finalizing the draft change to charter section 44 (which council meetings the mayor presides over), she realized that the proposed change was overbroad and needed some additional thought and revision. KW asked that she bring a revision to the committee next week.

EB also noted that the administration would like to hold on the revisions to charter section 147.

5.01 The Committee reviewed the draft resolutions on 2 prior approved changes and had not changes. EB will bring revisions to section on mayor sitting on appointments and her memo on mayoral veto to next meeting.

5. Next meeting: Tues. at 3:30 pm, Dec. 13.

6. Adjournment: SG moved & JS seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.





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