



Charter Change Committee Meeting, Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 5:00 pm, **LOCATION CHANGE: Queen City Room, 3rd Floor, City HallBushor Conference Room, City Hall 11/16/2021**

HARTER CHANGE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Champlain Room, 3d Floor, City Hall; Via Zoom

DRAFT MINUTES

Members Present: Councilor Freeman (Chair), Councilor Stromberg, Councilor Barlow

Staff Present: Daniel Richardson (City Attorney)

Others in Attendance: Christopher-Aaron Felker; Gene Bergman, Jack Lyons

Meeting called to order at 5:15 PM.

1.0 Agenda

1.01 Motion to adopt/amend agenda

Motion to adopt agenda as written.

Motion by Councilor Stromberg, Seconded by Councilor Barlow.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous/

2.0 Public Forum

2.01 Public Forum



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- Christopher-Aaron Felker: spoke against non-citizen voting charter change. Noted that the present non-citizen voting charter provisions were being challenged in court and that the City should wait. Mr. Felker advocated for more resources to be brought to sponsoring individuals for citizenship and helping them in the citizenship process. Advocated for greater emphasis on inclusion through citizenship and re-iterated that non-citizen voting was improper and that he opposed it as did the Republican party.

Closed public forum at 5:40 PM.

3.0 Discussion on Charter Change for Councilor Compensation

3.01 Feedback from the City Attorney and others i.e., party chairs, former councilors, members of the public

3.02 Committee Deliberation on Councilor Compensation Charter Language

There was a general discussion by the Committee members to create a charter change amendment that would enable City Councilors to receive certain benefits and compensation. The benefits includes some part-time pay, a child care stipend, and health care.

Mr. Felker spoke on behalf of the Burlington Republican party to express cautious interest in such benefits so long as enactment was delayed so that the Council approving it was not necessarily the Council receiving the initial benefits. A letter from Adam Roof in support of Councilor Compensation was read by Councilor Barlow. The idea of an administrative staffer for the Council was raised as was the idea of additional funds for Councilor initiatives.

The Councilors on the Committee directed the City Attorney to draft a few Councilor Compensation options including a broad enabling provision and more specific charter provisions giving certain defined benefits.

No motion was made.

1. Review of Pending Charter Change Items and update on review.

4.01 City Attorney Report on Resident Voter Charter Change and any other Charter Change referral from City Council.

4.02 Committee Deliberation





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The City Attorney summarized the pending request from the City Council for the Charter Change Committee to draft a Resident Voting (Non-Citizen Voting) Charter Change. Attorney Richardson noted that the City Council had directed the Committee to Review and adopt the provision, which was similar to the Winooski and Montpelier Charter Provisions, which had been adopted the previous year.

The Councilors discussed actions to take in support of the already approved charter changes and directed the City Attorney to the greatest extent possible to prepare drafts of the following Charter Changes:

1. Striking the City's Authority to Regulate Sex-Work
2. Resident Voting
3. Citizen Control of Discipline on the Police Commission

The Committee recognized that any Charter Changes aimed at the Town Meeting ballot would have to be put before the Council no later than the December 13th meeting and that any charter changes not completed by then could be prepared for the November 2022 ballot.

No motion was made

1. Develop Meeting Schedule

The Committee agreed to two potential meetings: November 29th at 5pm to 7:30pm and December 6th from 4pm to 5:30pm.

1. City Attorney report on Charter Changes Pending in the General Assembly and Committee deliberation on recommended council action.

The City Attorney also summarized the existing charter changes that had been passed and approved by the voters but unapproved by the General Assembly. These included:

1. Ranked choice voting for City Councilors
2. Just Cause Eviction
3. Thermal Energy Systems in Residential and Commercial Buildings
4. Adding Voters to the BTV Airport Commission

The City Attorney discussed Charter Changes from prior years. These included:

1. Safe Storage for guns in households
2. Prohibiting firearms from properties licensed to serve alcohol.





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No motion was made.

1. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Stromberg, Seconded by Councilor Barlow.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07pm.