



Charter Change Committee Meeting ***Remote***, Thursday, November 3rd, 2022, at 5:30 pm 11/3/2022

CHARTER CHANGE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 3, 2022

Via Zoom (Remote)

DRAFT MINUTES

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

Staff Present: Kim Sturtevant (Acting City Attorney), Gillian Nanton (Assistant Director, Community & Economic Development Office (CEDO))

Others in Attendance: Sam McGinty

Meeting called to order at 5:35 PM.

1.0 Agenda

1.01 Motion to amend agenda

Motion to Amend Agenda to have two (2) public forums before each discussion topic.

Motion by Councilor Traverse, Seconded by Councilor Bergman

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

2.0 Adopt Minutes from 10/19/2022

Motion to Amend and Adopt Minutes from 10/19/2022 with one change.

Motion by Councilor Carpenter, Seconded by Councilor Traverse

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous.

3.0 Public Forum

No comment.

4.01 Discussion of All Legal Resident Voting



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Gillian N: Put a number of posts on social media to spread the message of what all legal resident voting is, around 3,000 views in total on Twitter so far. They will also be hosting 2 community meetings after the New Year as well. Additionally, working to translate the educational videos and flyers into six different languages to maximize the messaging to more of the public. Outreach will be sent to superintendent and school board members. A communication will be drafted for the business community as well. A carry-size brochure will be made for ease of access to the information and easy to hand out to public.

Councilor Traverse: Thanked Gillian for the update and the tremendous work both she and the CEDO team have put in to spreading the word of all legal resident voting. Councilor Bergman agreed and believes the work is making a real impact.

On Sarah Montgomery's informational email posted under the discussion item.

Councilor Bergman: The information in Sarah's email is valuable and should be included in CEDO's outreach process and in the FAQs designed around all legal resident voting.

On the ALRV resolution posted under the discussion item.

Councilor Traverse: While noting that this provision did not pass last time the vote was before the public, this time will be different. A lot of work has been done to mitigate the potential issues that could arise and believes the general appetite for democracy/voting in the public eye has changed to allow for greater participation in the voting process. Councilor Carpenter reiterated the sentiment, Councilor Bergman as well.

Motion to accept the resolution and send it back to the full Council for vote.

Motion by Councilor Carpenter, Seconded by Councilor Traverse

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous.

4.02 Discussion of Ranked Choice Voting

Sam M: If the RCV provision makes it all the way through the March 2nd ballot and becomes law, VPIRG is preparing a very robust program to educate and facilitate RCV's understanding amongst the public: phone calls, mailers, translation of





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materials, amongst other things. RCV will be used in the December special election so VPIRG has been working with the three candidates so they better understand how RCV will work.

Councilor Carpenter: To reiterate her previous position, does not believe this belongs in the City charter and thinks ordinances are enough to effectuate the change.

Councilor Traverse: Agrees with Councilor Carpenter, would like to maintain the flexibility to make tweaks through ordinance changes.

Councilor Bergman: Emphasizes the ordinance language is consistent with the intended process as to how Ranked Choice Voting will function in mayoral elections. Believes that this is what voters want and is glad they will be able to effectuate into law should they choose to vote in favor of it again.

Councilor Traverse: Respects Councilor Bergman's position, but believes the language (lines 52-56) should be removed to allow for flexibility to adjust RCV tabulation that may be needed in the future as the voters of Burlington know what's in the best interest of our community.

Councilor Carpenter: Agrees that putting too much specificity in the charter can be problematic. Urges caution in putting too much specific language into the charter.

Councilor Bergman: Respectfully disagrees that the language should be struck from the ordinance. Like the last time, the Legislature can strike the language if they so choose if this charter change makes it to their chambers.

Motion to strike the language in lines 52-56 from the ordinance.

Motion by Councilor Carpenter, Seconded by Councilor Traverse

Yes: Councilor Carpenter, Councilor Traverse

No: Councilor Bergman

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Councilor Traverse: Recalled that 'ward officers' of the elections were omitted from the ordinance language, but could not remember the reason why. Notes it would be the one local elected position that is omitted from the ordinance.

Councilor Bergman: The committee chose the words 'ward election officials' instead of 'ward clerks'. Councilor Carpenter agreed.

Motion to strike the word 'officials' and insert the words 'ward officers'.





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Motion by Councilor Traverse, Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous.

Councilor Carpenter: Cautioned against sending it back to the full Council for vote so soon in order to see RCV play out in the special election first. While noting her support for it, wants to give ample time for RCV to be used in action.

Councilor Traverse: Agreed with Councilor Carpenter that it may be a bit too soon to send this resolution back to the full Council for vote. Again, while noting his support, would prefer to see RCV in practice first so voters understand what is entailed in this process. Noted that despite the reservations, he would vote yes to move the resolution back before the Council but cautioned that the Mayor has vetoed this once and it may be in their interest to do it again.

Councilor Bergman: Echoes Councilor Traverse's concerns about veto, but knows that bringing this resolution forward is important for his ward. Would like to see RCV as the method for the next mayoral election in March so is hopeful that the Council will act in its favor and is looking forward to voter feedback after the special election in December.

Motion to accept the resolution as amended and send it back to the full Council for vote.

Motion by Councilor Carpenter, Seconded by Councilor Bergman

Yes: Councilor Bergman, Councilor Traverse

No: Councilor Traverse

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

General committee discussion around other potential Charter Change Committee items occurred as most pressing items have now been addressed. Two other items in need of discussion: councilor compensation and non-charter redistricting.

Scheduling of future meetings:

January 19th, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

5.0 Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn.

Motion by Councilor Carpenter, Seconded by Councilor Traverse

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous



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The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM.

