



**Special City Council Meeting Regarding November 3, 2020
General Election Voting Processes/Reminders, 5:00 pm,
VIRTUAL MEETING
10/28/2020**

BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

CITY HALL

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

SPECIAL MEETING REGARDING NOVEMBER 3 GENERAL ELECTION -

VOTING PROCESSES/REMINDERS

MINUTES OF MEETING

October 28, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Paul

Max Tracy

Chip Mason

Ali Dieng

Brian Pine

Jack Hanson

Jane Stromberg

Sarah E Carpenter

Zoraya Hightower

OTHERS PRESENT: Katherine Schad

Amy Bovee

1. CALL TO ORDER and AGENDA



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The meeting was called to order by City Council President Tracy at 5:06 PM.

MOTION by Councilor Dieng, SECOND by Councilor Pine, to amend/adopt agenda as follows:

- **note revised version of agenda item 4.01 Resolution: Fair Elections And The Peaceful Transfer Of Power (Councilor Hightower) and additional co-sponsors: Councilors Hanson, Pine, Tracy, Freeman, Stromberg (per City Attorney's Office per Councilor Hightower);**
- **reorder agenda so that the deliberative items are discussed prior to the update on the voting process.**

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

2.01 Verbal Comments

Forum opened at 5:08 PM.

COMMENTS:

None at this time.

Forum closed at 5:09 PM.

3. UPDATE ON VOTING PROCESS TO DATE/ANY IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR VOTERS TO KNOW PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 3RD (VERBAL)

3.01 Update on Voting process to date/any important reminders for voters to know prior to November 3rd (verbal)

Chief Administrative Officer Schad and Clerk Bovee shared an update on current process, tips for voters, and what to expect at the polls.

Clerk Bovee noted that absentee ballots were automatically mailed to all registered voters in Vermont, that 26,589 were mailed to Burlington residents, and that the Clerk/Treasurer's Office has received around 14,000 completed ballots already. She noted that while there was a 6% defective ballot rate in the primary, less than 1% of the general election ballots received thus-far have been defective. She noted the ballot drop-boxes and their locations, that there is one in-person office session on Monday mornings to drop off ballots in person, and that voters can also vote at their designated polling place on Election Day.

CAO Schad also noted an additional ballot drop-box in the New North End and thanked Clerk Bovee and her staff and



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volunteers who are working the polls on Election Day.

Councilor Pine asked about past presidential election turnout and also asked how late voters can drop ballots off at drop boxes. Clerk Bovee replied that the 2016 General Election saw 19,000 votes cast and that the drop boxes will be available until 4:30 PM on Monday, after which a voter would need to hand-deliver ballots to their polling place.

Councilor Paul thanked Clerk Bovee for hosting a Zoom meeting with poll workers, noting that it was extremely helpful. She also asked if indoor voting would be a possibility in the case of bad weather. Clerk Bovee replied that each polling place will have workers outdoors to take ballots if voters are uncomfortable going inside and voting, and noted that smaller polling places will have tents erected outside as shelter options for voting outdoors. Councilor Paul asked whether Clerk Bovee and her staff have begun tallying votes that have already been received. Clerk Bovee said the Secretary of State's office is allowing ballots to be processed beginning 30 days in advance of Election Day.

4. DELIBERATIVE AGENDA

4.01 Resolution: Fair Elections And The Peaceful Transfer Of Power (Councilor Hightower)

MOTION by Councilor Hightower, SECOND by Councilor Paul, to waive the reading and adopt the resolution.

DISCUSSION:

- **Councilor Hightower noted that this resolution was drafted to address potential issues with increased voter suppression.**
- **Councilor Hanson noted additional concern that the President has signaled a reluctance to commit to a peaceful transition of power, should the election results not be in his favor.**
- **Councilor Mason asked for further clarification of the City of Burlington's role in the final resolved clause. Councilor Hightower said that the clause may be applied differently, depending on the outcome of the election and its aftermath. Councilor Mason asked how the Council should prepare if the election does not result in a peaceful transfer of power. Councilor Hightower responded that a general strike may be called and that the Council should be prepared to support it.**
- **Councilor Pine said that Vermont, under Secretary Condos, is a national example of how to make voting as successful and accessible as possible. He congratulated the City Clerk/Treasurer staff for working tirelessly to ensure that all voters can vote and all votes are counted.**
- **Councilor Dieng asked how residents of the City can find out whether their ballot has been counted. Clerk Bovee replied that any voter registered in the State of Vermont can log into their My Voter page to see the status of their ballot.**
- **Councilor Paul said that the entire Council should be sponsors of this resolution.**

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.





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5. ADJOURNMENT

5.01 Motion to adjourn

MOTION by Councilor Hightower, SECOND by Councilor Stromberg, to adjourn the meeting.

The City Council meeting adjourned at 5:34 PM.

RScty: AACoonrad