



BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL CHARTER CHANGE COMMITTEE

10/23/2017

Charter Change Committee Meeting

October 23, 2017

Minutes

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Present: Kurt Wright (KW), Chair; Joan Shannon (JS); Max Tracy (MT).

Staff: Eileen Blackwood, City Attorney (EB).

Meeting called to order at 5:16 pm by Chair Wright.

1. Agenda: MT moved to accept the agenda, JS seconded. Unanimous.
2. Minutes of Dec. 13, 2016: JS moved to approve the minutes. MT seconded. Unanimous.
3. Public forum: No speakers
4. Committee discussion:

EB: No charter changes proposed by the Administration.

MT: Would like to explore the idea of participatory budgeting. For example, council would set aside an amount of money and allow the public to suggest projects and then have a committee decide on them. Then a slate or proposals would be presented to the voters. People could campaign for their favorite proposals. Is that a charter change issue? EB did not know off the top of her head. JS: There used to be a neighborhood component to the CDBG campaigns. KW: How does this relate to the council's current pot of money for community project? MT: Similar but it would give people a little more participation opportunity. We would need to discuss costs. EB will look at whether charter change is required.

KW: Learned this summer that a person can maintain a residence in Burlington (be a legal voter) but not be actually living



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in Burlington and still run for council. Should we discuss requiring councilors to actually live here? Maybe something like the employee residence requirement where the council can decide if someone has a hardship. JS: Doesn't like the concept of having the council decide on hardship, but is willing to look at language that requires councilors to really be living here. EB said the concept of residence is complex, but she will think about whether there is language to accomplish the goal.

KW: Re-raised issue that council should have final say on parking issues, not just Public Works Commission. If citizens are angry, they come to the council, but the council can't do anything because the Public Works Commission has jurisdiction. JS: Disagrees. Best parking policy may not come out of a political body like the council. KW: Council is elected body and appointed body like the Commission isn't best to make controversial decisions. JS: People in her neighborhood are very upset with parking right now, but she doesn't necessarily think there will be better decisions by bringing them to council. MT: also does not support this idea. So, there was no support to proceed.

5. Next meeting: Nov. 28 at 5:30

6. Adjournment: MT moved & JS seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm.

