



Charter Change Committee Meeting ***Remote***, Tuesday, September 13th, 2022, at 5:30 pm 9/13/2022

CHARTER CHANGE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 13, 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)), Sarah Montgomery (Associate City Clerk)

Others in Attendance:

- Board of Registration of Voters, Ward Clerks, and Inspectors of Elections: Robert Bristow Johnson, Jeff Comstock

Meeting called to order at 5:39 PM.

1.0 Agenda

1.01 Motion to adopt/amend agenda

Motion to Adopt Agenda as is.

Motion by Councilor Carpenter, Seconded by Councilor Traverse

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

2.0 Adopt Minutes from 8/25/2022

Motion to Adopt Minutes from 8/25/2022 without changes.

Motion by Councilor Carpenter, Seconded by Councilor Traverse

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous.

3.0 Public Forum

Robert Bristow-Johnson: Mayoral ranked choice voting was removed from the charter change as a compromise two years ago. Doesn't want the City Council to forget their commitment.

RCV was used on the state level in the last two elections, and it failed to elect the majority candidate, most recently in



Charter Change Committee Meeting ***Remote***, Tuesday, September 13th, 2022, at 5:30 pm 9/13/2022

Sarah Palin's race, and long ago Kurt Wright's local election loss.

There's a reason the VT Legislature took RCV out of the charter change, they did so to encourage installing the method at the ordinance level – Bristow-Johnson thinks the City should listen.

4.01 Discussion of All Legal Resident Voting

Gillian Nanton on the Outreach/Engagement Process:

- Web page has been established as of September 1, included are the FAQs translated into six different languages – website will continue to be updated.
- Several presentations have been made at NPAs to spread the information.
- Community meetings have tentative dates of November 15th and December 13th – still working to get locations (Champlain College, Unitarian Universal Space at Church, and BED are potential locations).
- Social media posts and a flyer are being prepared. Additional links to be shared on the internet to spread the message of All Legal Resident Voting.
- Will be taking translated questions off of the FAQ and create helpful, promotional videos with Community Trusted Voices and CCTV.

Councilor Traverse: Are the FAQs centrally posted somewhere publically at this point in time?

A: They will be posted to the All Legal Resident Voting web page, which can be found on the City of Burlington's website.

Councilor Carpenter: Emphasizes the need for the Charter Change Committee to have their own webpage.

Councilor Bergman made note of presentations made at both Wards 2 and 3's NPA meetings in the counselor comments section of the meeting. Councilor Traverse noted he will be attending Ward 1's NPA tomorrow (September 14th) and Ward 5 on Thursday for the same message. Councilor Traverse will also be attending Ward 4+7 NPA meetings next week, also attended Ward 6 NPA last week.

Councilor Traverse: Logistical question – how would this affect registered voters of other communities (i.e. college students)? If those students are to locally pursue out Legal Resident voter registration process, what steps should the City take to ensure folks are doubly registering for elections? Should we do anything further to affirm our position and ensure that does not happen?

A: Councilor Bergman – if a student is registered somewhere else in the U.S., they would not be eligible for this program.



Charter Change Committee Meeting ***Remote***, Tuesday, September 13th, 2022, at 5:30 pm 9/13/2022

Sarah Montgomery on Registration of Voters

- Affirms Gene's point – if a voter is registered elsewhere, the municipality will be notified as such and remove them from the ballot checklist.
- Voter ID is only requested when registering for the first time in the state of Vermont. Also, if their voter ID/driver's license is not verified through the State at the polling place, they will ask to review the ID for confirmation.
 - Winooski requires proof of residency in order to participate in All Legal Resident Voting program – the current state statute does not allow us to function this way.

Councilor Bergman to CA's Office: Draft additional language that allows the City (Town Clerk, specifically) to require proof of residency from prospective All Legal Resident voters in order to participate in the program.

Jeff Comstock to Councilor Traverse: Ward 4+7 Steering Committee confirmed with Gillian that LRV is a topic at the September meeting. Sought information on who is presenting would be helpful to reflect on the agenda – all cleared up.

Councilor Bergman to S Montgomery and CA's Office: Work together on the logistical registration questions to establish the authority and integrity of LRV.

4.02 Discussion of Siting of Polling Places

Discussion of Jeff Comstock's Comments

- Could not find the language that allows the designation of polling places in the Charter, so he believes they are creating a new power for the Council or the Board of Civil Authority.
 - If you're creating this new authority, is it fair to delegate it directly to the City Clerk's Office?
- Consultation language: feels it would be more productive to consult with the Clerk's office rather than the ward election officials.
- Question: does the 'assigning polling places 30 days before an election' section establish the intent that polling places will be designated 30 days before EVERY election (as opposed to the current list that has been place ~6 years)?

S Montgomery: The statute that establishes the Board of Civil Authority's ability of setting polling places and the 30 days' notice of designated polling places is 17 V.S.A 2501.

Councilor Carpenter: So do we have to designate the polling places every election? Or it just when the BCA chooses to change it?

S Montgomery: Resolution in 2016 that designated current places as standard, with minor resolutions along the way for



Charter Change Committee Meeting ***Remote***, Tuesday, September 13th, 2022, at 5:30 pm 9/13/2022

temporary changes.

Councilor Bergman: Warnings establish the polling places as well.

Councilor Bergman feels that elected officials should be a part of the consultative process around designating polling places because they are intimately involved in the processes of setting up a polling place. Councilor Carpenter concurs, ward clerk is elected by the people of their ward, so they are representing the interest of their ward, and hence why they should be consulted.

Discussion of Siting of Polling Places Charter Change v5 - 2022.08.26:

Councilor Bergman notes that the current language written in the draft charter change may suggest that polling places can be moved outside of a ward's proximity, which ward clerks/election officials do not want.

Suggested re-write: Stop first sentence after 'ward location of polling places', delete the content after, and add new sentence, 'polling places shall be in each ward unless it is impracticable, in which case the location shall be in as close a proximity as possible to the ward in each the voter resides to enable voters to cast votes at polling places..'

Councilor Carpenter raises concern over the use of the word 'impracticable'. Concurrence from the elected officials would be necessary before moving any polling place, especially outside of a ward's proximity. Councilor Traverse shares Councilor Carpenter's concerns regarding the standard of impracticableness, not sure if it is necessary to add into the charter.

Motion: Amend the charter language to adjust for the concerns raised around practicableness notion

Motion by Councilor Bergman, Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

Sarah Montgomery to look into the caveat of warning the siting of polling places 30 days prior to each election – this may affect the language of the charter change prior to going forward to Council.

Scheduling of future meetings:

Monday, October 3rd at 5:30PM (Ranked Choice Voting is sole agenda item)

5.0 Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn.





Charter Change Committee Meeting *Remote***, Tuesday,
September 13th, 2022, at 5:30 pm
9/13/2022**

Motion by Councilor Bergman, Seconded by Councilor Traverse

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.