BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL CHARTER CHANGE COMMITTEE 7/31/2019

Charter Change Committee

Minutes

July 31, 2019

Committee Members Present: Max Tracy, Committee Chair (MT); Franklin Paulino (FP); Joan Shannon (JS)

Staff: Eileen Blackwood, City Attorney (EB)

No other persons present.

Chair MT called meeting to order at 5:37 pm.

1.01 Agenda—FP moved to approve agenda as presented; JS seconded. Unanimous.

2.01 Minutes—FP moved to approve minutes of June 6, 2019 as presented; JS seconded. Unanimous.

3.01 Public Forum—No members of the public were present.

4.01 Rule Change—Committee discussed proposed additions to Council Rule Sec. 7.

Paragraph entitled "Conflict of Interest:" The Committee decided to add that consult with CA will be confidential, as with all other communications. Also, add "privacy" to the list of privileges. JS asked to add a statement that "understanding that at times because of these obligations, a councilor may be unable to reveal more than the existence of the obligation." The Committee agreed. There was also discussion of adding "personal" to the list of obligations, but it was decided that those obligations could be covered by the word "ethical."

The Committee was comfortable with the paragraph entitled "Recusal."

Paragraph entitled "Resolution of the Conflict:" The Committee would like to add the same language about inability to reveal more as noted above. JS suggested removing the sentence about resolving the appearance of a conflict, as it would create confusion. The Committee agreed. MT would like to repeat the concept from the first paragraph that if able to, a councilor should say why/explain how the conflict has been resolved. The Committee agreed. FP suggested that the next sentence add "close or long-standing" and "financial benefits". The Committee agreed.

EB will make revisions and circulate changes by email.

JS moved to recommend that the Council adopt the proposed changes to Council Rule 7. FP seconded. MT noted that the Committee should remain open to feedback from other councilors. Unanimous.

5.01 Other Business-- none

6.01 JS moved to adjourn and FP seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:19 pm.