



Charter Change Committee Meeting ***Remote***, Thursday, July 21st, 2022, 5:30 pm 7/21/2022

CHARTER CHANGE COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Via Zoom

FINAL MINUTES

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

Staff Present: Tim Devlin (Assistant City Attorney) Sara Montgomery (Associate City Clerk), Gillian Nanton (Assistant Director, Community & Economic Development Office (CEDO)).

Others in Attendance: Members of Public: Barbara Headrick

Meeting called to order at 5:34 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 6/30/2022

Motion to Adopt Minutes from 6/30/2022 without changes.

Motion by Councilor Traverse, Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous.

3.0 Public Forum

No comments during the open public forum.

4.01 Discussion of Legal Resident Voting



Charter Change Committee Meeting ***Remote***, Thursday, July 21st, 2022, 5:30 pm 7/21/2022

Councilor Bergman: Noting that the Committee had discuss on 6/30/22, but no action had been taken, suggested to bring Legal Resident Non-Citizen Voting to City Council to the Council's August meeting. Councilor Bergman to draft memo. City Attorney's Office to circulate request to put onto Council's agenda to City Council President and appropriate staff.

Discussion of Sarah M Email to Committee - 7.21.22

Councilor Carpenter: Can the City create a website for this item to collect materials on this initiative?

Assistant Director Nanton: CEDO has a webpage for this charter change item, which can post these items onto.

Councilor Traverse: Agreed.

Councilor Bergman: Agreed.

Councilor Carpenter: Can Charter Change Committee have its own page?

Councilor Bergman: Can ask staff to make happen.

Councilor Traverse: Would like to have webpages look something like the State Legislature's page.

Councilor Carpenter: Would want to post this committee's mission.

Motion: 1) to request CEDO staff to develop substantive page on legal resident non-citizen voting, and 2) to request necessary City staff to make a specific page for Charter Change Committee. à Yes, consensus by Committee.

Discussion of Sarah M Email to Committee - 7.21.22:

Associate City Clerk Montgomery: Recitation of questions and answers detailed in document.

Associate City Clerk Montgomery: Described costs of translation.

Assistant Director Nanton: CEDO is okay with keeping the number of languages translated to the typical 6 rather than 10.

Associate City Clerk Montgomery: Noted the administrative burden of additional checklists.

Councilor Bergman: Were ward clerks and inspectors ever contacted about this initiative?

Attorney Devlin: Yes, via email, perhaps in late May or June. The City Attorney's Office can resend the email to ward clerks, inspectors, and School Board Chair.

Councilor Bergman: Can we get confirmations that emails are received?



Charter Change Committee Meeting ***Remote***, Thursday, July 21st, 2022, 5:30 pm 7/21/2022

Discussion of Email from Winooski Mayor Lott - 2022.07.06:

Councilor Traverse: Does the City Attorney's Office have any comments on the legal aspects of Mayor Lott's communication regarding how Winooski operated?

Attorney's Devlin: City Attorney's Office to conduct any necessary legal research by the Week of the August 7th.

Assistant Director Nanton: Will explore other methods of community outreach used by Winooski.

Discussion of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Regarding Eligible Legal Resident Voting v4 - 7.21.22

Councilor Traverse: Is the FAQ too long?

Councilor Carpenter: Can we order the questions based on relevance to potential voters.

Attorney Devlin: Can send word version to Committee Members.

Attorney Devlin: Committee members can send edits directly to City Attorney's Office who will integrate edits into new version, and therefore avoid running afoul of Open Meetings Law.

Discussion of CEDO Outreach:

Assistant Director Nanton: The Trusted Community Voices group only meets infrequently. Group is more concerned with recent Gun Violence and Public Safety, and therefore would prefer to postpone discussion of this until their August 23 meeting.

Councilor Carpenter: Would still like to send out information on the Committee's voting initiative, notifying them that will meet at NPAs in September.

Councilor Bergman: Can whole committee attend a NPA meeting and present, but not say anything else or take any questions or comments?

Attorney Devlin: Advice against because physically presenting is seems like 'conducting business of the committee,' and therefore running afoul of the Open Meetings Law (also a concern about awkwardness of present Committee members having to refuse to take questions or comments from anyone in attendance). Although, the Committee could opt to have a joint committee meeting, if publically warned.

Councilor Bergman: Will plan on going as only manner and then later see if a joint committee meeting would be useful.



Charter Change Committee Meeting ***Remote***, Thursday, July 21st, 2022, 5:30 pm 7/21/2022

Councilor Bergman: Has drafted a public statement on this issue. Can CEDO send communications to New Americans?

Assistant Director Nanton: CEDO has various list serves that could send it to.

Councilor Bergman: What about NPAs?

Assistant Director Nanton: Have heard back from some wards: Ward 6 meets on 9/2, Ward 1 meets on 9/7, Wards 2 and 3 meet on 9/8, and Wards 4 and 7 meet on 9/21. Ward 8 still determining sept meeting. No word from Ward 5. CEDO can send a communication to the NPAs.

Councilor Carpenter: Will be unavailable in Sept.

Councilor Traverse: Can be available to 'cover.'

Assistant Director Nanton: CEDO can plan public meets to discuss this at public meetings. Have budgeted for 2 public meetings with food and interpreters.

Councilor Bergman: How long would an outreach strategy take?

Assistant Director Nanton: A few weeks.

Assistant Director Nanton: Formatting a budget of \$18,000, including lawn signs. Question to Attorney Devlin: is this okay?

Attorney Devlin: CEDO should check with CAO as to appropriateness of funding and budgeting by item. City Attorney's Office can work with CEDO to ensure language is appropriately neutral and not advocating on issues.

Councilor Carpenter: Perhaps CEDO could find volunteers?

Councilor Traverse: Councilors can engage communities beyond the NPAs.

Assistant Director Nanton: Have also budgeted for videos in different languages.

4.02 Discussion of Polling Places

Discussion of "Sarah M Email to Committee - 7.21.22:

Associate City Clerk Montgomery: Recitation of questions and answers detailed in document.

Councilor Traverse: While there could be hypothetical factual circumstances that could lead to concern, still supports giving the City more flexibility being able to determine where polling places are to be located.

Councilor Carpenter: Who decides where polling places are located?





Charter Change Committee Meeting ***Remote***, Thursday, July 21st, 2022, 5:30 pm 7/21/2022

Attorney Devlin: Can add language to Charter Change Language making explicitly give City Council the duty to designate location.

Associate City Clerk Montgomery: City could send a communication to Ward clerks and inspectors asking for their opinion.

Councilor Carpenter: Can draft this communication and send to City Attorney's Office and Sarah Montgomery

Discussion of 7/7/2022 Communication from Sarah Montgomery.

Associate City Clerk Montgomery: Recitation of questions and answers detailed in document.

Councilor Bergman: Can SM create a 'pros and cons' list?

Associate City Clerk Montgomery: Yes.

Councilor Carpenter: How many people have been using drop boxes?

Associate City Clerk Montgomery: About 10 per day, but expect this to pick up closer to election as mailing the ballot becomes less feasible.

4.03 Discussion of Redistricting: Council-Voter Option

Discussion of Draft Language, Redistricting Charter Change v2 - 2022.06.30:

Councilor Traverse: Has concerns about possible confusion around the term "U.S. Census Data" and whether this would give the perception that redistricting would be limited to the release of "The Census" every 10 years.

Motion: To change language to provide clarity that not just based on data published every 10 years:

The City Council may make changes from time to time to the boundaries of the election areas in order to provide an equal division of population among them in accordance with **data produced by the U.S. Census Bureau.**

Passed, Consensus by Committee.

Attorney Devlin: To send updated language to Committee.



Charter Change Committee Meeting ***Remote***, Thursday, July 21st, 2022, 5:30 pm 7/21/2022

Councilor Bergman: Can the City have two items on the same ballot? Perhaps one item being a metes-and-bounds redistricting language being advisory?

Councilor Bergman: Can these be combined, so that there is both the repeal of leg and a new maps?

Attorney Devlin: The City Attorney's Office can do legal research and reach out to Legislative Counsel for feedback.

Attorney Devlin: To send out communication to staff on meeting reminding what items are to be handled and by whom.

Scheduling of next meeting:

Wednesday, August 10th 5:30PM

5.0 Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Carpenter, Seconded by Councilor Traverse

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Yes: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 PM.

