



BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL CHARTER CHANGE COMMITTEE

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Charter Change Committee Minutes of May 20, 2020

Present: Joan Shannon (JSh), Chair; Perri Freeman (PF), Jane Stromberg (JSt)

Staff present: Eileen Blackwood (EB), City Attorney

Other attendees: None

Chair JSh called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

1.01 Agenda. PF moved to adopt the agenda with the following changes: to add as 4.01 Update and review issues before the committee and to change the existing 4.01 to 4.02 and existing 4.02 to 4.03. Seconded by JSt.

The motion carried unanimously, and the agenda as amended was adopted.

2.01 Minutes. PF moved to approve the minutes of Dec. 9, 2019, with one change: to delete the words "to adjourn" after "on the question." JSh seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously, and the amended minutes of Dec. 9 were adopted.

3.01 Public Forum. There were no speakers at public forum.

4.01 Update and review issues before the committee. The committee first discussed whether the resolution on non-citizen voting had been referred back to the committee. EB will check the resolution and send it to the committee. The resolution on rank-choice voting referred the issue to the next charter change committee meeting, and therefore is on the committee's list for this year. There were no other issues held over from last year.

4.02 Identifying matters for committee work for FY21. JSh brought up that she would like the committee to review the council rules, particularly how members treat each other and staff. JSt asked if the goal was for new councilors to understand how to do that? JSh responded that the goal was to see if the rules reflect what we do and how we want to do this. She explained that the committee had reviewed the rules in the past, but she thought there was further work to be done on the subject and had some information from other communities about it. JSt noted that non-citizen voting and rank-choice voting should take precedence over new issues for the committee's time. PF said that she intends to raise aspects of the charter that affect tenants and employer-employee relationship, specifically in sections 48 and 157 of the charter. She will raise these via resolutions to the council. She also supported discussing rank-choice or instant-runoff voting and non-citizen voting. JSt said that the issues raised by PF also were her priorities, along with environmental justice and renewable energy. EB noted that the administration had not identified any charter changes it intended to



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present.

JSh requested that EB provide the committee a schedule showing the timeline for charter change questions to be placed on the Town Meeting Day agenda. PF also requested the timeline for charter change questions to be placed on a Nov. special election.

4.03 Schedule for Meetings. PF moved that the committee set a regular schedule to meet every three calendar weeks at a date and time based on the availability of committee members. JSt seconded. PF said a meeting could then be canceled if it was not needed. JSh disagreed that such a schedule was needed. The motion carried 2 (PF, JSt) - 1 (JSh), and the Committee adopted a schedule of meeting every three weeks. After some discussion, the Committee scheduled its next meeting for June 17 and the next two meetings for July 8 and July 29. All three meetings were scheduled to begin at 5 pm.

5.01 Other business. There was no other business.

6.01 Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned unanimously at 5:54 pm.