



Special Board of Civil Authority Meeting, Friday, January 28, 2022, 12:00 pm ****Remotely via ZOOM**** 1/28/2022

BURLINGTON BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY

SPECIAL MEETING

REMOTE MEETING WITH CALL-IN

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 28, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Paul

Max Tracy

Chip Mason

Jack Hanson

Jane Stromberg

Sarah E Carpenter

Zoraya Hightower

Mark Barlow

Joe Magee

OTHERS PRESENT: Dan Richardson

Katherine Schad

1. CALL TO ORDER and AGENDA

City Council President Tracy called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.



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1.01 Motion to amend/adopt agenda

MOTION by Councilor Stromberg, SECOND by Councilor Paul, to adopt the agenda.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries (Councilor Mason not present for vote).

2. PUBLIC FORUM

2.01 Verbal Comments

Robert Bristow-Johnson noted that he has submitted comment about House redistricting for consideration by the City Council. He noted that he is also submitting a map for consideration that consists of five two-member districts.

3. DISCUSSION REGARDING MODIFICATION OR REMOVAL OF REQUIREMENT THAT BALLOTS BEAR THE HOME ADDRESS FOR CANDIDATES UNDER 17 V.S.A. § 2681A(B)(2) AND CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST BY INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATE TO EXEMPT HER SPOT ON THE MARCH 1, 2022 TOWN MEETING BALLOT OF THIS REQUIREMENT

3.01 Discussion regarding modification or removal of requirement that ballots bear the home address for candidates under 17 V.S.A. § 2681a(b)(2) and consideration of request by individual candidate to exempt her spot on the March 1, 2022 Town Meeting ballot of this requirement.

City Attorney Richardson said that Burlington currently requires the home address of candidates to be printed on the ballot below their name and has required it since 1981. He said that there is a candidate this year that has requested not to have their address printed beneath their name out of legitimate safety concerns. He said that when the City Attorney's Office examined the issue, Vermont Statute allows the Board of Civil Authority to change this. He laid out three options for consideration: 1) have addresses included (status quo), 2) have town of residence listed, or 3) have no information listed under candidates' names on ballots. He noted that Burlington seems like an outlier in its requirement to list candidates' home addresses on ballots. He said that candidates must still submit their home address when they petition to be on the ballot, and the City will also check to see whether the candidate is registered to vote. He said that the Board of Civil Authority could approach this on an ad hoc basis (removing addresses when requested), refuse the request, or remove the address requirement from the ballot (except for town of residence) altogether.

MOTION by Councilor Hightower, SECOND by Councilor Stromberg, to end the address requirement as permitted by Section 2681a(b)(2) and eliminate any such requirement.

DISCUSSION:

- **Councilor Hanson said that it would be important to note town of residence, since it could be important information to voters for statewide races.**



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MOTION TO AMEND by Councilor Hanson, **SECOND** by Councilor Hightower, to insert a town of residence requirement.

VOTING (ON AMENDMENT): unanimous; motion carries.

VOTING (ON MOTION AS AMENDED): unanimous; motion carries.

3.02 Consideration of removal of elected Officers' home addresses from City website

MOTION by Councilor Hightower, **SECOND** by Councilor Magee, to direct the City Clerk and/or the CAO staff to remove the home addresses of elected officers keeping e-mail addresses and/or telephone numbers.

DISCUSSION:

- Councilor Paul said that it is unfortunate that this measure needs to be taken, but said that it could encourage residents to run for office if they had had safety concerns.
- Councilor Barlow said that though home addresses are being removed from the website, technology has made it possible to obtain this information relatively easily. He expressed disappointment that public discourse has deteriorated in such a way that this action is necessary. He noted that he often receives postal mail from constituents and asked how that could still occur. City Attorney Richardson said that postal mail for City Councilors could be mailed to the Town Office and be set aside and forwarded to Councilors. Chief Administration Officer Schad confirmed that this could be implemented for mail received for Councilors.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.01 New Business

No discussion at this time.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

5.01 Motion to Adjourn



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MOTION by Councilor Stromberg, SECOND by Councilor Hightower, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

The meeting was adjourned without objection at 12:30 PM.