



Regular City Council Meeting - Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 5:30 pm, Contois Auditorium OR REMOTELY via ZOOMMembers of the public are strongly encouraged to join remotely**
1/18/2022**

BURLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

FIRST PUBLIC HEARING: CHARTER CHANGES FOR MARCH 1, 2022 ANNUAL CITY ELECTION

CONTOIS AUDITORIUM, 2ND FLOOR, CITY HALL OR REMOTELY VIA ZOOM

BURLINGTON, VERMONT

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 18, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Paul

Chip Mason

Max Tracy

Joan Shannon

Ali Dieng

Perri Freeman

Jack Hanson

Zoraya Hightower

Jane Stromberg

Sarah E Carpenter

Mark Barlow

Joe Magee

OTHERS PRESENT: Miro Weinberger

Katherine Schad

Dan Richardson

Jordan Redell

Sarah Montgomery



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1. CALL TO ORDER and AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by City Council President Tracy at 5:30 PM.

1.01 Motion to amend/adopt agenda

MOTION by Councilor Hanson, SECOND by Councilor Freeman, to adopt the agenda.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

2. FIRST PUBLIC HEARING RE: CHARTER CHANGE FOR MARCH 1, 2022 ANNUAL CITY ELECTION

2.01 First Public Hearing re: Charter Change for March 1, 2022 Annual City Election

City Attorney Richardson provided a brief explanation of the charter change that is being put on the ballot. He said that the charter change effectively repeals the City Charter authority of the City Council to regulate what it deems as prostitution or sex work. He said that it would deauthorize the City from passing ordinances related to this area.

City Council President Tracy opened the public hearing.

Henry June spoke on behalf of Ishtar Collective, an organization that works on behalf of sex worker rights. They spoke in support of repealing the dehumanizing language within the City Charter related to sex work and sex workers.

David Mickenberg spoke in support of the charter change to remove sex work language from the City Charter. He said that this is a step in the right direction of harm reduction, dignity, and human rights related to sex work. He said that while it does not legalize sex work, it sends the message that the City will not support harmful, outdated, discriminatory concepts.

Maggie Kerrin spoke against the removal of City Charter language related to sex work, saying that deregulation makes sex work more dangerous, not less dangerous. She said that prostitution ordinances serve to ensure that the City can regulate where prostitution can be practiced, such as away from schools.

Alisa Bernard spoke on behalf of Thistle Farms, a direct service organization that supports sex workers and trafficking survivors, saying that the language in the City Charter should not be repealed without being replaced by better language. She said that sex working should be decriminalized, but that those who are causing harm should be held accountable.



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City Council President Tracy closed the public hearing.

3. ADJOURNMENT

3.01 Motion to Adjourn

MOTION by Councilor Mason, SECOND by Councilor Freeman, to adjourn.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

The City Council adjourned at 5:50 PM.

RScty: AACoonrad