

Detail Information  
Proposed  
Amendments to the City Charter  
March 6, 2012

**ARTICLE 10. Shall the city amend Title XII – Section 2 of the city charter to allow for the assessment of a 1% local sales tax as per amendment language filed with the City Clerk on January 4, 2012? 20% of revenues received will be dedicated for business development and/or business promotion. 80% of all revenues received will be dedicated to offset property tax revenue. (Requested by the City Council)**

**Detail of proposed charter change:**

**Section 1211 shall be added to the City Charter (new material underlined) to read as follows:**

**Section 1211. Local Option Sales Tax.**

- (a) Local option taxes are authorized under this section for the purpose of affording the City an alternative method of raising municipal revenues. Accordingly:
- (b) The City Council will assess a sales tax of one percent upon each sale or transaction occurring within the City which is subject to Vermont sales tax. Of revenues received from the sales tax imposed and collected under this section, twenty percent (20%) thereof will be dedicated for business development and/or business promotion.
- (c) Any tax imposed under the authority of this section shall be collected and administered by the Vermont department of taxes, in accordance with state law governing such state tax or taxes; provided however, that a sales tax imposed under this section shall be collected on each sale that is subject to the Vermont sales tax using a destination basis for taxation.
- (d) Of the sales taxes reported under this section, seventy percent (70%) shall be paid to the City of Montpelier. Such revenues may be expended by the City of Montpelier only for municipal services, and not for educational purposes. The remaining amount of the taxes reported shall be remitted monthly to the state treasurer for deposit in the PILOT special fund established in Sec. 89 of No. 60 of the Acts of 1997. Taxes due to the City of Montpelier under this section shall be paid by the State on a quarterly basis.

**ARTICLE 11. Shall the city amend Title XII – Section 2 of the city charter to allow for the assessment of 1% local rooms, meals and alcohol taxes as per amendment language filed with the City Clerk on January 4, 2012? 100% of revenues received will be dedicated for infrastructure improvements and maintenance. (Requested by the City Council)**

**Detail of proposed charter change:**

**Section 1212 shall be added to the City Charter (new material underlined) to read as follows:**

**Section 1212. Local Room, Meals and Alcohol Taxes.**

- (a) Local option taxes are authorized under this section for the purpose of affording the City an alternative method of raising municipal revenues. Accordingly:
- (b) The City Council will assess rooms, meals and alcohol taxes of one percent, upon each transaction occurring within the City which is subject to Vermont room, meals and alcohol taxes. Of revenues received from the rooms, meals and alcohol taxes imposed and collected under this section, one hundred percent (100%) will be dedicated for infrastructure improvements and maintenance.
- (c) Any tax imposed under the authority of this section shall be collected and administered by the Vermont department of taxes, in accordance with state law governing such state tax or taxes.
- (d) Of the taxes reported under this section, seventy percent (70%) shall be paid to the City of Montpelier. Such revenues may be expended by the City of Montpelier only for municipal services only and not for educational purposes. The remaining amount of the taxes reported shall be remitted monthly to the state treasurer for deposit in the PILOT special fund established in Sec. 89 of No. 60 of the Acts of 1997. Taxes due to the City of Montpelier under this section shall be paid by the State on a quarterly basis.

**ARTICLE 12. Shall the city amend Title V – Sections 1 and 3 and adding a new section 14 of the city charter (and renumber remaining sections accordingly) to change the signature requirement for legally binding petitions from 5% of registered voters to 10% of registered voters as per amendment language filed with the City Clerk on January 4, 2012? (Requested by the City Council)**

**Detail of proposed charter change:**

**Section 501 of the City Charter shall be amended as follows (new material underlined):**

**Section 501. City Meetings.**

- (a) On the first Tuesday of March in each year, a meeting of legal voters of said city shall be held as designated on the warning for such meeting, at a place or places to be appointed by the city council of said city, and a warning shall be posted in at least three public places within the limits of said city, and at least twelve days previous thereto, which warning shall be signed by the city clerk, or, in case of the city clerk's failure, by the mayor, provided that, if the annual meeting shall fail to be held for want of warning before mentioned, or for any other cause, the city shall not be thereby prejudiced, and the several officers hereinafter mentioned may, at any time thereafter, be elected at a special meeting, called for that purpose, as hereinafter provided; and provided, further, that any business required by this charter or the general law to be transacted at the annual city meeting may be transacted at such special meeting.
- (b) The warning for annual and special city meetings shall, by separate articles, specifically indicate the business to be transacted, to include the offices and the questions to be voted upon. The warning also shall contain any legally binding article or articles requested by ten percent (10%) of the registered voters of the city or any non legally binding article or articles requested by five percent (5%) of the registered voters of the city and filed with the city clerk not less than 40 days before the day of the meeting.
- (c) A vote taken at an annual or special meeting shall remain in effect unless rescinded or amended.

**Section 503 of the City Charter shall be amended as follows (deleted material in [brackets]; new material underlined):**

**Section 503. Special city meeting.**

The city clerk when directed by the city council, or [when requested in writing] upon written application by [five] ten percent (10%) of the legal voters of said city to do so, shall call a special meeting of the voters of the city in the same manner as is provided for the calling of the annual meeting; in case of the failure of the city clerk to call such special meeting as aforesaid, that duty shall be performed by the mayor, except that special meetings to authorize public improvements and the incurring of debt to pay for the same shall be warned as hereinafter provided in Subchapter 11. The city council shall call such special meeting within 60 days of the application is received by the city clerk. The city council may rescind the call of a special meeting initiated by it, but not a special meeting called on application of ten percent of the registered voters.

**Section 514 shall be added to the City Charter (new material underlined) to read as follows:**

**Section 514. Reconsideration and Rescission.**

- (a) Action taken on a warned article at an annual or special meeting may be submitted to the voters at a subsequent annual or special meeting on motion of the city council or pursuant to a petition requesting reconsideration or rescission signed by not less than ten percent (10%) of the registered voters and filed with the city clerk within **30** days following the date of the annual or special meeting at which such action was taken.
- (b) A majority vote in favor of reconsideration or rescission shall not be effective unless the number of votes in favor of reconsideration or rescission exceeds two-thirds of the number of votes cast for the prevailing side at the original meeting.