



CITY COUNCIL Agenda Item #19-029

Date: January 24, 2019

Consent Discussion

SUBJECT: First Public Hearing to consider proposed amendments to the City's Charter

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: City Clerk

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Conduct a public hearing on the proposed amendment to the City's Charter. Hold 2nd public hearing on February 27, 2019.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME: Environmental Stewardship; Sustainable Infrastructure

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS: 17 V.S.A. § 2645 (a) A municipality may propose to the General Assembly to adopt, repeal, or amend its charter by majority vote of the legal voters of the municipality present and voting at any annual or special meeting warned for that purpose in accordance with the following procedure:

(1) A proposal to adopt, repeal, or amend a municipal charter (charter proposal) may be made by the legislative body of the municipality or by petition of five percent of the voters of the municipality.

(2) An official copy of the charter proposal shall be filed as a public record in the office of the clerk of the municipality at least 10 days before the first public hearing. The clerk shall certify the date on which he or she received the official copy, and the dated copies thereof shall be made available to members of the public upon request.

(3)(A) The legislative body of the municipality shall hold at least two public hearings prior to the meeting to vote on the charter proposal.

(B) The first public hearing shall be held in accordance with subdivision (a)(2) of this section and at least 30 days before the vote.

(4)(A) If the charter proposal is made by the legislative body, the legislative body may revise the proposal as a result of suggestions and recommendations made at a public hearing, but in no event shall such revisions be made less than 20 days before the date of the meeting to vote on the charter proposal.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The council recently considered draft charter language for authority to regulate energy efficiency in buildings. The Mayor was asked to develop simpler wording. The Charter amendment being proposed adds to section 301:

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: Proposed Charter Amendment

INTERESTED PARTIES: City Council, Voters, City Staff

CITY MANAGER'S APPROVAL:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Hoffman", is written over a horizontal line.

Subchapter 3. City Council
§ 301. POWERS AND DUTIES OF CITY COUNCIL

(D) Enact ordinances enforcing minimum efficiency standards and disclosure requirements for existing and new commercial and residential properties that are generally consistent with State, Federal, and other energy efficiency standards and reporting systems.