



**City of Winooski**  
Vermont's Opportunity City

27 West Allen Street  
Winooski, Vermont 05404  
802 655 6410  
**winooski.vt.gov**

**Charter Commission Agenda**

Wednesday, July 15, 2020, 5:30 PM

- Please read our updated [Remote Meeting Procedures](#) if you plan to participate.
- To sign up for public comment, fill out our [Public Comment Request Form](#) or call 802 655 6410 to schedule.
- Attend online: <https://zoom.us/j/92625067733>
- Attend by phone: 1 646 558 8656
- Meeting ID: 926 2506 7733
- Password: 250298
- Need help installing and using Zoom? [View their online resources](#).

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Public Comment**

**III. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes**

[https://www.winooski.vt.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Minutes/\\_07072020-672](https://www.winooski.vt.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Minutes/_07072020-672)

**IV. Outreach Activity on All Resident Voting**

**V. Other Charter Change Proposals**

Documents:

[Other Charter Changes For Commission v3.pdf](#)

**VI. Adjourn**

## Winooski City Charter

### Possible Revisions

Last Updated: 11/27/19, 6/10/20, 6/29/20, and 7/9/20

Index	Proposed by	Content	For Commission Discussion (Jessie writing)
1	City Council	Allow all residents 18 and older to vote in municipal (city and school) related elections	
2	City Council	Protect our voter checklist from inspection	Commission decided against
3	City Council	Eliminate the term "citizen" from our Charter to more accurately reflect our value of inclusion and access	
4	City Council	Alignment to the School Charter	
5	Staff	Reconsideration of the limit on people signing petitions. (19-205, pg 1-2 of charter, <a href="#">link</a> )	State law has changed now allowing for this. We now need to align the Charter to State Statute.
6	Staff	Update of the language on the Fire Department to remove reference to "volunteer". (19-305, pg 3 of charter, <a href="#">link</a> )	All are compensated if/when they work. I'd also consider them the same as all other employees and therefore recommend removal of this particular language.
7	Staff	Manager should have the ability to appoint or delegate power a Personnel Director (much like is done for an Emergency Management Director.) Of course, all other authority remaining with the manager (ie hiring and firing ultimately.)	
8	Staff	Commercial Assessment language cleanup	§ 19-717. shall be classified as nonresidential property and shall be assessed at 120 percent of fair market value assessed value
9	Staff	Review requirement to step down from the Council to run for Mayor (19-206, pg 2, <a href="#">link</a> )	During the last election cycle, this created a leadership challenge. Given the community's experience you may want to change this.
10	Staff	Oath of Office (19-903, pg 13, <a href="#">link</a> )	Is it necessary to use "so help me God" here? Could it just be "so I solemnly affirm"?
11	Staff	Self-Governance Language from VLCT (related to 19-907, pg 13, <a href="#">link</a> )	Access by local vote to any charter provision the Legislature has already approved. Other communities are considering this. It would be a step toward local control.
12	Staff	Have fees set by Resolution of the Council. (19-401, pg 4, <a href="#">link</a> )	This would ease the process for budget related and program related fee changes. As Gerry has noted, it could also remove some public process. Current fees in <a href="#">Winooski Municipal Code</a> can be found <a href="#">here</a>

#### Key

- Administrative - propose clean-up language
- Commission Work on All-Resident Voting
- Debate at a future Commission meeting

#9: Review requirement to step down from the Council to run for Mayor

Solution	Pros	Cons
Councilor doesn't have to resign to run for mayor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No vacancy on the council leading up to race</li> <li>If Councilor loses, still have full council.</li> <li>Lowers disincentive to run by Councilor in-term</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If Councilor wins Mayoral race, there is a vacancy that has to be filled by appointment or a special election (Council can appoint).</li> <li>Councilor appointed or elected by special election misses the first weeks/months of learning.</li> <li>If Councilor loses, it may be challenging to serve together</li> <li>If Council opts for a special election, that incurs costs and may cause confusion for voters</li> </ul>
Councilor "future-resigns" on Town Meeting Day regardless of whether they win OR Their term is legally converted to end at one year, on Town Meeting Day.	No matter what, councilor's seat is known to be vacant, someone else can run for it, no gap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a disincentive to run for mayor because of risk of losing seat.</li> <li>Checking ability to enforce.</li> </ul>
Leave as it is - councilor has to resign OR Can change the number of days of vacancy that compels an appointment to align to the date at which one must resign to run on TMD.	Creates certainty about what seats are open for Town Meeting Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disincentive for councilor to run for seat, waiting for time to be right.</li> <li>Creates vacancy on council that has to be filled during budget season.</li> <li>Potential for 2 Councilors campaigning against each other, and one remaining on Council and the other not, there is some uneven advantage.</li> </ul>

#12 Fees established by resolution or ordinance. Here are the differences between the two processes.

Resolution	Ordinance
Minimum of 1 Council meeting	Minimum of 2 Council meetings (including an official 'public hearing')
Not warned in the physical newspaper	Warned in the physical newspaper
In effect immediately upon an affirmative vote – or at a date indicated in the resolution	In effect 30 days after an affirmative vote