



**CITY OF ESSEX JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

Online & 2 Lincoln St.
Essex Junction, VT 05452
Monday, March 13, 2023
6:30 PM

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This meeting will be in-person at 2 Lincoln Street and available remotely. Options to watch or join the meeting remotely:

- **JOIN ONLINE:** [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
- **JOIN CALLING:** (toll free audio only): (888) 788-0099 | Meeting ID: 944 6429 7825; Passcode: 635787

1. **CALL TO ORDER** [6:30 PM]
2. **AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES**
3. **APPROVE AGENDA**
4. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**
 - a. Comments from Public on Items Not on Agenda
5. **PUBLIC HEARING**
 - a. Second Public Hearing on the Proposed Charter Changes
6. **BUSINESS ITEMS** - none
7. **CONSENT ITEMS** - none
8. **READING FILE** - none
9. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - none
10. **ADJOURN**

Members of the public are encouraged to speak during the Public to Be Heard agenda item, during a Public Hearing, or, when recognized by the President, during consideration of a specific agenda item. The public will not be permitted to participate when a motion is being discussed except when specifically requested by the President. This agenda is available in alternative formats upon request. Meetings of the City Council, like all programs and activities of the City of Essex Junction, are accessible to people with disabilities. For information on accessibility or this agenda, call the City Manager's office at 802-878-6944 TTY: 7-1-1 or (800) 253-0191.

CITY OF ESSEX JUNCTION
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023

COUNCILORS PRESENT: Raj Chawla, Vice-President; Dan Kerin; Amber Thibeault

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Regina Mahoney, City Manager

OTHERS PRESENT: Sean Folley, Essex ReTorter, RSM, Irene Wrenner

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Chawla called the meeting of the City Council to order at 6:30 PM.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS/ CHANGES

None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

No changes, thus no approval required.

4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

None.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

a. Public Hearing on the Proposed Charter Changes

Mr. Chawla opened the Public Hearing.

Ms. Mahoney presented the proposed Charter changes.

These include the following: to allow a City Councilor to hold City employment under state statute, to allow former City Councilors to hold City employment immediately after leaving the City Council, to allow the City Council to appoint the Moderator and set the date of the City Informational Meeting.

Mr. Folley said he wanted to express that he is adamantly against all these changes. He feels that the community should select the date of their informational meeting and who their Moderator is. Anytime votes are being taken away from the residents is a step in the wrong direction. He said that the Council should protect the democratic nature of the process and look at it through this lens rather than the lens of efficiency. He said that he is also unsure why the conflict of interest prohibitions are being removed and said that it could cause Council members to make decisions that directly benefit themselves.

Mr. Chawla said that the Council has seen examples of when setting the meeting date a year in advance is not optimal for public engagement, noting efforts to pair municipal and school voting. He said that, with voting via Australian ballot, no budgetary changes could be made at the Annual Meeting. He also spoke of the changing role of the Moderator and an individual's potential reluctance to take on an undefined position. Mr. Folley suggested that the role be better defined to eliminate this problem. Mr. Chawla closed the public hearing.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

None.

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7. CONSENT ITEMS

None.

8. READING FILE

None.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

10. ADJOURN

DAN KERIN made a motion, seconded by AMBER THIBEAULT, to adjourn. Motion passed 3-0 at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Darby Mayville
Recording Secretary