



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved COMMON COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 2, 2008

4:30 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 103A (City-County Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 4 -

Tim Bruer; Mark Clear; Brenda K. Konkel and Michael Schumacher

Excused: 4 -

Satya V. Rhodes Conway; Robbie Webber; Judy Compton and Michael E. Verveer

Others Present: Janet Piraino (Mayor's Chief of Staff), Michael May (City Attorney), Dean Brassler (City Comptroller), Eric Knepp (Budget Analyst), Al Schumacher (Streets Superintendent), Ray Harmon (Mayoral Assistant), Kristin Czubkowski (TCT), Brian Rodriguez (Channel 27), Tammy Peters (City Clerk's Office) and Rosemary Lee

Ald. Tim Bruer called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ald. Mark Clear, seconded by Ald. Michael Schumacher, to approve the minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

REFERRALS FROM COMMON COUNCIL

[08820](#)

SUBSTITUTE - Creating new Section 12.1335(4)(d), renumbering current Section 12.1335(4)(d) to Section 12.1335(4)(e), creating Section 12.1335(6), amending Section 12.1339, amending Section 12.141(2), creating new Section 12.141(3), renumbering current Sections 12.141(3)-(9) to Sections 12.141(4)-(10), and amending Section 1.08(3)(a) of the Madison General Ordinances to further deter snow parking violations and more efficiently allow for cleaning of the streets.

Sponsors: David J. Cieslewicz, Marsha A. Rummel and Satya V. Rhodes Conway

Attachments: [Proposed Sec. 12.1335.doc](#)
[4312prkg.pdf](#)

Ald. Michael Schumacher moved to adopt. There was no second.

A substitute motion was made by Ald. Mark Clear, seconded by Ald. Michael Schumacher, to rerefer to the COMMON COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE, due back on 10/7/2008. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

[11402](#)

Repealing and recreating Chapter 36 of the Madison General Ordinances to update the City's ordinances pertaining to cable television franchises and video service providers.

Sponsors: Judy Compton

Ald. Brenda Konkel had questions on whether the city's ordinance would be superseded by state law. Michael May, City Attorney, was able to clarify that the city ordinance would not be superseded by current state law. If state law changed the city would need to review the ordinance.

A motion was made by Ald. Mark Clear, seconded by Ald. Brenda Konkel, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

[11466](#)

Amending Section 2.04(4) and Section 2.29(6) of the Madison General Ordinances to allow the continuation of the Early Public Comment period at each Council meeting, and to make consistent the timing of the Early Public Comment period.

Sponsors: Brenda K. Konkel and Satya V. Rhodes Conway

Ald. Brenda Konkel noted that there appeared to be no abuses with the public commenting early during the Council meeting.

A motion was made by Ald. Mark Clear, seconded by Ald. Brenda Konkel, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway arrived at 4:50 p.m.

Present: 5 -

Tim Bruer; Mark Clear; Brenda K. Konkell; Satya V. Rhodes Conway and Michael Schumacher

Excused: 3 -

Robbie Webber; Judy Compton and Michael E. Verveer

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

11813

2009 Common Council Office Operating Budget - Ald. Tim Bruer, Common Council President

Attachments:

[Registration Statement: R. Lee 9/10/08](#)
[Ald. B. Konkell Handout 9/10/08](#)
[Memo re: 2009 Common Council Office Budget](#)
[Registration Statement: R. Lee 9/2/08](#)
[R. Lee Handout dated 9/2/08](#)
[2009 Council Office Budget submitted 8/8/08](#)
[5% Reduction Option 1A](#)
[5% Reduction Option 1B](#)
[2005 Council Account Status Report](#)
[2006 Council Account Status Report](#)
[2007 Council Account Status Report](#)
[2008 Council Account Status Report date 9/5/08](#)
[CCOC Requested 2009 Budget Info](#)
[2004 thru 2007 Alder Expense Account Summary](#)
[2004 thru 2007 Bulk Mail Expenses](#)

Registration:

Rosemary Lee, 111 W. Wilson Street, Madison WI 53703
Opposed/Spoke

Rosemary Lee spoke against the option to reduce the Secretary 1 position in the Council office to 70%. She distributed a handout based upon information she received from the city's Central Payroll unit (Pat Skaleski). She spoke in favor of retaining the position at 100%.

Ald. Tim Bruer noted that this was leanest budget he had ever seen during his tenure on the Common Council. He recalled a previous budget proposal that had been drafted to reduce a similar position in the Council Office (Clerk/Typist position) to 50% in the Common Council Office.

Eric Knepp, Comptroller's Office, Budget Analyst, reviewed the contents of the budget memo sent by Lisa Veldran, Administrative Assistant to Ald. Tim Bruer, Common Council President and Ald. Mark Clear, Common Council President Pro Tem. He explained that every department was presented with an adjusted base budget. The Common Council Office was given an adjusted base budget of \$343,887. Cuts were submitted to reach that base budget in overtime, the telephone account and postage. The Mayor also requested that departments

present a 5% contingency cut plan. Two options for a 5% contingency cut plan were submitted to reach a total cut of \$17,194. Given the limited resources in the Common Council Office two options were presented. One option was to reduce the secondary staff position (Secretary 1) to 70% and the other option was to provide no funding for the alder expense accounts, reduce reproduction/fast copy, reduce postage and reduce office supplies. Ald. Tim Bruer noted that any cuts to the Common Council office budget are undesirable.

Ald. Brenda Konkel requested a complete copy of the Common Council Office submitted budget to the Mayor for 2009. Eric Knepp had a copy if anyone was interested and he noted that it was contained on the CD that was in the Common Council office. She was also concerned that the option to reduce the Secretary 1 position had not been communicated to the person currently in that position and she wished to discuss the personnel problems in the Common Council Office. Ald. Tim Bruer acknowledged that Council Leadership (Ald. Tim Bruer and Ald. Mark Clear) would be meeting with the Human Resource Director to discuss HR issues in the Common Council Office. Ald. Brenda Konkel asked when the rest of the Common Council would receive any information on this issue. Ald. Tim Bruer will be meeting with the City Attorney to discuss to what extent the Common Council could get involved in personnel (HR) issues. Ald. Brenda Konkel questioned what was before the CCOC. Ald. Tim Bruer indicated that it was to provide 2009 budget information to the CCOC on what had been submitted to the Mayor on August 7, 2008.

Ald. Michael Schumacher indicated that he was concerned with the handling of internal personnel issues. He wanted to know if the staff person affected by the one option had been notified. Ald. Schumacher asked the City Attorney who the supervisors were in the Common Council Office, who makes personnel decisions and budget decisions. City Attorney Michael May indicated that the Common Council President supervises the Administrative Assistant and the Administrative Assistant supervises the Secretary 1. Ald. Michael Schumacher asked if the Common Council President could unilaterally decide to hire and fire Council staff. Attorney May indicated that the Council staff positions were civil service employees and could not be unilaterally hired and fired, but the Council President could initiate action. Council makes its own budget decisions. Ald. Michael Schumacher wanted to know the Council office budget process and how this process unfolded. Ald. Brenda Konkel noted that normally CCOC reviews and votes on the Council Office budget before it goes to the Mayor. Ald. Tim Bruer indicated that a variety of processes have been used. Ald. Bruer noted that the process had a relatively short window of time before it was to be submitted to the Mayor.

The budget and the 5% contingency cut plans have been submitted to the Mayor. Ald. Bruer and Ald. Clear requested CCOC members to provide Council Leadership with any additional feedback.

Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway asked to see more detail, particularly the bulk mail postage accounts (average usage), wanted to know if all alders ask developers to pay for mailings and that this should be made a standard practice. She disagreed with the assumption that making the Secretary 1 position to 70% would not have an impact. Ald. Brenda Konkel noted that the office had an intern this summer and that the Council has looked at adding more staff. Ald.

Micahel Schumacher didn't know enough about workload to know if the reducing the position to 70% made sense or not.

Ald. Mark Clear asked Eric Knepp how other departments handled the 5% contingency cut plan. Eric made reference to the Information Technology department. Dick Grasmick was up in the air about his options and cutting staff was one option. He met with staff to let them know about the reduction. Eric also noted that a previous meeting with Council Leadership had been canceled to discuss the Council Office budget. Eric also mentioned the \$11,500 transfer of money from Information Technology for alder internet connections. The Council Office budget was held harmless for that transfer in the 2009 budget.

Ald. Tim Bruer indicated that cutting office capacity would not be on the table during Council Leadership discussions with the Mayor. The 5% contingency cut plans are placeholders and will be used for discussion on the Common Council Office budget.

Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway requested more detail on:
*Subscriptions - what is paid out of this account
*Office Supplies - what would that mean

She also wanted to have more discussion on priorities.

Eric Knepp mentioned that alder raises are incorporated into the budget (by ordinance). The new Council would have to repeal the wage increase ordinance in April 2009. He did note that alders could refuse their salaries.

Ald. Tim Bruer stated that there is really nowhere to cut in the Common Council office budget. Janet Piraino noted that the Mayor would finish his 2009 Executive Operating Budget by September 23, 2008 so any other changes would need to be into him by that date.

Ald. Brenda Konkel asked that this item be placed on the September 10, 2008 CCOC Special Meeting agenda. She would also like to go into closed session to discuss personnel issues.

Ald. Tim Bruer asked that Council staff email information to all alders for input. Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway asked to have more detail on the \$600 accounts and bulk mail accounts.

UPDATE/DISCUSSION ITEMS

11518

Discussion Item: 2009 Proposed Common Council Meeting Dates

Attachments: [2nd Draft 2009 Council Meetings](#)
[1st Draft 2009 Meeting Dates](#)

Dean Brasser was present for discussion on the 2009 Common Council meeting schedule as it related to the 2010 budget process. There were issues in moving the budget meeting dates from Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday to Thursday, Tuesday, Thursday. The time to prepare and process budget amendments

would be shortened and alders would not have as much time to process the information before the budget meetings occurred. If the R/T/R schedule were adopted, the Board of Estimates amendment report to Council would occur the same day as Council amendments were due to the Comptroller.

Ald. Brenda Konkel noted that having the budget meetings three days in a row required her to take time off from her day job. Ald. Michael Schumacher stated that he plans his schedule since the meeting dates are known well ahead of time.

Members agreed that the budget meeting times should stay at 5:30 p.m. (dependent upon the outcome of Resolution, Legislative File No. 11704).

CCOC recommended to forward the 2009 Common Council meeting schedule with a note that 2010 budget deliberation dates would occur between November 5 - November 12, 2009 and would be set at a later date. Discussion would continue at a future CCOC meeting on 2010 budget deliberation meeting dates.

08325

Update: CCOC Subcommittee on Committee Creation and Committee Rules

Attachments: [December 6, 2007 minutes](#)
[December 19, 2007 minutes](#)
[January 17, 2008 minutes](#)
[January 31, 2008 minutes](#)
[February 28, 2008 minutes](#)
[March 13, 2008 minutes](#)
[March 27, 2008 minutes](#)
[April 3, 2008 minutes](#)
[May 1, 2008 minutes](#)
[June 5, 2008 minutes](#)
[July 3, 2008 minutes](#)
[July 9, 2008 minutes](#)
[Registration Statement: Rosemary Lee](#)
[Brad Murphy Memo dated 8/4/08](#)

Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway noted that the subcommittee will be reviewing a draft of the final report and would schedule a final meeting to gather input on the recommendations.

11849

Discussion Item: Honoring Centenarians in Madison - Ald. Tim Bruer, Common Council President

Attachments: [Centenarians Recognition Examples](#)

Ald. Tim Bruer would like to start a program that recognizes Madison citizens who celebrate 100 years, something similar to the Council's Civic Recognition Awards (internal award). Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway asked that this information be forward to the Senior Center Advisory Board for their input.

11850

Discussion Item: Sister City Programming on Madison City Channel - Ald. Tim Bruer, Common Council President

Ald. Tim Bruer is working with sister city representatives, Brad Clark and Gary Poulson to produce a program highlighting Madison's sister cities. He would like the program to be funded by the 2008 budget. He is also working on scheduling a type of sister city fair for alders before a Common Council meeting.

Ald. Mike Verveer arrived at 6:10 p.m.

Present: 6 -

Tim Bruer; Mark Clear; Brenda K. Konkol; Satya V. Rhodes Conway;
Michael Schumacher and Michael E. Verveer

Excused: 2 -

Robbie Webber and Judy Compton

[11851](#)

Discussion Item: Aldermanic District 7 Vacancy Process - Ald. Tim Bruer, Common Council President & Ald. Mark Clear, Common Council President Pro Tem

Attachments: [Press Release: District 7 Vacancy](#)

Six applicants applied for the District 7 vacancy: Vicki Bankston, Steve King, Elizabeth Monson, Rick O'Neill, Deborah Ann Speckmann and Aric Vander Werff.

Ald. Tim Bruer noted that he has not any conversations with any of the applicants.

Each applicant would be given 3 minutes to speak.

Each applicant may have emails and/or letters submitted supporting their appointment.

CCOC members would be able to ask questions of the applicants.

Ald. Brenda Konkol wanted clarification on the questioning process. Ald. Rhodes-Conway suggested that each CCOC member think of one specific question that can be asked of each applicant at the end of the testimony period (not after each applicant has testified). Ald. Michael Schumacher believed that CCOC should be consistent and ask the same question of each applicant. Ald. Brenda Konkol wanted to be able to ask questions of each applicant that may arise at the time of their testimony.

Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway suggested the following format:

- * Applicant speaks up to 3 minutes.
- * CCOC members can ask a question(s) specific to the testimony or resume of the applicant.
- * Ask applicants to stay and have each applicant answer the same question from CCOC members.

Ald. Michael Schumacher expressed concern about the time it would take to complete this process. CCOC members also clarified that the applicant can express whether they are considering running for the seat in the spring but noted that they are not legally bound to abide by their answer at the meeting.

FUTURE CCOC AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ald. Michael Schumacher, seconded by Ald. Mark Clear, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. Meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.