



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
www.cityofmadison.com

## Meeting Minutes - Approved TASK FORCE ON STRUCTURE OF CITY GOVERNMENT

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Wednesday, February 6, 2019

6:00 PM

Madison Municipal Building, Room 153  
215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

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### POSSIBLE QUORUM OF THE COMMON COUNCIL EXISTS AT THIS MEETING

[50732](#)

Documents related to the Task Force on the Structure of City Government

### THE TASK FORCE MAY SUSPEND THE RULES TO STAND INFORMALLY AND ALLOW FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION AND ENGAGEMENT OF ANY AGENDA ITEM

#### 1 CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m.

After calling the meeting to order, Chair Harrington delegated the duties of the Chair to the Vice Chair, John Rothschild

**Present:** 7 - David Ahrens; Rebecca Kemble; John E. Rothschild; Roger Goodwin; Justice M. Castañeda; Maggie Northrop and Eileen Harrington

**Absent:** 4 - Paul E. Skidmore; Sheri Carter; Ronald M. Trachtenberg and Eric S. Upchurch

Skidmore arrived at 6:19 p.m.; Carter arrived at 6:37 p.m.

Also present: Alder Keith Furman, Brenda Konkel, Carl Landsness, Laura Laursen, Enis Ragland, Karen Kapusta-Pofahl, Assistant City Attorney John Strange

#### 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Goodwin to approve minutes of the 1-16-19 meeting, second by Northrop. Motion approved on voice vote.

Motion by Kemble to suspend the rules to stand informally and allow for public discussion and engagement on any agenda item, second by Northrop. Motion approved on voice vote.

#### 3 PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

#### 4 DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals.

**5 PRESENTATION BY DEPUTY MAYOR ENIS RAGLAND, CITY OF MADISON'S MAYOR'S OFFICE, ON THE CURRENT STRUCTURE, SIZE AND DUTIES OF STAFF IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE (BOTH DEPUTY MAYORS AND OTHER STAFF), CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURED IN MAYOR'S STAFF OVER TIME, AND THE BUDGET FOR THE MAYOR'S OFFICE.**

Enis Ragland and Laura Larsen presented information regarding the current structure of the City of Madison's Mayor's Office, the budget of the Mayor's Office, and changes in staffing and structure that have occurred over time. The Task Force asked questions and engaged in discussion on a wide array of topics, including the role of deputy mayors and the purpose and history of neighborhood resources teams (NRTs) and how a potential Office of Resident Engagement and Neighborhood Support (ORENS) could take on some of the functions of the NRTs. A power point presented used by the presenters is available at Legistar File # 50732.

**6 REVIEW DATA COMPILED BY ROGER GOODWIN ON HISTORY OF STAFFING IN THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OFFICES**

The Task Force reviewed data compiled by Task Force member Roger Goodwin on the history of staffing of the Mayor and Common Council Offices. This data is available at Legistar File # 50732.

**7 DISCUSSION ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE IN THE STRUCTURE OF CITY GOVERNMENT**

The Task Force proceeded into a discussion of issues related to the structure of the Mayor's Office. The primary discussion point related to the high number of people (department heads) who report directly to the mayor. Alder Ahrens pointed out that the power point presentation only showed the Deputy Mayors reporting to the Mayor when, in fact, all of the department heads report to the mayor making it so that the Mayor likely has 25 or more direct reports. Other members noted how difficult it would be to provide any meaningful oversight to so many direct reports. Member Goodwin pointed out that the structure of the Mayor's Office reflects the structure of the organization of the entire city, which he described as very flat with wide spans of control. It would be very hard, he noted, for the mayor or any chief executive to adequately oversee such a structure. Task Force members noted that it is possible the Mayor's Office has been able to do this oversight through the use of Deputy Mayors and, indeed, pointed out that the number of Deputy Mayors has increased over the years.

The Task Force then discussed the nature of the Deputy Mayor position and whether they could be more effective if given more authority or discretion to manage the department heads that they oversee but noted that changing the nature of these executive appointments (e.g., making them more like appointed cabinet members at the state or federal level) could also be a problem because the city could lose continuity if and when the city gets a new Mayor.

The Task Force noted that this was a very important issue to consider and suggested that the Executive Committee should meet and determine the best way to do that.

There was a motion by Castañeda, seconded by Goodwin, to direct the Executive Subcommittee to create a plan for addressing this and other issues related to the mayor's office and delegated the authority to create a separate subcommittee for that purpose to the Executive Subcommittee. Motion passed on a voice vote with Alder Carter abstaining.

**8 UPDATE FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES**

Task Force Member Justice Castañeda, who also serves as chair of the Boards, Commissions, and Committee Subcommittee, provided an update of the work of that subcommittee. He noted that the subcommittee is in the process of formulating its report to the full Task Force and is addressing some of the final topics it hopes to include in the report, including the possibility of the ORENS Office, appointments to BCCs, and a way of engaging staff on their experience with the BCCs.

**9 UPDATE FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE COMMON COUNCIL**

Task Force Member John Rothschild, who also serves as chair of the Common Council subcommittee, provided an update of the work of that subcommittee and noted that it too was in the process of formulating its report, which would be available for the full Task Force at its March 12, 2019 meeting. Rothschild noted, among other things, that the Subcommittee recently received a presentation from the City IT Department on the current status of the city's ability to remotely engage residents through technology and what it would take to increase that capacity. City IT is preparing a report for the Task Force on this topic.

**10 CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE INCREASING TERMS OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT**

[54454](#)

Amending Section 2.205 of the Madison General Ordinances to provide for a two (2) year term for the Common Council President and Common Council Vice President, and amending Section 33.13(1) of the Madison General Ordinances to make conforming changes to the terms of the Common Council Executive Committee.

Roll Call Vote: 4:3:1:2 Ayes - Skidmore, Kemble, Rothschild, Goodwin, Harrington; Noes - Carter, Ahrens, Castaneda; Abstention: Northrup; Absent: Trachtenberg, Upchurch

The Task Force then considered an ordinance increasing the terms of Council President and Vice President from one to two years. There was a motion by Kemble, seconded by Skidmore, to place the matter on file without prejudice and bring it back if appropriate once the work of the Task Force was done. Some Task Force members noted it was premature for it to provide the Council with a recommendation on this issue since the Task Force was not finished with its work. Other members suggested the Task Force knows, right now, that proposed change would be bad for the City and, thus, that the Task Force should take action now and reject the proposal.

The motion passed on a roll call vote.

NOTE: Rothschild voted yes, but, as acting chair, his vote would only have

**counted to break a tie.**

**Absent:** 2 - Ronald M. Trachtenberg and Eric S. Upchurch

**Ayes:** 5 - Paul E. Skidmore; Rebecca Kemble; John E. Rothschild; Roger Goodwin and Eileen Harrington

**Noes:** 3 - Sheri Carter; David Ahrens and Justice M. Castañeda

**Abstentions:** 1 - Maggie Northrop

**11 FUTURE MEETINGS**

**12 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**13 ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Goodwin, seconded by Skidmore to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.**