



# City of Madison

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

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Wednesday, September 10, 2008

5:00 PM

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

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

**Present:** 7 -

Tim Bruer; Mark Clear; Satya V. Rhodes Conway; Robbie Webber; Judy Compton; Michael Schumacher and Michael E. Verveer

**Excused:** 1 -

Brenda K. Konkel

**Others Present:** Ald. Marsha Rummel, Ald. Zach Brandon, Ald. Eli Judge, Ald. Paul Skidmore, Ald. Thuy Pham-Remmele, Vicki Bankston, Steve King, Libby Monson, Rick O'Neill, Deborah Speckmann, Aric Vander Werff, Ray Harmon (Mayoral Assistant), Dane Co. Supv. Ronn Ferrell, Dane Co. Supv. Melanie Hampton, Delora Newton, Kristin Czubkowski, Dave Remmele and Rosemary Lee

**Ald. Tim Bruer called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.**

**Ald. Brenda Konkel arrived at 5:12 p.m.**

**Present:** 8 -

Tim Bruer; Mark Clear; Brenda K. Konkel; Satya V. Rhodes Conway; Robbie Webber; Judy Compton; Michael Schumacher and Michael E. Verveer

11881

REVIEW & RECOMMENDATION OF DISTRICT 7 APPLICANTS - CCOC will consider the applications received to fill the District 7 aldermanic vacancy and make a recommendation for appointment to be acted upon by the Common Council on September 16, 2008.

Attachments: [Vicki Bankston Resume](#)  
[Letters & Emails Support: Bankston](#)  
[Steve King Resume](#)  
[Letters & Emails Support: King](#)  
[Elizabeth Monson Resume](#)  
[Rick O'Neill Resume](#)  
[Emails Support: O'Neill](#)  
[Deborah Ann Speckmann Resume](#)  
[Letters & Emails Support: Speckmann](#)  
[Aric Vander Werff Resume](#)  
[Letters & Emails Support: Vander Werff](#)  
[Press Release August 6, 2008](#)

Ald. Tim Bruer indicated that he had no contact with any of the applicants for the District 7 aldermanic vacancy prior to the meeting.

Ald. Tim Bruer reviewed the process that would be used to interview the applicants for the District 7 aldermanic vacancy:

- o Each candidate would be allowed three (3) minutes to speak.
- o Common Council members could ask each candidate questions following their testimony.
- o CCOC members would be able to ask a specific question of all of the applicants.
- o After the interview process CCOC would nominate and recommend to the Common Council an applicant to fill the District 7 aldermanic vacancy

Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway asked what will or will not be discussed on agenda item #2 (2009 Common Council Office Operating Budget). Ald. Tim Bruer indicated that the discussion would focus on CCOC recommendations for the 2009 budget and not personnel issues.

**Vicki Bankston**

- \*Resident of Madison since 1998
- \*Interested in addressing affordable housing, small business development, economic development and public safety issues
- \*Her professional background is in information technology
- \*Currently serves on the Madison Development Corporation Board of Directors and Dane County Equal Opportunities Commission
- \*Is currently involved in community activities such as voter registration and race relations projects

Ald. Robbie Webber asked Ms. Bankston to clarify if she was running in the spring. She noted that her application stated she had not considered running for the District 7 seat in the spring. Ms. Bankston indicated that she is undecided at this time. Ald. Tim Bruer asked that the remaining applicants to address this question during their testimony before the CCOC.

**Steve King**

- \*He will bring a diverse background and skill set to the position
- \*Member of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign (campaign to change financing of campaigns)
- \*Will think creatively about problems and listen to constituents and work with a myriad of stakeholders
- \*Well-informed, not prejudiced towards pre-determined solutions or ideologies, highly motivated and skilled citizen and wants to apply in a civic context
- \*Indicated that he agreed the Council should not be dealing with someone who is running in the spring because that may be construed as a political appointment but he also believed that he would not be a political appointment because he does not have any constituent ties or political organization memberships.

**Libby Monson**

- \*Ald. Zach Brandon asked her if she would consider applying for the vacancy in District 7
- \*Indicated that she would not run in the spring
- \*She served on the Common Council from 1981-1983 and served on the Human Services Commission during her tenure
- \*Served on the Country Grove Neighborhood Association board
- \*Believed that her positions would be similar to Ald. Brandon's
- \*Would communicate with and be available to District 7 constituents through email, phone and neighborhood meetings (when needed)

**Rick O'Neill**

- \*Indicated that he would concentrate on four major areas: roads, taxes, crime and attracting businesses
- \*Supported a northern beltline
- \*He would look closely at city-funded programs to lower taxes and growth policies

**Deborah Ann Speckmann**

- \*Lived on the south side of Madison in the 1970's and volunteered at a day care center
- \*Worked for State Affirmative Action Officer and has worked in politics, education and civil rights and has worked in those areas throughout her career.
- \*1980's returned to Madison and worked with NAACP, education, voter empowerment (League of Women Voters, City Clerk's office & MMSD)
- \*Has testified before Common Council on streets, race relations (Race Relations Task Force), Study Circles, planning and development of various city projects
- \*Is currently involved with RSVP and TRIAD in District 7

**Aric Vander Werff**

- \*Moved to Madison in 1995
- \*Worked as mobile DJ, served in the Air National Guard
- \*Will listen to different points of view
- \*A downtown property owner
- \*Issues he is interested in are the Zoning Code, public safety and basic services
- \*Indicated that he intends to run for election in the spring of 2009 for the District 7 seat

Ald. Mike Verveer asked if the candidates could go on record as stating if they would run or not for the District 7 seat in spring 2009. Ald. Mark Clear asked if the candidates could also state the number of years they have lived in Madison and the number of years in District 7.

Applicant: Running in spring 2009 – Yes or No, number of years lived in Madison, number of years lived in District 7

Vicki Bankston: No, 10 years, 10 years  
Steve King: Yes, 15 years, 10 years  
Libby Monson: No, 36 years, 36 years  
Rick O’Neill: Not sure, 7 years, 4 years  
Deborah Speckmann: Not sure, 29 years, 3 years  
Aric Vander Werff: Yes, 13 years, 3 years

Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway asked the candidates about the budget process; had they been engaged previously and thoughts on how to engage citizens in the budget process. Candidates were given two minutes.

Steve King: Involved in a budget process at his workplace and feels that he is a well-informed citizen on the city budget; would hold meetings with citizens to gather input

Libby Monson: Involved in the budget process when on the Common Council; would hold meetings to talk about residents concerns about the budget

Rick O’Neill: Would use a phone sampling of voters to find out budget concerns; budget (process) should be run more like businesses

Deborah Speckmann: Hold meetings with neighborhood associations to discuss budget, encourage public to write letters to Common Council (city-wide); attend Board of Estimates meetings and ask questions of departments

Aric Vander Werff: He is familiar with the general budget process; would contact people using email, website, texting to gather input on the budget

Vicki Bankston: People contact her already on issues – senior services, paratransit issues; she would gather information from neighborhood associations and pass that information onto departments

Ald. Marsha Rummel asked what the biggest issue is facing a. the city and b. District 7

Libby Monson: Basic services, how to add capital improvements; basic services

Rick O’Neill: Manage growth; growth and attracting jobs

Deborah Speckmann: Providing basic services in the best way; race relations

Aric Vander Werff: Not enough money; taxes and crime

Vicki Bankston: Economic development (job market); basic services, crime and taxes

Steve King: Responsible growth; responsible growth

Ald. Mark Clear asked if the candidates saw a difference in being an interim alderperson versus being an elected alderperson, if yes how.

Rick O’Neill: No

Deborah Speckmann: No

Aric Vander Werff: Yes, interim is more of a steward of the district

Vicki Bankston: Yes, difference in commitment to quality of service

Steve King: Yes, operationally some differences but not enough to make a difference

Libby Monson: No, interim is more a caretaker, little opportunity to see through initiatives but need to be responsive to constituents

Ald. Thuy Pham-Remmele asked how the applicants would manage their time effectively from October 2008 through April 2009.

Deborah Speckmann: look at policy and infrastructure and need to understand that implementing policy takes a great deal of time

Aric Vander Werff: Would talk to everyone and ask for tips on how to manage time

Vicki Bankston: Would want to understand Ald. Brandon's role and where the district is headed

Steve King: Would talk to Ald. Brandon

Libby Monson: Would be briefed by Ald. Brandon, work with County Board supervisors and other alders

Rick O'Neill: Would work with Ald. Brandon and County Board supervisors to learn how to manage details

Ald. Michael Schumacher stated that Ald. Brandon is considered to be fiscally conservative and he asked each applicant to supply a numeric number that they believed District 7 residents could live with as a tax increase.

Aric Vander Werff: 0%

Vicki Bankston: 0%

Steve King: 0%

Libby Monson: 0%

Rick O'Neill: 0%

Deborah Speckmann: Could not answer because she did not have enough information to state a numeric number.

Ald. Judy Compton asked the applicants if they would be able to follow in Ald. Brandon's "shoes" (i.e. policy stances).

Vicki Bankston: No problem

Steve King: Disagreed with some of Ald. Brandon's policy stances but would also be socially conscious and fiscally responsible

Libby Monson: No problem

Rick O'Neill: No problem

Deborah Speckmann: Could follow in his footsteps

Aric Vander Werff: Agreed with his "living within your means" type of policies

Ald. Eli Judge asked if the applicants in what way they would be different than Ald. Brandon (ideological/style difference).

Steve King: Doesn't know enough about Ald. Brandon's style.

Libby Monson: Admired what Ald. Brandon has done in the district, focus on crime prevention

Rick O'Neill: Just being his own person would be a difference (more fiscally conservative)

Deborah Speckmann: Would continue holding neighborhood meetings; create more harmony by facilitating more interactions among residents, business

owners, etc.

Aric Vander Werff: He has strong views but may be less confrontational

Vicki Bankston: Would be more hands-on with neighborhood

Ald. Tim Bruer moved, seconded by Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway to recess for 5 minutes to review notes. Recess approved at 6:30 p.m. Reconvened at 6:41 p.m.

Ald. Zach Brandon addressed the CCOC. He noted that only one person had contacted him: Libby Monson. When he wanted to run in July 2003 he contacted Ms. Monson first because she was involved in the district. The electorate in District 7 will ultimately decide who will represent them in 2009. There was only one person who has the experience as a former Council member, neighborhood association president and member, someone who has continued to contact him on a variety of District 7 and city issues, has the support of the County Board supervisors and neighbors and sees the position as a caretaker. That person who rises above the rest would be Libby Monson. He anticipates a number of very good candidates to run in the spring for the District 7 seat.

Ald. Tim Bruer opened the floor for nominations. Ald. Judy Compton moved, seconded by Ald. Michael Schumacher to nominate Elizabeth "Libby" Monson to fill the District 7 aldermanic vacancy until the election in the spring of 2009. Ald. Brenda Konkel moved unanimous consent. Motion was unanimously approved to recommend to the Common Council to appoint Elizabeth "Libby" Monson as interim alderperson in District 7 at the meeting of September 16, 2008.

**REFERRAL FROM 9/2/08 CCOC MEETING**

**11813**

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

**Attachments:** [Registration Statement: R. Lee 9/10/08](#)  
[Ald. B. Konkel 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](#)

**Ald. Robbie Webber moved, seconded by Ald. Brenda Konkel to set-aside the 5% contingency cut plans Option 1A and Option 1B as submitted to the Mayor on August 7, 2008. Ald. Mark Clear moved to resubmit a revised budget with no 5% contingency cuts and a 2009 budget at the 2008 level but with the \$900 cut to the telephone account line. Motion was considered friendly to the main motion. Motion as amended was approved on a voice vote.**

**There was discussion on the past practice of submitting the Council Office budget to CCOC. Ald. Tim Bruer noted the following budget years and if the CCOC considered the budget:**

**2000 No President: Borchardt  
2001 No President: Poulson  
2002 No President: Sloan  
2003 Yes President: Verveer  
2004 Yes President: Konkel  
2005 Yes President: Van Rooy  
2006 Yes President: King  
2007 Yes President: Verveer  
2008 No President: Bruer**

**Ald. Tim Bruer suggested memorializing (either by ordinance or resolution) the practice of CCOC review of the Council Office budget before it is submitted to the Mayor.**

**Ald. Brenda Konkel and Ald. Michael Schumacher requested that the CCOC go into closed session at next meeting of the CCOC to address personnel issues. Ald. Michael Schumacher questioned the City Attorney's objectivity and requested that a League of Wisconsin Municipalities attorney be invited to**

provide information to the Common Council. Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway suggested that the future agenda item be noticed as a briefing by the City Attorney, Human Resource Director and a representative from the League of Wisconsin Municipalities and the possibility that they may go into closed session.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway, seconded by Ald. Mark Clear, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.