



City of Madison
Meeting Minutes - Final
COMMON COUNCIL
ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE

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

Tuesday, September 5, 2006

4:30 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Present: Austin W. King, Lauren Cnare, Robbie Webber, Isadore Knox, Jr., Tim Bruer
and Paul J. Van Rooy

Excused: Paul E. Skidmore and Brenda K. Konkel

Others Present: Dean Brassler (City Comptroller), Dan Bohrod (Budget Analyst)
and Delora Newton

Ald. Austin King called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Common Council Organizational Committee minutes from August 1, 2006.

A motion was made by Bruer, seconded by Knox, Jr., to Approve the Minutes.
The motion passed by acclamation.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

04360

Insurance Fund Charges - Dean Brassler, City Comptroller

Attachments: 2007 Requested Operating Budget - City Insurance Fund, Memo from D. Brassler dated 8/24/06 re: Insurance Fund Charges, Spreadsheet: Insurance Expense - 2007 Executive Budget

Receive

Dean Brassler, City Comptroller, was present. He reviewed his memo dated August 24, 2006 with members of the CCOC. Mr. Brassler also distributed the 2007 Requested Operating Budget spreadsheet for the "City Insurance Fund" (see attachment to legislative file).

The city participates in the Wisconsin Municipal Mutual Insurance Corporation (WMMIC). The corporation membership includes several Wisconsin municipal and county governments and the City of Madison is a member. The city currently pays an insurance premium to cover catastrophic losses totaling more the \$1,900,000.

He explained that the 2007 insurance charges to the Common Council office are WMMIC related costs due to hiring outside legal counsel related to two lawsuits: the pay-day loan lawsuit and the drinks special lawsuit. He indicated that there is a consequence to Council actions - namely the potential for lawsuits.

Mr. Brassler explained that having the current allocation system in place allows the city to "bill" utilities - Parking, Water, etc... He indicated that he is prepared to argue during budget deliberations that the current allocation system be kept in place.

Ald. Austin King argued that the Common Council is actually comprised of the Mayor and the Common Council. He also stated that he understood the City Comptroller is opposed to "splitting" the cost of the Common Council Office's insurance fund charge with the Mayor.

Mr. Brassler indicated that by accepting the 2007 insurance fund charge, the Common Council office builds this cost into their base budget for 2008. He also indicated that the Mayor has never held an agency responsible for past insurance fund costs that are not under their control (e.g. Affirmative Action and Ragland lawsuit).

04488

Discussion on Fiscal Note Approval for Ordinances and Resolutions - Dean Brassler, City Comptroller

Attachments: Ald. A. King Memo dated 8/29/06 re: Diet on floor introductions, Memo from T. Peters re: Council Business introduced from the Council floor, Sample Legislative File (attachment to T. Peters Memo)

Receive

Dean Brassler, City Comptroller, was present. He agreed with the City Clerk's assessment that fiscal notes should appear on legislative files prior to being submitted for the Common Council agenda. He did note that there were times when legislation may not have a fiscal note due to the urgency of the matter. The Comptroller's office is seeing a glut of last minute resolutions that need fiscal notes. He indicated that his staff would be assisted in this fiscal note approval process if city staff and Council members would become more timely in their submissions of legislation, allowing more time to create fiscal notes.

Ald. Austin King indicated that he did not call for a complete cessation of items that did not have a fiscal note but merely for a "diet" on submission of items without a fiscal note.

04359

Reproduction/Fast Copy and Postage Accounts - Comparison between Council Office Account and Aldermanic Account.

Attachments: Comparison Chart: Council Office Printing and Postage

Receive

Lisa Veldran reviewed the information provided: printing costs for the office and for individual alders and postage costs: office, individual and bulk postage. She believed that when she has concerns with these accounts that they be addressed in consultation with the Council President. She also requested that a subcommittee of the CCOC be established to review the "Council Policy Guide" specifically addressing mailings done by alders.

04361

Common Council Meeting - Public Input Procedures: allowing the option for the public to provide input at the beginning of the Common Council meeting. - Ald. Brenda Konkel

A motion was made by Bruer, seconded by Van Rooy, to Rerefer to the COMMON COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE City Attorney May was present for the discussion on this item. He indicated that he wanted to hear the discussion on this item to gather input for drafting the ordinance amendment. Ald. Brenda Konkel had requested to structure public comment/testimony to be allowed in the beginning of the Council agenda (as well as allowing testimony when the item is discussed on the agenda). He had questions on how the following would be affected if people were allowed to provide testimony at the beginning of the Council agenda:

1. 6:45 p.m. Start of Public Hearing items
2. Consent Agenda Exclusions presentation

Ald. Tim Bruer had concerns with the "front loading" of testimony.

Ald. Austin King conceded that by allowing more opportunities on the agenda for public input may add time to the meeting but that could be balanced with less alder discussion.

Ald. Lauren Cnare had a concern that if someone provided testimony in the beginning of the agenda and left, an alder would not be able to question that individual during the debate. She thought that this would be a slightly chaotic situation. Ald. Van Rooy indicated that this was a concern of his as well.

Ald. Austin King believe people now just walk away when the meeting drags on and end up not providing testimony at all.

Ald. Robbie Webber requested that the item be referred to the next CCOC meeting when Ald. Brenda Konkel would be present to discuss the item. The motion passed by acclamation.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Bruer, seconded by Van Rooy, to Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m. The motion passed by acclamation.