

**From:** [Kief, Lori](#)  
**To:** [Veldran, Lisa](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Message to council  
**Date:** Thursday, March 24, 2011 7:58:40 AM

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Lisa,

Can I get my comments entered into the minutes of Tuesday's special council meeting? This is basically what I read that evening and I would like it on record.

Lori Kief

I have come before this body many times and have asked you to spare cutting our jobs in order to find budget savings. Almost every budget year Local 60 positions are reduced and eliminated. It is always looked on as the easy place to cut because we have a contract that allows for the placement of bumped employees. Once again the worker is being asked to make huge sacrifices to balance a budget. A budget mess that we didn't create. But this time not only represented employees. People statewide have come to the realization that corporate welfare in the form of tax breaks for the wealthy are responsible for deficits, and the middle class and poor are expected to bear the brunt of filling the deficit hole by slashing jobs, wages, and municipal and social services. The attacks waged by Scott Walker to balance these manufactured deficits, on the middle class, the poor, our unions, schools, environment, and our City, have brought many to the realization that to save the services and way of life we have come to enjoy in Madison, we all must work even closer together to right this wrong.

On this premise, Local 60 approached the City with the idea to negotiate an extension to our contract that protects our rights and contractual language for an extended 15 months knowing we would have to sacrifice wages and benefits we have worked for decades to obtain.

I recently talked to a member who was concerned that his co-workers were going to vote NO on this contract proposal to extend until 2014. I told him I was not hearing that. In fact what I heard from people that I work with is that they understand that the City is facing some severe cuts and that we have a responsibility to be part of the solution. Most people I talk with understand that the loss of our collective bargaining rights is a major issue and that extending our contract into 2014 is a huge gain even though we will incur a financial cost. Yes, we were fortunate to be delaying most of these major fiscal impacts until after 2012 because of our existing contract, earned through earlier collective bargaining. But is that really fair to the other public sector employees who are taking the hits immediately? Paying our portion of the pension in 2012 is a small price to pay for the continuation of our bargaining rights past 2013.

I told him that I thought the recall effort was not going to happen immediately in 2012. To be protected by our contract through the majority of this governor's disastrous term is important to me and I am willing to do my share to stand united with other City employees and my fellow taxpayers of Madison. We have been marching around the capitol saying it's not about the money. It's about our RIGHTS. Well, we stepped up and stood with all of the City employees and citizens of Madison and proved that last Thursday when we ratified this new contract language. Local 60 led the way.

The ratification passed with 86% approval. We have come to the table and worked an extension with the City that immediately helps the City deal with a large deficit in 2012 projected by the draconian cuts proposed in Walkers biennium budget while protecting many of our other contractual rights. This contract extension also allows us the organizational stability to fight the attacks on working people for years to come.

We will pay our "fair share" as organized labor and have proven we are more than willing to do so, but only our share. Trailblazing leadership and legislating, a hallmark of the Madison Common Council, is needed more now than ever. Please, lead the state and the nation by finding ways to balance the remainder of the budget deficits not just through furloughs, layoffs and service cuts, but by working to enact legislation and find budget savings that represent true "shared sacrifices".

I encourage you to vote yes on our contract extension. I thank you for calling a special session of Council today and thank the City and Mayor for showing how sitting down and negotiating with labor benefits all, especially the City that we all pledge to serve. It is our hope when it comes time to look for additional ways to save in future budget processes that you remember how we came to the table to offer to share this imposed cost. Please, be creative and help us protect working people in the future.