



City of Madison
Meeting Minutes - Final
COMMON COUNCIL
ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE

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

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

4:30 PM

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

Present: Austin W. King, Brenda K. Konkel, Ald. Isadore Knox, Jr. and Tim Bruer

Excused: Paul E. Skidmore, Lauren Cnare, Robbie Webber and Paul J. Van Rooy

Others Present: Ald. Ken Golden, George Twigg (Mayoral Assistant), Mark Olinger (Planning & Development Director) and Brad Murphy (Plan Unit Director)

CALL TO ORDER

Ald. Austin King called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Common Council Organizational Committee minutes from the May 16, 2006 meeting.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

03635

Discussion of proposed Planning & Development Department Reorganization - Requested by Ald. Ken Golden

Attachments: Dept of Planning and Development Reorg Statement of Purpose.pdf, Planning/Development Organization Chart.pdf

Receive

Ald. Austin King noted that Janet Piraino was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Piraino is the mayoral lead staff on the Planning & Development reorganization.

Ald. Ken Golden spoke to the reorganization. The two issues he identified were:

1. The Common Council was being considered last in the reorganization process by the Mayor's Office. The Council should have been involved so that greater input could have been provided to the team in the beginning of the process.
2. The reorganization is being done backwards. The Mayor's Office should not be reorganizing to reorganize, but have a clearly stated goal as to what they want to accomplish with the reorganization - reorganization comes from a mission, not vacancies. If the goal is to reorganize due to staff vacancies then taxpayer money is being lost by having staff attend meetings where the mission or goal is not clearly stated.

Ald. Golden thought that if the goal was to focus on economic development, then the Mayor's Office should articulate that more clearly. He noted that the Planning & Development Department has been cobbled together over the years with various divisions being placed within the department and this could be one reason to take a look at the organization.

George Twigg, Mayoral Assistant, stated that the Mayor has stated his goals and is now working on how they should be accomplished. He did not want to be accused of pre-determining the outcome of the reorganization. The Mayor is in favor of going through a process where input is collected from alders and staff. He also indicated that Janet Piraino has met with Alders and Planning & Development staff.

Ald. Brenda Konkel appreciated that Mayoral staff met individually with alders but noted that it was not the same as meeting with the Council as a whole. She favored a meeting with the entire Council so a common sense of direction could be provided to the Mayor.

Ald. Isadore Knox agreed with Ald. Golden and noted that he did not get a sense of why the city was pursuing a reorganization.

George Twigg suggested possibly scheduling a Council briefing or discussion on the reorganization. Ald. Tim Bruer indicated that he supported a briefing on the reorganization.

Mark Olinger, Planning & Development Director, made two points:

1. The Planning & Development Department is not an intuitive department. It does not make sense to the average citizen. He questioned why there are four different agencies conducting inspections within his department? Why are there four different agencies dealing with seniors (Housing Operations, Senior Center, CDBG, Community Services)
2. City departments are dealing with unlimited demands and very finite resources. The reorganization process can look at ways to work more efficiently.

Ald. Austin King wanted to know if this process was more opportunity driven due

to staff vacancies or was there a real need to reorganize. Mark Olinger stated that the economic development piece may be opportunity driven due to retirements but other efficiencies are also present within that piece.

Ald. Austin King asked Council staff to schedule the briefing for July 31, 2006 after checking availability of city staff to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Bruer, seconded by Konkel, to Adjourn. The motion passed by acclamation.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.