



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved CITY-COUNTY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 8, 2012

5:00 PM

Room 357, City-County Building
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 7 -

Sally Miley; Lauren Cnare; Shiva Bidar-Sielaff; Mark Clear; Joshua Wescott; Melissa Sargent and Paul Rusk

Excused: 1 -

Dennis O'Loughlin

Others Present: Travis Myren, Marci Paulsen, Carl Gloede, David Gawenda, David Worzala, Khamlung Tulka, Carlos Pabellon, Mary Grabot, Lynn Green, and Karin Peterson Thurlow

The meeting was called to order by co-chair Sargetn at 5:05 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

Bidar-Sielaff disclosed that Khamlung Tulka is an interpreter for UW Health.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Clear, seconded by Rusk, to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2012 meeting. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

[25556](#)

Building Use Request: Wisconsin Tibet Association: Fly the Tibetan flag on the City-County Building

Attachments: [WI Tibetan Association Request.pdf](#)

The building use request from the Wisconsin Tibetan Association to fly the Tibetan flag on the City County Building on March 10th was before the committee. Khamlung Tulka thanked the committee for their consideration of the request.

A motion was made by Clear, seconded by Cnare, to approve the building use request. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

[25557](#)

Report on City Treasurer Survey of Installment Payments for Taxes

A report on the City Treasurer survey of installment payments for taxes was before the committee. Co-chair Clear indicated the committee would like to hear from both City Treasurer Gawenda and County Treasurer Worzala.

Madison City Treasurer Gawenda addressed the committee. He indicated that state law allows 3 or 4 installment payments of taxes. The City proposed changing from the current 2 installments to 4 installments in 2010. Mayor Soglin requested the City County Liaison Committee consider the issue.

Gawenda said there were 2284 tax delinquent parcels in 2011. The number of delinquencies has fluctuated, as has the number of dollars delinquent. In 2008, 2.69% of tax dollars were delinquent; in 2011 it was 2.55%.

The City Treasurer's Office worked with a graduate student at UW Madison to complete a study of how increasing the number of installment payments may affect delinquencies. Gawenda indicated that the key finding was that increasing the number of installments would cut delinquency in half. There was little difference between having three installments or four installments and Gawenda said he was not wedded to a certain number.

Gawenda reported on the results of two surveys, one that was included in the tax bills and another that was an on-line survey. There were 743 responses. While 38% of respondents supported 4 installments, those who use installment payments supported this option at a 2 to 1 rate. Respondents believed it would be easier to send all payments to the city treasurer rather than one to the county and one to the city. Even if it meant a loss of revenue, people believed it was best to avoid delinquency.

Dane County Treasurer Worzala addressed the committee. He indicated that he appreciated the survey and the study. He pointed out that, with 220,000 parcels in the city, a response of 743 was not very large. He said that the County Board Chair and the County Executive oppose a change. From a treasurer's perspective, he believed there will be confusion. Several individuals made a 1/4th payment and were charged penalty and interest regarding the latest deadline. Worzala said that now everyone is treated the same making it easier to explain when taxes are due. The loss of revenue to the county is also an issue.

Worzala indicated he spoke with the foreclosure task force about the issue. He said that there was a feeling that having 3 installments would not be helpful because if one does not have the money, it would be unlikely they would have the money a couple months later.

Worzala said that this was a good time to discuss the topic and to think about the ramifications of implementation. Madison would need to keep the historical record.

When this initiative was proposed in 2010, the county board was united in opposition to it, Worzala reported. Miley asked if the board had ever voted. Worzala replied that it was sponsored by all members of the board, but a vote had not been taken.

Miley wondered how other cities deal with the confusion issue. Do they have guides to implementation? Worzala said that no county treasurer has gone the switch and advised against diminishing the brand of the property tax due dates. Gawenda also said he was not aware of municipalities that had switch due dates for taxes in recent years. People would need to get used to a new system.

Worzala questioned whether a change in the number of installments would actually decrease delinquencies by 50%. Intuitively, those with delinquent taxes simply do not have the money. The risk is borne by the county. If someone is delinquent, the county makes the city whole.

Clear asked if other counties are similar to Dane County. Gawenda said that Brown County collects taxes for all municipalities, and Rock County is similar. Every county with a city of 20,000 or greater has one of those cities collecting in installments.

Discussion shifted to the cost of implementing installment payments. Gawenda indicated the cost would be \$40,000. Cnare asked what happens if people make a mistake. Gawenda said the penalties are governed by statute. However, there is a 5 day grace period and it may be possible for the city to reach out to those who are late. Worzala expressed concern that if there is a change to installments and then the city extends leeway that is treating people in the county differently and undermines the integrity of the tax system.

Motion by Cnare/Rusk to postpone action on this item and on the following item until the next meeting. Motion was approved on voice vote/other.

18498

Repealing Sections 4.07(1) and (2) and creating Sections 4.07(1) through (11) of the Madison General Ordinances to provide for installment payment of real property tax and personal property taxes for improvements on leased land and establish payment procedures for personal property tax, special charges, special assessments and special taxes.

Sponsors: Mark Clear

Attachments: [18498 - Registration Forms.pdf](#)
[Four Installments: Pros & Cons](#)
[Four Installment: Bullet Points](#)
[Wi Stat 74 12](#)
[Municipalities with 3 or more payments](#)
[18498 - Registration Form 7-6-10.pdf](#)
[Delinquencies 2/21/11.pdf](#)
[res3410-11.pdf](#)
[Worzala chart.pdf](#)
[The Effect of Increasing the Number of property Tax Payment Installments or 04 17 12 Parisi Letter.pdf](#)

The committee postponed action on this item.

25558

Discussion of Approaches to Graduated Consequences in the CCB for Inappropriate Behaviors

Attachments: [Peace Park Visitor Center Code of Conduct Policy.pdf](#)
[Public Library Behavior Policy.pdf](#)

Miley pointed out that she had met with Marci Paulsen and Capt. Gloede and they agree that it would be difficult to have such a system in the CCB. The committee discussed that there seemed to be a change in the building with fewer individuals sitting for long periods of time in the lobby. Lynn Green said that the Don Miller site would be closing. Myren said that there have been no complaints in the CCB in the last 2 months. The committee expressed an interest in continuing to monitor the situation.

SUCH OTHER BUSINESS AS ALLOWED BY LAW

The next meeting will be April 12, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Bidar-Sielaff to Adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.