



City of Madison
Meeting Minutes - Final
COMMON COUNCIL
ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE

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

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

4:30 PM

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

Present: Brenda K. Konkell, Satya V. Rhodes Conway, Robbie Webber and Judy Compton

Excused: Michael E. Verveer, Tim Bruer, Michael Schumacher and Joseph R. Clausius

Others Attending: Michael May, City Attorney and George Twigg, Mayoral Assistant

Ald. Brenda Konkell called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Common Council Organizational Committee minutes from September 4, 2007.

A motion was made by Webber, seconded by Rhodes Conway, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by acclamation.

REFERRALS FROM THE COMMON COUNCIL

[07349](#)

SUBSTITUTE - Amending Section 2.01(1) of the Madison General Ordinances to establish Common Council meeting dates for 2008.

Sponsors: Brenda K. Konkell

Attachments: 2008CouncilMeetings.pdf, 07349Version1.pdf

A motion was made by Webber, seconded by Rhodes Conway, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER Recommendation will be made from the Council floor on 9/18/07. The motion passed by acclamation.

Ald. Tim Bruer arrived at 4:40 p.m. Ald. Michael Schumacher arrived at 4:45 p.m.

Present: Tim Bruer, Brenda K. Konkell, Satya V. Rhodes Conway, Robbie Webber, Judy Compton and Michael Schumacher

Excused: Michael E. Verveer and Joseph R. Clausius

DISCUSSION ITEMS

[07483](#)

Clarifying and modifying Madison General Ordinances - Chapter 2 - "Standing Rules For the Government of the Common Council"

Attachments: Mayor's Memo on Chapter 2 Changes 9/18/07, DRAFT Chapt 2 Changes with Drafters Analysis

A motion was made by Konkel, seconded by Webber, to Refer to the COMMON COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE, due back on October 2, 2007
George Twigg, Mayoral Assistant, spoke to this item. Mr. Twigg highlighted the areas of concern that the Mayor had relative to the proposed changes to Madison General Ordinances Chapter 2. Mr. Twigg noted that some of these concerns might be addressed with the Legistar software.

*Amendments to Resolutions & Ordinances. The Mayor would like to see amendments listed separately (similar to how the State Legislature lists it's amendments to bills). The process becomes more linear/chronological and would provide a clearer understanding for the public, alders and city staff on what amendments are before the Council.

Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway noted that originals and substitutes are attached as PDF's to any new legislative version. CCOC members believed that the Mayor's request would be a Legistar issue.

The Mayor also requested that any amendments prepared in advance and distributed to the Council (Mayor, City Attorney and City Clerk), also be made available to the public, other city staff and media.

Ald. Brenda Konkel questioned how the copies would be made since there was no copy machine in Room 201.

Ald. Michael Schumacher thought that a copier in the chambers would solve the problem when dealing with last minute amendments made by alders.

Mr. Twigg did not know the answer to this issue but thought maybe the County could place a copier in the chambers.

*Lead Referral. The Mayor would like to see greater clarification of which of several referrals is the lead referral, and a stronger requirement that the lead referral act last.

It was noted that this addressed in APM 3-1:

"7. Ordinances and resolutions shall carry a recommended referral to appropriate boards, committees, commissions or offices in the "Action Note" field (located in the History tab). The lead referral agency shall be listed first in the "Action Note" field, and shall also be listed in the "Requestor" field. The President and President Pro Tem of the Council and the City Clerk will be guided by these recommendations."

City Attorney May thought that this could be codified in either 2.05 or 2.24/2.25.

*Selection of Committee Referrals. The Mayor would like to see a process for referrals. Currently referrals are added by the author of a resolution or ordinance change, and additional referrals are added from the floor. The Mayor would like to see a system commonly used by other legislative bodies, where referrals are made by the majority leader or president of the body. This would discourage the practice of "committee shopping" where referrals are made based on a hoped-for outcome rather than sound public policy; and,

*New Business Introduced From the Floor. Rather than have the new business item that is being introduced from the floor placed on the next Common Council

agenda, the Mayor suggested that the Council President, prior to the next meeting, be allowed to simply add the additional referral(s) requested by the alder(s). The Mayor thought this would create an unnecessary delay for action on legislation (e.g. Board of Estimates legislation that would need to be acted upon at the next Council meeting).

CCOC members stated that the intention of the ordinance change was to allow alders time to add additional referrals since these items are introduced from the floor and most alders have not seen the legislation and did not have time to assess whether to make any additional referrals. By automatically placing business introduced from the floor for referral on the next Council agenda it would allow alders to add additional referrals.

Mr. Twigg indicated that there is already a mechanism in place for dealing with additional referrals; an alder can make a motion to re-refer any item to another committee, even when the lead reports back on an item.

Michael May suggested the following additional language for section 2.05(1)(b):

"Any matter introduced from the floor shall be either:
a. referred to the next Common Council meeting for action"

The following section is already in place in the draft:

"...referred to the next Common Council meeting and be placed on the agenda as if for introduction, solely for the purpose of additional referrals."

Ald. Judy Compton suggested that Council staff could add those items that would be introduced from the floor that evening to the Consent Agenda Exclusion List. Alders would then be alerted that these items exist and could add additional referrals at the meeting that evening. Lisa Veldran was not sure if all those items could be captured prior to the list being distributed. Ald. Konkel thought that Council staff could capture everything prior to 7 p.m. and type up the list for distribution.

Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway asked Lisa Veldran if Council staff and the City Clerk could create a list after the Council meeting that listed legislation that was introduced from the floor at the Council meeting and referred to the next Council meeting. Those items could somehow be flagged and then be added to the Consent Agenda Exclusion List so that alders would be alerted that they could add additional referrals.

Ald. Michael Schumacher stated that there were enough opportunities to rectify any "slipped through the crack" referral omissions.

Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway suggested that CCOC should take up the issue of referrals made by committees to other committees as a separate issue.

George Twigg summarized the rest of the memo's contents:

*No Meetings Telephonically/Electronically. The Mayor agrees with the prohibition against participating electronically at Common Council meetings and voting by proxy at any time. However, he believes that this has worked well at committees, commission and board meetings, particularly being helpful in

meeting quorum requirements on small committees.

***Time Limit on Appointment Confirmations.** The Mayor requests that Section 2.38(2) be restored. This section sets time limits on appointment confirmations and deems an appointment confirmed if it is not acted on within 20 days of submission. He doesn't agree with removing this protection against letting citizen appointments languish. He also requested that the deadline be increased from 20 days to 60 days.

CCOC members agreed that this agenda item be referred to the next meeting. The motion passed by acclamation.

06419

Discussion Item: Common Council Legislative Analyst Position

Attachments: Position Descriptions: Council, Mayor, County, Various Cities

A subcommittee was formed to review and develop a framework for this position and report back to the CCOC as soon as possible. Subcommittee members: Ald. Brenda Konkel, Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway and Ald. Michael Schumacher

Ald. Judy Compton left at 5:30 p.m. Ald. Mike Verveer arrived at 5:33 p.m.

Present: Michael E. Verveer, Tim Bruer, Brenda K. Konkel, Satya V. Rhodes Conway, Robbie Webber and Michael Schumacher

Excused: Judy Compton and Joseph R. Clausius

Discussion Item: Additional CCOC meeting on October 16, 2007.

CCOC members will assess at their October 2, 2007 meeting on whether or not to schedule an additional CCOC meeting on October 16, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Rhodes Conway, seconded by Konkel, to Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m. The motion passed by acclamation.