



City of Madison

Minutes – Draft

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

Task Force on Structure of City Government Common Council Subcommittee

Friday, February 1, 2019

2:00 p.m.

City-County Building, Room GR-27
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

NOTE: POSSIBLE QUORUM OF THE TASK FORCE ON STRUCTURE OF CITY GOVERNMENT OR THE COMMON COUNCIL EXISTS AT THIS MEETING.

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Yog hais tias koj xav tau ib tug neeg txhais lus, ib tug neeg txhais ntawv, cov ntawv ua lwm hom ntawv los sis lwm cov kev pab kom siv tau cov kev pab, cov kev ua ub no (activity) los sis qhov kev pab cuam, thov hu rau tus xov tooj hauv qab yam tsawg peb hnuv ua hauj lwm ua ntej yuav tuaj sib tham.

Office of the City Attorney (608) 266-4511

[Legislative File No. 50732](#) - DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE TASK FORCE

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Call to Order at 2:08 p.m.

Present: Eric Upchurch (by telephone), Alder David Ahrens, John Rothschild and Ron Trachtenberg

Absent: Justice Castañeda and Maggie Northrop (alternate)

Also Present: Alder Keith Furman; Brenda Konkeli; Nick Zavos, City of Madison Mayor's Office; City Attorney Michael May; Assistant City Attorney John Strange; IT Director Sarah Edgerton; IT Media Leadworker Boyce Johnson

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Ahrens to approve minutes with edit to reflect that the CC subcommittee did not reach consensus on whether to move to full-time alders or to necessarily retain current size of Council, second by Upchurch. Motion approved by voice vote.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Motion by Ahrens to suspend the rules to stand informally and allow for public discussion and engagement on any agenda item, seconded by Trachtenberg. Motion approved by voice vote.

4. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals from the members present.

5. PRESENTATION FROM THE CITY OF MADISON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

City Information Technology Director Sarah Edgerton and IT Media Leadworker Boyce Johnson attended the meeting and discussed the city's existing and future capabilities to hold meetings or take public testimony from remote locations. Much of the information they provided is detailed in a memorandum dated February 1, 2019 which is included as an attachment in Legistar. They answered questions from the Task Force and identified key changes that would need to be made in order to facilitate the city's ability to hold meetings or take public testimony from remote locations, including:

- a. The City can currently only go live to cable and streaming from rooms that where robotic cameras exist. There are currently four rooms in the Madison Municipal Building and three rooms in the City-County Building where this can occur.
- b. The City can currently provide streaming content (but no cable) from any building that can access the City data center, such as libraries, fire stations, etc.
- c. Thus, the city's ability to hold meetings in other areas around the city and have those meetings carried on both cable and streaming live depend on moving towards facilities that contain more robotic cameras. The new Pinney Library will have full robotics once constructed.
- d. The use of robotics is important because it reduces staff time and expense in covering and producing events.
- e. The cost to fully implement robotics (and the accompanying required audio microphones) likely ranges between \$30,000 and \$60,000 per facility.
- f. Two-way video conferences requires additional software and hardware. This would allow someone to participate in a meeting remotely without a time lapse that would exist if they tried to watch city channel and participate separately via skype or some other platform
- g. Individuals could also be allowed to participate remotely by recording statements at remote locations and then those recordings would be available for review on Legistar or some other platform. However, Legistar's current functionality would not allow this. The City is currently exploring a new Legislative Information system that could add that level of functionality among other things.

The Subcommittee asked the City IT Director to prepare an estimate of the cost of the technological advancements discussed that would allow the City greater ability to hold meetings in remote locations and allow residents to participate from remote locations. Sarah and Boyce estimated it would take approximately 1-month to prepare because it would require consultation with other city departments that would also be involved in such discussions.

6. REVISIT, REVIEW AND DISCUSS TOPIC AREAS 3 AND 4 TO DETERMINE IF WE NEED TO OBTAIN OR ADD ANY FURTHER INFORMATION

The Subcommittee reviewed notes from their initial discussions on Topic Areas 3 and 4 to determine if there was anything they needed to add. The Subcommittee decided there was little to add to their initial discussions, but asked that the minutes reflect two considerations:

- a. As it relates to alder compensation, the subcommittee report should explicitly point out the financial reality that increasing alder salary would mean taking money away from other initiatives the subcommittee and task force may deem important. That said, the subcommittee did not want to limit suggestions based solely on this issue. They should

- recommend what is best for government, give the Common Council rough estimates of what certain initiatives may cost, but not decide against a recommendation based solely on cost.
- b. Alder Ahrens reiterated that late night meetings no matter what causes them (extended debate, heavy agenda, etc.), are a problem because they shut almost everyone out of the debate. He reiterated that current rules should be enforce and additional rules made to ensure meetings did not last into the night, including a rule that all Common Council meetings must end by 10:30 or 11:00 p.m. and, perhaps, that visual aids like clocks are added to the Common Council meeting room to show alders how long they have been talking and then strictly limiting their participation time.

7. FUTURE MEETING DATES AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

The Subcommittee decided not to meet on February 8 and asked the City Attorney's Office to have a draft report to the Task Force prepared for its March 1, 2019 meeting.

8. DISCUSS PLANS FOR CONCLUDING THE WORK OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE AND ISSUING A FORMAL REPORT TO THE FULL TASK FORCE ON GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

See Item 7.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ahrens to adjourn, seconded by Trachtenberg. Passed by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.