



City of Madison
Minutes – Approved
Task Force on Structure of City Government
Common Council Subcommittee

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

Friday, January 25, 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.**

If you need an interpreter, translator, materials in alternate formats or other accommodations to access this service, activity or program, please call the phone number below at least three business days prior to the 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 pab 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 2:07 p.m.

Present: David Ahrens, Justice Casteñada, John Rothschild and Ron Trachtenberg

Absent: Eric Upchurch, Maggie Northrop (arrived at 2:20 p.m.)

Others Present: Rebecca Kemble, Keith Furman, Brenda Konkel, Jennifer Pease, John Brown
City Attorney Michael May, Assistant City Attorney John Strange

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 18, 2019 meeting should reflect that Justice Casteñada was in attendance. As amended, motion to approve by Trachtenberg, second by Ahrens, approved on voice vote.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this meeting.

Motion by Trachtenberg, second by Ahrens to suspend Robert's Rules and stand informally.
Approved on voice vote.

4. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals from the members present.

5. REVISIT, REVIEW AND DISCUSS TOPIC AREAS 1 AND 2 TO DETERMINE IF WE NEED TO OBTAIN OR ADD ANY FURTHER INFORMATION. DISCUSS IF THERE IS ANY CONSENSUS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANY SUB-ISSUES INCLUDED IN TOPICS 1 AND 2. IF TIME PERMITS, BEGIN REVIEWING PRIOR DISCUSSIONS OF TOPIC AREAS 3 AND 4.

The subcommittee began a discussion of outstanding issues. The subcommittee had previously discussed the possibility of a 2-year term for the Council President and Vice-President. They were informed that Alders Samba Baldeh and Sheri Carter would be introducing such an ordinance on January 29.

The subcommittee had an extended discussion on whether the size of the Council should be changed. After much discussion, the consensus of the subcommittee was that reducing the size of the Council would not necessarily solve any issues such as better representation, and could result in several negative effects: Larger districts would cost more to campaign and it might lead to professional and full-time politicians. The subcommittee members expressed support for the citizen-alder as a volunteer position.

The subcommittee had a brief discussion about increasing the size of the Council. The subcommittee did not reach consensus on whether to move to full-time alders or to necessarily retain the current size of Council.

The subcommittee also briefly discussed the option of 10 districts with two alders per district, but there was no consensus to make that change.

At the end of the discussion, Kemble reiterated that she believed the size of the Council was not the means of solving problems that had been identified. The better approach is to provide staff to the Council to free up time for Alders.

John Brown addressed the subcommittee. He is CEO and Director of Unify Madison, located on Fordem Avenue, an organization that connects clients in need of social services with those services. He emphasized the dire need of the homeless at this time, especially with the cold weather upon us. He indicated he had data that would be useful and the subcommittee encouraged him to provide it to the subcommittee.

The Chair of the subcommittee explained that the TFOGS would be working on ways for people like Mr. Brown to become engaged with city government, but would not be addressing individual issues like homelessness.

Mr. Brown provided the subcommittee with a letter he had delivered to the Mayor's Office and noted that he had made a proposal to provide services at Tree Lane.

The subcommittee noted that it would take up topic areas 3 and 4 at its next meeting, and that the City IT Department would have a presentation at the meeting on February 1.

6. FUTURE MEETING DATES AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

No Discussion.

7. DISCUSSION PLANS FOR CONCLUDING THE WORK OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE AND ISSUES A FORMAL REPORT TO THE FULL TASK FORCE ON GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE.

No Discussion.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ahrens, second by Northrop to adjourn. Adopted by voice vote and adjourn at 4:02 p.m.

