



# City of Madison

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

## Meeting Minutes - Approved TASK FORCE ON STRUCTURE OF CITY GOVERNMENT

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Friday, October 12, 2018

6:00 PM

Room 354, City-County Building  
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

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### **NOTE: Possible Quorum of the Common Council Exists at this Meeting**

[50732](#)

Documents related to the Task Force on the Structure of City Government.

### **THE TASK FORCE MAY SUSPEND THE RULES TO STAND INFORMALLY AND ALLOW FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION AND ENGAGEMENT OF ANY AGENDA ITEM**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Present:** 6 - Paul E. Skidmore; David Ahrens; Rebecca Kemble; John E. Rothschild;  
Maggie Northrop and Eileen Harrington

**Absent:** 3 - Sheri Carter; Justice M. Castañeda and Eric S. Upchurch

Upchurch arrived at 6:19 p.m.; Carter arrived at 6:06 p.m.

**Also present:** Task Force Member nominee Ronald Trachtenberg; City Attorney  
Michael May and Assistant City Attorney John Strange

Vice Chair John Rothschild fulfilled the duties of the Chair because Eileen  
Harrington participated by teleconference

#### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes of September 28, 2018 meeting made by Northrop,  
seconded by Ahrens. Passed by voice vote.

#### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this meeting.

#### **4. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS**

There were no disclosures or recusals at this meeting.

#### **5. UPDATE ON STATUS OF EXECUTIVE SUBCOMMITTEE, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SUBCOMMITTEE AND COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

The chair of each subcommittee provided updates on the work of their respective subcommittees, including noting that the Government Officials subcommittee held what is likely its last meeting on October 11, 2018, when it heard from former Alderperson Chris Schmidt and former and current Board Commission, and Committee member Nan Fey. The chair of the executive subcommittee detailed testimony provided by former Mayor Bauman at the October 8, 2018 meeting of the executive subcommittee. Staff noted that the newly formed Boards, Commissions, and Committee subcommittee was in the process of scheduling its first meeting. The chair of the communications subcommittee mentioned that the subcommittee had not met in a while but was hoping to meet soon to discuss public engagement strategies, among other things.

**6. DISCUSSION OF RANGE OF POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL**

The Task Force discussed a range of possible recommendations TFOGS could make to the Common Council and instructed staff to list the following questions on the October 26, 2018 agenda.

- a. Whether the Task Force on the Structure of City Government should recommend that the City retain the mayoral form of executive or switch to the city manager or commission form.
- b. What, if any, recommendations should the Task Force on the Structure of City Government make regarding whether the mayor or president of the common council chairs meetings of the Common Council?
- c. What, if any, recommendations should the Task Force on the Structure of City Government make regarding whether the mayor's veto power should be expanded (e.g., line item veto), restricted, or remain the same?
- d. What, if any, recommendations should the Task Force on the Structure of City Government make regarding whether the Madison should become a first-class city?

NOTE: The Task Force took a roll call vote on whether to include question a. above on the next TFOGS agenda. The TFOGS voted 7-1 (with Ahrens voting Nay) to include question a. on the next agenda. The Task Force voted unanimously by voice vote to include questions b.-d. above on the next TFOGS agenda.

Carter left the meeting at 7:02 p.m. and thus did not vote to include questions b.-d. above on the next TFOGS agenda.

**7. UPDATE ON TASK FORCE FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULES AND MEETING LOCATIONS**

No discussion.

**8. DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE DATES, TIMES, and LOCATION OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Task Force discussed that the executive subcommittee will meet to discuss a plan for setting up future meetings of the full task force.

**9. OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION**

No discussion.

**10. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

No discussion beyond what which was discussed under Item 6.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Ahrens, seconded by Skidmore to adjourn. Passed by voice vote.  
The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.