



City of Madison
Meeting Minutes - Final
COMMON COUNCIL
ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE

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

Tuesday, March 6, 2007

4:30 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Present: Austin W. King, Paul J. Van Rooy, Lauren Cnare, Robbie Webber, Isadore Knox, Jr. and Tim Bruer

Absent: Brenda K. Konkel and Michael E. Verveer

Others Present: Michael May (City Attorney), George Twigg (Mayoral Assistant), Ald. Zach Brandon, Jean MacCubbin, Anita Martin, Will Sandstrom, Mike McCabe, Rosemary Lee

The meeting was called to order by Ald. Austin King at 4:31 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Common Council Organizational Committee minutes from February 6, 2007.

A motion was made by Bruer, seconded by Van Rooy, to Approve the Minutes.
The motion passed by acclamation.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

05688

Report of CCOC Sister Cities Grant Review Subcommittee - 2007 Final Report & Recommendations for 2007 Sister City Grant Program.

Attachments: Summary of Submittals and Final Recommendations 2007, 2/12/07
Minutes of CCOC Sister Cities Grant Review Committee

A motion was made by Van Rooy, seconded by Bruer, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES

Registrants:

Jean MacCubbin, 3530 Heather Crest, Support, Available to Answer Questions

Anita Martin, 261 Pinnacle Drive, Lake Mills, Support, Available to Answer Questions

Ald. Lauren Cnare asked Ms. MacCubbin and Ms. Martin if they thought the grant review process this year was beneficial. Both replied that they thought the process went well this year. The motion passed by acclamation.

Present: Austin W. King, Paul J. Van Rooy, Brenda K. Konkel, Lauren Cnare, Robbie Webber, Isadore Knox, Jr. and Tim Bruer

Absent: Michael E. Verveer

05743

Amending Chapter 3 of the Madison General Ordinances by repealing those sections that regulate boards, committees and commissions and recreating them in Chapter 33, repealing other miscellaneous sections to relocate them in the appropriate chapters, and amending necessary sections throughout the ordinances to update references to the renumbered sections.

Sponsors: David J. Cieslewicz, Paul J. Van Rooy and Austin W. King

A motion was made by Bruer, seconded by Van Rooy, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by acclamation.

05744

Amending Chapter 3 of the Madison General Ordinances by renumbering and organizing relevant sections into five (5) sub-chapters and amending necessary sections throughout the ordinances to update references to the renumbered sections.

Sponsors: David J. Cieslewicz, Paul J. Van Rooy and Austin W. King

A motion was made by Bruer, seconded by Van Rooy, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by acclamation.

05840

Discussion Item: Cover Resolutions to Reports and Plans Presented to the Council - by request of Ald. Ken Golden

05772

SUBSTITUTE - Supporting the investigation of full public financing of municipal elections for alderperson, mayor, and municipal judge and establishing a "Blue Ribbon Committee on Clean Elections" to study and issue recommendations related to the specifics of a clean elections ordinance.

Sponsors: David J. Cieslewicz, Austin W. King, Robbie Webber, Michael E. Verveer, Judy K. Olson, Brenda K. Konkel, Tim Gruber, Kenneth Golden, Tim Bruer and Brian Benford

A motion was made by Bruer, seconded by Webber, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER

Registrants:

Mike McCabe, 3634 Alpine Road, Support, Spoke

Will Sandstrom, 2611 Moland Street, Support, Spoke

Mr. McCabe indicated that the Council should approach this resolution proactively and view it as a checkup on the health of Madison's democracy. He did not think that the Council should react to campaign finance problems or issues as they arise.

Mr. Sandstrom was in support of the proposal and requested that the Council pass the resolution.

Ald. Lauren Cnare asked Mr. McCabe in his view what the signs of corruption were on the state level. Mr. McCabe indicated the following signs:

1. Increased special interests meddling in state election campaigns.
2. The rise in the cost of running state campaigns (Examples: \$32 million for the recent Governor's race and \$8 million for the recent Attorney General's race).

He now saw these same warning signs at the city level and thought that this was the ultimately the loss of the "citizen politician".

Ald. Lauren Cnare asked how long he thought it would take the proposed blue ribbon committee to come up with recommendations. Mr. McCabe stated that it was up to the Council but thought that 6 months (180 days) was reasonable.

Ald. Austin King provided background on the resolution. Ald. King noted that he was a strong proponent of full public financing of elections and that he also believed that there are cases now where there is a dire need for public financing. He indicated that the interest of the citizens, not political donors, should be at the forefront of campaigns.

Ald. Zach Brandon asked what the problem was that needed to be solved. He thought that by solving one problem you would create more problems. He did not see any problems on the local level. He noted that there are already campaign financing provisions in place: limit of \$250 from individual donors and a limit of \$200 from committee donations (e.g. PAC's)

Ald. Brandon also stated that public financing uses taxpayer dollars. Public financing allows people who might not be viable candidates and people who run on specific special-interest agendas to get on the ballot. The taxpayer has no choice on who benefits from their money. He noted that the benefit of having the current campaign financing structure is that it allows for free speech.

He supported possibly placing caps on financing, limiting outside contributions, identifying what the problems are today with campaign financing and identifying what problems may occur within the next decade.

Ald. Austin King clarified that the resolution not only created the committee but also requested that the Common Council endorse public financing. He stated that the committee membership was deliberately stacked with political reformers to accomplish the resolution's directives.

Ald. Brenda Konkel questioned City Attorney May about whether there would be any conflicts with State Statutes. City Attorney May stated that there may be some issues with public financing but State law would be taken into account when drafting any legislation. Ald. Austin King pointed out that candidates could always opt out of public financing.

Ald. Lauren Cnare indicated that she saw value in creating the committee but could not support the Council "endorsing" public financing. Ald. Paul Van Rooy agreed. Ald. Brandon also believed there was value in discussing the issues before the Council endorses public financing.

Ald. Paul Van Rooy moved, seconded by Ald. Tim Bruer to amend the resolution to read:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Madison does hereby wish to investigate (delete "endorse") full public financing of municipal elections for alderperson, mayor, and municipal judge; and,

Ald. Austin King was opposed to the amendment and believed that the Council should take a stand and provide the political will to endorse public financing.

The motion to amend the resolution passed on a 4 - 3 vote:

Ayes: Van Rooy, Cnare, Knox and Bruer

Noes: King, Konkel and Webber

Non-voting: Verveer (alternate) The motion passed by acclamation.

[05847](#)

Discussion Items: Alders Laptops and Viewing Campaign Related Emails/Campaign Related Websites, Personal Email Accounts, Alders Attention During Testimony and Debate - by request of Ald. Zach Brandon.

Attachments: campaign activity memo.pdf

Accept

Ald. Zach Brandon had requested that CCOC discuss this issue. He had noticed at a Council meeting that an alder was accessing a campaign website. He did not think that alders should be using city-owned laptops to access campaign website or campaign-related email.

Ald. Brenda Konkel indicated that she accesses campaign websites to find out what a candidate's position is during Council debate on issues.

CCOC requested that the City Attorney send out a reminder about campaigns and city-owned property.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Present: Austin W. King, Paul J. Van Rooy, Brenda K. Konkel, Lauren Cnare, Robbie Webber, Isadore Knox, Jr., Tim Bruer and Michael E. Verveer

05842

Discussion Item: Budget Amendments and Follow-Up on Budget Initiatives - by request of Ald. Ken Golden

Ald. Brenda Konkel thought that this was a good mechanism for follow-up by city staff and should also be expanded to apply to reports (as well as budget amendments).

Ald. Konkel also requested that CCOC discuss the issue of routine business and 45 day referrals at their next meeting.

CCOC recommended that City Attorney Michael May (with Ald. Ken Golden) pursue drafting a procedure to be codified in MGO Chapter 2 that would address the concerns Ald. Golden had with budget amendment follow-up (and reports as identified by CCOC).

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Van Rooy, seconded by Cnare, The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m. The motion passed by acclamation.