



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved TASK FORCE ON STRUCTURE OF CITY GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

7:00 PM

Room 206, MMB
215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

A QUORUM OF THE COMMON COUNCIL MAY EXIST 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

Present: 7 - Keith Furman; Ronald M. Trachtenberg; John E. Rothschild; Roger Goodwin; Justice M. Castañeda; Maggie Northrop and Eileen Harrington

Absent: 4 - Paul E. Skidmore; Syed Abbas; Rebecca Kemble and Eric S. Upchurch

Also Present: Linette Rhodes, Sue Hoppenberg, Assistant City Attorney John Strange

NOTE: Madison City Channel covered this meeting. Interested members of the public can watch the entire meeting here:

<https://media.cityofmadison.com/Mediasite/Showcase/madison-city-channel/Presentation/fe627965c2c748219932355e0c0cb7e31d>

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Rothschild, second by Goodwin to approve minutes of September 19, 2019 TFOGS Meeting. Motion passed by voice vote.

Motion by Rothschild, second by Goodwin, to approve minutes of September 25, 2019 TFOGS Meeting. Motion passed by voice vote.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There as no public comment at this meeting.

4. DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals at this meeting.

5. DECISIONS REGARDING WHETHER TO REORGANIZE THE CITY'S BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES STRUCTURE AROUND "LEAD COMMITTEES", REQUIRE ALDERS TO ONLY SERVE ON THOSE LEAD COMMITTEES, AND HAVE RESIDENT COMMITTEES ORGANIZED TO REPORT TO THE LEAD COMMITTEES

The Task Force first took up the issue of whether to reorganize BCCs around lead committees. The Task Force discussed how the BCC Subcommittee Report identified many issues related to the current structure of the City's BCCs and that those issues should be included in the Final Report. That Task Force also discussed the need for the City to address the lack of transparency and accountability in the current BCC system and that the lead committee structures offered by Member Rothschild and the Office of the City Attorney were examples of how to do that.

Rothschild moved to recommend that the City create an organizational chart of all BCCs and to organize BCCs around lead committees. Goodwin seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-2-1 on a roll call vote:

Harrington: Yes
Furman: No
Castañeda: No
Northrop: Abstain
Trachtenberg: Yes
Rothschild: Yes
Goodwin: Yes

Next, the Task Force discussed whether the Mayor or Common Council should make alder appointments to the BCCs.

Trachtenberg moved to recommend that if the City goes to full time, then council should make alder appointments to the City's BCCs; if it stays part time then mayor should continue to appoint alders to BCCs. Rothschild seconded the motion.

The Task Force noted that it would be best to discuss this issue when alders were present, noting that Alder Furman was the only alder on the Task Force in attendance at this meeting. Castañeda moved to table the motion until the next meeting. Goodwin seconded the motion. Motion passed on a voice vote.

6. DECISIONS REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCLUDE IN FINAL REPORT TO THE COMMON COUNCIL ON ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE COMMON COUNCIL, INCLUDING:

The Task Force took up issues related to recommendations pertaining to the Common Council:

- a. Whether to recommend a full-time or part-time Common Council;
- b. Whether to recommend changing the size of the Common Council;
- c. Whether to recommend retaining geographic aldermanic districts;
- d. Whether to recommend changing Common Council member terms from 2 years to 4 years;
- e. Whether to recommend that Common Council members be subject to term limits;
- f. Whether to recommend extending Common Council leadership position terms from 1 year to 2 years;

- g. Whether to recommend a particular timeline or process for the implementation of the above recommendations;
- h. Whether to change the salary of Common Council members.

After lengthy discussion on each of the above topics, which can be watched at the above city channel link, the following motions were made:

- a. Justice Castañeda moved to recommend that city transition to a full-time Common Council. Maggie Northrop seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed 4-2 on a roll-call vote. Furman, Castañeda, Northrop, Rothschild voted yes. Trachtenberg and Goodwin voted no.
- b. Roger Goodwin moved to recommend moving from a 20-member Common Council to a 10-member Common Council. Seconded by Justice Castañeda. After more discussion, the motion passed unanimously 6-0 on a roll-call vote.
- c. Roger Goodwin moved to maintain geographic aldermanic districts. Justice Castañeda seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously 6-0 on a roll-call vote. Rothschild, Northrop, Castañeda, Furman, Goodwin, Trachtenberg voted yes.
- d. Ron Trachtenberg moved to make Common Council member terms 4 years instead of 2. After some discussion, Trachtenberg withdrew his initial motion and made another motion to recommend making Common Council member terms 4 years instead of 2 and to have them run concurrent with the mayor's election. Roger Goodwin seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously 6-0 on a roll-call vote. Rothschild, Northrop, Furman, Goodwin, Trachtenberg, and Castañeda voted yes.
- e. Maggie Northrop moved to recommend term limits for Common Council members. Roger Goodwin seconded the motion. After discussion, Roger Goodwin moved to amend the original motion to specify that Common Council members be limited to three-consecutive 4-year terms. Ron Trachtenberg seconded the motion. The motion to amend the original motion passed unanimously on a voice vote. Then, the original motion, as amended, passed unanimously 6-0 on a roll-call vote. Rothschild, Northrop, Furman, Goodwin, Trachtenberg, and Castañeda voted yes.
- f. Keith Furman moved to recommend that if the City moves to four-year terms then it should also make council leadership positions two years instead of one. Justice Castañeda seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously 6-0 on a roll-call vote. Rothschild, Northrop, Furman, Goodwin, Trachtenberg, and Castañeda voted yes.

At this point, the Task Force asked the Assistant City Attorney how these changes could be implemented by the Common Council – by binding referendum, advisory referendum, charter ordinance, or some combination of those mechanisms. ACA Strange recommended that the OCA draft a memo of options after reviewing how structural changes have been made in the past.

The Task Force then stood in recess for 4 minutes.

- g. Upon returning from recess, Ron Trachtenberg moved that regardless of implementation process used by the City that the Task Force recommend these changes take effect at the election immediately following redistricting. John Rothschild seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously 6-0 on a roll call vote. Rothschild, Northrop, Furman, Goodwin, Trachtenberg, and Castañeda voted yes.

h. Justice Castañeda moved to set alder salaries at 80% of the area median income of the County (signifying a single parent with two kids). Maggie Northrop seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously 6-0 on a roll call vote. Rothschild, Northrop, Furman, Goodwin, Trachtenberg, and Castañeda voted yes.

NOTE: These were some of the original questions posed by the resolution creating the Task Force. The Common Council Subcommittee Report submitted on March 12, 2019 addressed these and other issues related to the Common Council on which the TFOGS may make recommendations.

7. FUTURE MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

There was no discussion on this topic.

8. SCHEDULE ADDITIONAL MEETING(S)

There was no discussion on this topic.

NOTE: The deadline for filing a Final Report is December 1, 2019

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by _____, second by _____ to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.