



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Approved COMMON COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 6, 2015

4:30 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 108 (City-County Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Chris Schmidt; Denise DeMarb; Shiva Bidar-Sielaff; David Ahrens; Anita Weier; Maurice S. Cheeks and Mark Clear

Absent: 1 - Marsha A. Rummel

Others Present: City Attorney Mike May, Heather Allen, Nick Zavos, Anne Monks, Ald. John Strasser, Ald. Matt Phair, Sue Pastor and Satya Rhodes-Conway

Ald. Chris Schmidt, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ald. Denise DeMarb, seconded by Ald. Mark Clear, to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2014 Common Council Organizational Committee meeting. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals from the members present.

DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

[36271](#)

Poet Laureates Request: Poetry Recitation Proposed Schedule for 2015 Common Council Meetings

Lisa Veldran stated that the 2015 schedule is similar to previous poetry recitation schedules. It was noted that this item was informational only.

2015 Poetry Recitation Schedule / Common Council Meetings:

Tuesday, March 3, 2015

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Ald. Marsha Rummel arrived at 4:35 p.m.

Present: 8 - Chris Schmidt; Denise DeMarb; Shiva Bidar-Sielaff; Marsha A. Rummel; David Ahrens; Anita Weier; Maurice S. Cheeks and Mark Clear

36320

City of Madison 2014-2015 Legislative Agenda - Nick Zavos, Governmental Relations Officer, Office of the Mayor

Nick Zavos was present for the discussion on this item. Challenges abound: substantial state budget deficit, a governor running for president. He noted that they will be watching for changes/possible cuts to:

**Shared Revenue
Transit Aid
Payments for Municipal Services
Room Tax Control
Revenue Limits
Personal Property Tax**

Mr. Zavos will keep alders updated as the legislative session proceeds.

36717

Discussion Item: Amending the Council's Order of Business: Take all non-public hearing public testimony immediately after the public hearings - Ald. Chris Schmidt, Council President

Attachments: [Council Order of Business.pdf](#)
[1/6/15 Susan Pastor Handout.pdf](#)

Registration: Sue Pastor, Opposed/Spoke, Madison

Sue Pastor opposed moving all testimony after public hearings on the Council agenda. Impact of testimony may be lessened if not provided when the issue is taken up by the Council. Access to the Council through public testimony is part of the democratic process. She provided a handout from her classroom entitled, "Some Aspects and Assumptions of White Culture in the United States" (attached to legislative file) and suggested the Council look at the process through an equity lens.

Ald. Chris Schmidt noted that reorganizing the agenda hasn't worked but certain items appeared like they would go quickly, did not. He thought having all public hearing at the beginning of the meeting could be a solution.

Ald. Shiva Bidar-Sielaff thought that what was unpredictable was council behavior (i.e. debate), not the public's testimony. She suggested making it part of the Council leadership role to determine just before the Council meeting the reordering of the agenda.

Ald. Mark Clear noted that re-ordering the Council agenda doesn't get to the issue of the public waiting long periods of time to testify. He thought expanding the early public comment time period to allow anyone to speak, not just those with medical, transportation or day care issues. Allow the public to make their own choice; testify early or wait until the item is taken up by the Council.

[36316](#)

Report: Midwest Regional Convening on Climate Resilience, Sept. 21-23 in St. Paul MN, organized by NLC - Aids. Ahrens and Rummel

Attachments: [Sept 2014 Midwest Reg Convening Climate Resilience Agenda.pdf](#)
[Synthesis 3rd National Climate Assessment.pdf](#)
[Handout Climate Change GL Region.pdf](#)
[Resources Climate Adaption Resilience.pdf](#)
[2013 Adapting to Climate Change MN.pdf](#)
[US National Climate Assessment Impacts Overview.pdf](#)
[Midwest Regional Convening on Climate Resilience.pdf](#)

Satya Rhodes-Conway was present for discussion on this item. Ald. Marsha Rummel and Ald. David Ahrens attended the meeting also. Discussed mitigating impacts of climate change through resiliency (different than sustainability efforts, but related). Information was provided by Ald. Marsha Rummel and attached to the legislative file.

[36322](#)

Report: National League of Cities 2014 Annual Conference (Austin, TX) - Heather Allen, Council Legislative Analyst

Attachments: [120214 NLC Summary CCOC Update.pdf](#)

Heather Allen was present for discussion this item. She provided a written report on opportunities, proposed next steps and workshops she attended (attached to legislative file). She encouraged the city partner with Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) given the previous discussion on climate change. Ald. Denise DeMarb requested a meeting with representatives from WICCI before a future Council meeting.

REFERRALS FROM COMMON COUNCIL

[36084](#)

Amending Section 7.03 of the Madison General Ordinances to revise the name of the Department of Public Health for Madison and Dane County.

Sponsors: John Strasser and Matthew J. Phair

A motion was made by DeMarb, seconded by Weier, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

[36317](#)

Requesting city staff develops and enters into an agreement with Nextdoor.com to provide a public interface and presence on Nextdoor.com.

Sponsors: John Strasser and Scott J. Resnick

Ald. Denise DeMarb moved to approve, seconded by Ald. Maurice Cheeks. Ald. John Strasser was present for discussion on the item. He spoke of his experience with Nextdoor.com and his frustration of not being able to access certain neighborhoods. He would like the city to be able to access the "City" feature available in Nextdoor.com (making it available to alders, police, streets, etc...).

The City Attorney had concerns with entering into a contract with Nextdoor.com. Representatives have not responded to requests for certain contract elements being included. It was agreed Nextdoor.com could be a benefit for the city but members wanted the issues outlined by the City Attorney to be addressed.

Ald. Mark Clear was more concerned with Nextdoor.com going out of business as a risk for the city after investments are made.

Ald. Shiva Bidar-Sielaff made a substitute motion to refer to the 2/3/15 Common Council Organizational Committee, seconded by Ald. Marsha Rummel and asked that the City Attorney's recommendations be included in the resolution. Motion was approved by voice vote/other.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

*Report on LWM Annual Conference, October 15-17 (Middleton, WI) - Aids. Zellers, Clausius, Weier and Clear

*Report on NLC Annual Conference (Austin, TX) - Aids. Palm and Phair

*Report on State Preemption of Local Authority Workshop, November 18 (Austin, TX) - Ald. Mark Clear

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ald. Denise DeMarb, seconded by Ald. Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.