



City of Madison
Meeting Minutes - Final
COMMON COUNCIL
ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE

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

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

4:30 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m.

Present: Ald. Paul J. Van Rooy, Ald. Zachariah Brandon, Ald. Austin W. King and Ald. Larry Palm

Absent: Ald. Santiago Rosas, Ald. Paul E. Skidmore, Ald. Isadore Knox, Jr. and Ald. Brenda K. Konkel

Others Present: Ald. Ken Golden, Ald. Cindy Thomas, Michael May (City Attorney) George Twigg (Mayoral Assistant), Brad Clark (City Channel Manager)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve November 8, 2005 meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Ald. Brandon, seconded by Ald. King, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by acclamation.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

Ald. Zach Brandon moved, seconded by Ald. Austin King, to table Agenda Item No. 2 - Legislative File No. 02324 until Ald. Brenda Konkel arrived. Motion was approved.

Ald. Paul Skidmore arrived at 4:36 p.m. and Ald. Santiago Rosas arrived at 4:38 p.m.

Present: Ald. Paul J. Van Rooy, Ald. Santiago Rosas, Ald. Zachariah Brandon, Ald. Austin W. King, Ald. Paul E. Skidmore and Ald. Larry Palm

Absent: Ald. Isadore Knox, Jr. and Ald. Brenda K. Konkel

02452

Amending Section 2.01(1) of the Madison General Ordinances to adjust the Common Council meeting dates for November 2006.

A motion was made by Ald. Brandon, seconded by Ald. King, to **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER** for January 3, 2006

Ald. Ken Golden spoke to the ordinance proposal. He believed that scheduling two additional Council meetings for the adoption of the budget allowed for a more thoughtful and less tiring process. The meeting start time of 7:00 p.m. allowed for other committees that may be scheduled on those nights to continue to meet at 4:30 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. The motion passed by acclamation.

02530

Amending Section 2.01(1) of the Madison General Ordinances to require that all Common Council meetings adjourn no later than midnight and to establish scheduled supplementary meetings to be held as needed.

A motion was made by Ald. Rosas, seconded by Ald. Palm, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER for January 3, 2006

Ald. Ken Golden spoke to the ordinance proposal. He explained that this proposal was drafted in response to having too many Council meetings that did not adjourn until the early morning hours. He proposed holding a third Council meeting on the third Wednesday every month with the intent that if either of the two regularly scheduled meetings started to look like they were going to be a long meeting, then the third meeting could be utilized. He used the following example: If there was a major legislative issue on the Council agenda and public testimony did not end until 11 p.m. the item could then be referred to the third Wednesday meeting date. Council could be alert and further deliberate the item.

Ald. Paul Van Rooy asked for clarification on how the third Council meeting would be scheduled. Ald. Ken Golden stated that the meeting would be scheduled automatically but he hadn't thought about the mechanics of what happens if it wasn't needed. He stated that logically the meeting would evolve into an overflow meeting. He thought that the ordinance could include a mechanism for the Council President and Pro Tem to determine what items on the agenda would require an additional meeting.

Ald. Larry Palm questioned how this would work with other scheduled meetings. He used the example that he and Ald. Paul Van Rooy both sit on the BPW and they would miss that meeting if there was a third Council meeting. Ald. Ken Golden believed that if the third meeting became predictable, they could leave the BPW meeting early or have the committee members consider rescheduling the meeting. He believed that by setting the additional Council meeting time at 7 p.m. committees could still meet. He asked that the CCOC members not look at this ordinance proposal as a hindrance to other committees meeting schedules and that their schedules should not diminish the Council's need to conduct business.

Ald. Austin King thought that the third Wednesday of the month would be the worst day of the month and asked why the Ald. Golden chose the third Wednesday. Ald. Ken Golden indicated that the fourth Tuesday of the month may be a better day.

City Attorney May believed that the scheduling of the third meeting could be a regularly added item on the Council's agenda.

Ald. Zach Brandon generally supported the ordinance but indicated that he would like to see a sunset clause after a year so that the Council could evaluate its effectiveness.

Ald. Austin King asked Ald. Golden if this would mean that he would use the 11:30 p.m. automatic adjournment time clause. Ald. Golden stated that he would not strictly hold the Council to the 11:30 p.m. adjournment time but still thought that it was bad practice to continue debated until the early morning hours. Ald. Austin King asked if this rule could be suspended. City Attorney May said that it was possible to suspend the rules of this ordinance.

City Attorney May thought that the ordinance draft should include language to automatically cancel the third meeting if it is not needed.

Ald. Zach Brandon was worried that the third meeting might end up being filled

even it is not needed. Ald. Ken Golden stated that the Council should not be meeting to meet in response to someone not getting something on the previous agenda.

Ald. Larry Palm had concerns about the public sitting through a Council meeting and then the item was referred to this overflow meeting. He asked if it could be specified that particular items may be subject to an additional meeting on the Council agenda somewhere.

Ald. Santiago Rosas moved, seconded by Ald. Larry Palm to:

Change the meeting date to the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.
That there be a one-year sunset clause for Council to evaluate the ordinance
That language be drafted to provide for cancellation of the third meeting
Ordinance is subject to suspension by the Council
City Attorney to draft as a substitute ordinance for Council consideration (does not need to come back to CCOC)
Keep additional budget meetings as a separate proposal and not subject to sunset clause

Motion was approved. The motion passed by acclamation.

Ald. Isadore Knox arrived at 5:03 p.m.

Present: Ald. Paul J. Van Rooy, Ald. Santiago Rosas, Ald. Zachariah Brandon, Ald. Austin W. King, Ald. Paul E. Skidmore and Ald. Isadore Knox, Jr.

Absent: Ald. Larry Palm and Ald. Brenda K. Konkel

DISCUSSION ITEMS

[02539](#)

"Point of Order - Procedure for Mayor to Address Council" dated 11/11/05 from City Attorney Michael May.

A motion was made by Ald. Brandon, seconded by Ald. Skidmore, to Accept With Recommendation(s)

Ald. Austin King found Robert's Rules on the chair addressing the body to be "quaint". He believed the City Attorney should create a new section to Chapter 2 where if there is aldermanic objection that leads to the chair recusing himself to speak to the question it would allow the Mayor to return to the chair after his speech to conduct the vote and that the Council President even if he or she had already spoken to the matter would still be able to take the chair and upon relinquishing the chair the President would have his or her voting rights back.

Ald. Larry Palm stated that if an alder objects to the Mayor speaking from the chair he should follow Robert's Rules.

Ald. Cindy Thomas said that this has been a concern of her's for 2 1/2 years. She believed that the Mayor should follow Robert's Rules. She stated that there is power and authority in the position of chair and it was one thing for the Mayor to step down when appropriate but did not think it was appropriate for him to assume the chair. She believed it put the Council members in an uncomfortable situation. She believed that votes could be swayed. She stated that alders shouldn't have to ask the Mayor to step down and that he should stay out of the chair until the vote was taken.

Ald. Austin King moved, seconded by Isadore Knox, that the City Attorney prepare an ordinance that if an alder objects to the Mayor addressing the Council on an issue from the chair that the Mayor would step down to address the body and then the Mayor would be able to resume the position of chair to conduct the vote count.

Ald. Zach Brandon indicated that he supported Robert's Rules on this issue. Ald. Paul Skidmore indicated that he also supported Robert's Rules on this issue.

George Twigg indicated that the Mayor was willing to step down on big issues to address the Council but not when he was offering comments.

Ald. Larry Palm moved a substitute motion that upon objection of an alder the Mayor would step down and wouldn't regain the chair until the President or Pro Tem had taken the vote and also allow the President or Pro Tem to vote on the issue while in the chair (there was no second on the motion).

Ald. Zach Brandon moved, seconded by Ald. Paul Skidmore, to ask the City Attorney to draft an ordinance that when an alder objects, the Mayor needs to step down and not return to the chair and that language be added to distinguish between minor and substantive comments. Ald. Austin King believed that the Mayor keeps the meeting going and should be able to return to the chair. City Attorney May thought that language could be added to distinguish between substantive vs. minor comments.

Motion was approved. Ald. Austin King was recorded as voting "no".

Ald. Larry Palm left at 5:25 p.m. The motion passed by the following vote:

Absent: Palm and Konkel

Aye: Van Rooy, Rosas, Brandon, Skidmore and Knox, Jr.

No: King

Ald. Zach Brandon moved to take Agenda Item No. 2 - Legislative File No. 02324 off the table, seconded by Ald. Austin King. Motion was approved.

02324

Creating Subdivision 3.27(4)(h) of the Madison General Ordinances to establish a policy that boards, committees and commissions shall not schedule meetings on the same nights that the Board of Estimates is considering the annual City budgets.

A motion was made by Ald. Brandon, seconded by Ald. King, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER for January 3, 2006. The motion passed by acclamation.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ald. Skidmore, seconded by Ald. King, to Adjourn Meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m. The motion passed by acclamation.