



# City of Madison

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
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## Meeting Minutes - Approved COMMON COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE

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Tuesday, May 20, 2014

4:30 PM

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

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

**Present:** 7 -

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

**Excused:** 1 -

David Ahrens

**Others Attending:** Fire Chief Steve Davis, Fire Marshall, Ed Ruckriegel, Ald. John Strasser, Heather Allen, City Attorney Michael May, Sally Miley, Anne Monks, Deb Simon, Ald. Lisa Subeck, Dan Gengler (National Fire Sprinkler Association, Wisconsin Regional Manager) and Rosemary Lee

Ald. Chris Schmidt, chair, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ald. Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, seconded by Ald. Denise DeMarb, to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2014 CCOC meeting and the April 22, 2014 Special CCOC 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.

Ald. David Ahrens arrived at 4:40 p.m.

**Present:** 8 -

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

**PRESENTATION**

[34174](#)

Presentation by Madison Fire Department on Benefits of Installing Automatic Fire Sprinklers in Certain Buildings (Note: Part of this presentation will take place outside the City-County Building)

Attachments: [5/20/14 MFD Handouts Sprinklers.pdf](#)

Fire Chief, Steve Davis and Fire Marshal, Ed Ruckriegel were present for the discussion on the importance of installing fire sprinklers in apartments (prior to 1974) and businesses (bars, restaurants and high rises prior to 2009) and to let Council members know that they are working with the City Attorney's office on introducing an ordinance that would require retroactive sprinkler installation. The MFD expects resistance but they saw the potential of becoming the national leader on this initiative. There is a large financial and economic impact when a building is damaged or destroyed by fire. Handouts were distributed (see attachment to this legislative file):

- The Facts About Fire Sprinklers: Cost of installing fire sprinklers:  
\$2.50 - \$3.72 per square foot as of 5/20/14
- Why Fire Sprinklers Are Green
- Why Installing Fire Sprinklers Makes Sense

Ald. Bidar-Sielaff requested that, in addition to the spreadsheet inventory, they provide a map with the building inventory data so alders can see where the properties are located.

[A demonstration was held outside the City-County Building (room without a sprinkler and a room with a sprinkler). Committee members left at 4:45 p.m. for the demonstration and returned at 4:59 p.m. to continue the discussion]

Chief Davis noted that the recent fire at the State-owned GEF 1 Building had an estimated damage cost of \$500,000. Ald. Mark Clear noted the loss of productivity as well.

Dan Gengler, National Fire Sprinkler Association, regional manager for Wisconsin, spoke to the members about fire cases that effected the tax base, the public safety of citizens and firefighters, and the economic and social impact of fires on a community.

Ald. Marsha Rummel asked Chief Davis to look at TIF funds for possible financing opportunities.

Ald. Maurice Cheeks asked if the MFD had any idea of the costs associated with this ordinance. Mr. Ruckriegel said they would be putting real numbers to buildings soon. He also noted that the MFD would be proposing a long phase in period to keep the costs low for the property owner.

Ald. Mark Clear stated that affected stakeholders need to be involved at the very beginning of this proposal process. Mr. Ruckriegel stated that they had a couple of sponsors for the ordinance and that he would be sending an email to alders asking for additional sponsors. He thought that the ordinance would be introduced at the June 3, 2014 Common Council meeting.

**COMMUNICATION**

[34173](#) Communication to CCOC: Digital Technology Committee Memo re: "3rd Party/Public Access to Traffic Cameras" dated 4/10/14

**Attachments:** [4/10/14 Digital Technology Committee Memo to CCOC.pdf](#)

**Ald. Mark Clear stated that the recommendations contained within the memo were implemented and concerns addressed (3rd party/public access to traffic cameras).**

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

[34144](#) 2015 Proposed Common Council Meeting Dates

**Attachments:** [2015 DRAFT Council Meetings.pdf](#)

**Lisa Veldran presented the 2015 Common Council meeting dates. She noted that changes to schedule were related to elections in 2015 and the need to meet later on September 15, 2015 in observance of Rosh Hashanah.**

[34175](#) Process for the Common Council's 2015 Budget Discussions & Deliberations - Ald. Chris Schmidt, Common Council President

**Ald. Chris Schmidt noted that the 2015 process would be replicated from 2014 and schedule Committee of the Whole meetings in June and October, unless there were objections. The June meeting would be a round-table type of discussion on alder priorities and in October discuss proposed budget numbers/initatives that would be in front of the Council at that time.**

**Ald. Marsha Rummel noted that she was looking at the process of participatory budgeting.**

[34177](#) \$5,000 Travel & Conference Account: Request to Access Funding - 2014 National League of Cities Conference (Austin, Texas)

**Attachments:** [\\$5,000 Travel & Conference Account Policy.pdf](#)  
[D. 20 Request: NLC 2014 Conference.pdf](#)

**A motion was made by Ald. Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, seconded by Ald. Marsha Rummel, to approve Ald. Matt Phair's request for the full trip costs to attend the 2014 NLC Annual Conference in Austin Texas. The motion passed by voice vote/other.**

[34195](#)

Creation of a Benchmarking Ad Hoc Committee - Ald. Chris Schmidt, Common Council President

**Attachments:** [Benchmarking Committee Order 051914\\_draft.pdf](#)

Ald. Chris Schmidt indicated that this was informational only and that a resolution would be coming to the full Council for review and approval. One appointment will need a 2/3 vote because they live outside the city.

#### BUSINESS REFERRED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL

[33523](#)

Amending Section 33.27(2)(c) of the Madison General Ordinances to change the name of the Women's Issues Committee to the Women's Initiatives Committee.

**Sponsors:** Paul R. Soglin

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

[33534](#)

Renaming Section 2.01(6), creating Section 2.01(7), and renumbering Section 2.01(7) to 2.01(8) of the Madison General Ordinances to establish an automatic adjournment at 11:30 p.m. for Common Council meetings.

**Sponsors:** David Ahrens, Marsha A. Rummel, Maurice S. Cheeks and Ledell Zellers

**Attachments:** [Common Council meeting adjournments](#)

**Registrations:** Rosemary Lee, 111 W. Wilson, Spoke/Opposed

Ms. Lee was opposed to the ordinance change. Believed it was a disservice to the public who may have been waiting for five hours to comment and then they learn that their item would be referred; may not be able to attend that meeting. Alders are elected to serve the public.

Ald. David Ahrens made the following points in support of the ordinance:

1. Late meetings effect debate and decision making when alders are sleep deprived.
2. Alders' obligation to constituents was to make good decisions, not be compelled to "get through" debate on an issue.
3. Late meetings preclude citizen participation and observation/review by City Channel viewers.

Ald. Ahrens distributed a chart of Council adjournment times from 10/29/13 - 5/5/14 (see attachment).

Ald. Rummel thought of this proposal as a "check-in" for the Council to see where the meeting was going at that point and then decide at that time to

adjourn or keep going. Ald. Bidar-Sielaff supported Ald. Rummel's interpretation of the ordinance. She couldn't see Council adjourning until the public was heard.

Ald. Bidar-Sielaff would rather rely on the management of the Council agenda by the president:

MGO 2.04 (3) The President of the Council with the consent of the President Pro Tem may defer consideration of any item on the agenda, provided that:  
(a) the deferral is for one meeting only other than by consent of all sponsors,  
(b) the item is not under Business Presented by the Mayor, and  
(c) the President notifies the item's sponsors in writing of his/her intention to defer the item.

Ald. Anita Weier supported the ordinance with the proviso of suspending the rules.

Ald. Ahrens disagreed with Ald. Rummel's assessment that this was a "check-in" process but rather that the meeting automatically adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Ald. Denise DeMarb supported the ordinance based strongly on the need to make good decisions but didn't support adjourning the meeting if all speakers haven't spoken.

Ald. Lisa Subeck noted that it rarely happened that the Council met into the early morning hours and that Council could already table and refer all business to the next meeting. If this ordinance was adopted how would you accomodate big issues, possibly start earlier (vs. 6:30 p.m.) and have more meetings (outside of the budget meeting, the Council only meets 22 times).

Ald. Mark Clear did not support the ordinance because it created uncertainty for the public, applicants, would the item be decided that night or referred? He believed that the Council owed it to the public to make decisions in a timely manner.

Ald. John Strasser saw a danger in allowing two more weeks for individuals/groups to lobby.

Ald. Ahrens noted that this process would eventually become a normalized process for the Council vs. the perception that the Council met routinely until 2:30 a.m. and didn't have its "act together".

Ald. Bidar-Sielaff believed it was incumbent upon the Council to disspell that perception. Need to "power through" just like you do in your day job and saw the process of automatic adjournment as putting off decisions that can be made that evening.

Ald. Maurice Cheeks stated that he co-sponsored the ordinance so that it could be discussed. He thought there should be a more systematic approach on the way the Council does its business, need to look at the broader issues with intention.

Ald. Rummel stated that there was another option; you can leave. Believed

that good decisions are degraded when meetings go late and that the chair could check-in with the council vs. creating an automatic adjournment time.

Ald. Strasser saw the Council rushing to make decisions to beat the 11:30 p.m. automatic adjournment time.

Ald. Chris Schmidt noted that this had been tried twice by previous Councils without success. Changing the zoning code had an impact on late meetings. Concerned that with speakers still speaking you run the risk of cutting off public comment vs. managing debate. Example: Edgewater, speakers until 3 a.m. Ald. Schmidt did not support the ordinance; 1. sets the Council up for fights and 2. sets up potential uncertainty for the public. Possible solution would be taking public comments first on all items. He supports re-referral of the ordinance back to CCOC. Could establish a committee to look at the issue.

A motion was made by Ald. David Ahrens, seconded by Ald. Denise DeMarb, to re-refer to the COMMON COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE and should be returned by 6/3/2014. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

[33942](#)

Amending Section 33.13(1) of the Madison General Ordinances to clarify the membership on the Common Council Organizational Committee when the Council President is elected to another term.

Sponsors: Chris Schmidt

A motion was made by Ald. Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, seconded by Ald. Maurice Cheeks, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

## FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Legislative File No. 32670 - Accepting the Interim Report "Demographic Change and the City of Madison Findings of the Council Legislative Agenda Work Group on Demographic Change & Recommendations for Action". - 6/3/14 CCOC Agenda

## ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ald. David Ahrens, seconded by Ald. Marsha Rummel, to adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.