



CITY OF WAUWATOSA

LEGISLATION, LICENSING & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES • FEBRUARY 10, 2015

Regular Meeting

Committee Room #2

6:00 PM

7725 West North Avenue, Wauwatosa, WI 53213

LLC COMMITTEE ITEMS

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Craig Wilson	Alderman	Present	
Jeffrey Roznowski	Alderman	Present	
Gregory Walz-Chojnacki	Alderman	Present	
Matthew Stippich	Alderman	Present	
Jason Kofroth	Alderman	Present	
Michael Walsh	Alderman	Present	6:20 PM
Alan Kesner	City Attorney	Present	
Carla Ledesma	City Clerk	Present	
James Archambo	City Administrator	Present	

1. Continued discussion of the proposed revised Council Committee structure, and review of proposed changes to Title 2 of the Wauwatosa Municipal Code.

Ald. Wilson opened the meeting with the understanding that the committee would make some final decisions and send this amended ordinance to Council for adoption.

Mr. Kesner was present to assist the committee in their final decisions, explaining different wording toward the same goal.

Ald. Wilson referenced the committee structure discussion checklist from two weeks ago and asked the members to voice their opinions on each of the items pertaining to whether the Mayor should or shouldn't appoint committee members; should the Mayor choose the chair or should the committee choose their own chair and vice chair; should the Council President be the committee chair of the Government Affairs Committee?

Ald. Stippich stated that the council president could have presence to the Government Affairs Committee but not be assigned as the chair for that committee. He feels that the Mayor, being a member of council and an elected official, should have some overarching direction and has been entrusted to make good decisions. Maybe there should be a method to making a change if a bad choice was made in the appointment of a chair.

Ald. Kofroth thought that the council president should not be the chair of the Government Affairs Committee. He is not against the Mayor appointing the committee members, but he does strongly object to the Mayor choosing the chair and vice chair of those said committees. He feels that by the committee choosing their own chair and vice chair the responsibility rests there and it may also create a more efficient and stronger group to represent the city. Committees should choose their own leadership. The majority of the time the Mayor chooses committees that are favorable to the members.

Ald. Roznowski also felt that the council president should not be the chair of the Government Affairs Committee. He feels that the Mayor is part of the council and an elected official and should be kept in her role of appointing members to committees and their chairs. He stated that the Mayor is elected to represent the whole city and may have a broader citywide perspective. Ald. Roznowski brought up the point that the council members change every two years, so the committees will change as well. Ald. Roznowski did some comparables with West Allis and they too have their Mayor choosing the members as well as the chair and vice chair.

Ald. Walsh commented that he has been involved in city government since 2008 and has not seen any problem with the Mayor assigning appointments and chairs to committees. He feels that not having the council president as the chair of the Government Affairs Committee would give opportunity for other leadership.

Ald. Walz-Chojnacki stated that changing the Mayor's role is significant enough to not address it at this time. He does not have a strong feel for the Mayor appointing committees and/or choosing the chair. He does however agree that the council president should be part of the Government Affairs Committee but not necessarily the chair.

The committee agreed unanimously that the Council president would serve as a member of the Government Affairs Committee but not the position of the chair.

Ald. Wilson shared his take on these issues by saying that he felt the council should be responsible for their own decisions in regard to appointments and choosing a chair and vice chair. He feels that the chair running the meeting may possibly look into issues on a broader scope. He also stated that committees are better equipped to choose their own chair and vice chair.

Ald. Stippich asked if the operational functions of the committee could be handled by majority vote. Mr. Kesner affirmed that.

Ald. Roznowski asked if there should be a motion in order to move forward the position of committee appointments to the Mayor.

Moved by Ald. Roznowski, seconded by Ald. Walsh to recommend including in the ordinance that it is the Mayor's responsibility to appoint the chairs and vice chairs. --

Ald. Kofroth asked if the committee wants to be locked into something, that in the end, is already being done without being in the ordinance?

Ald. Roznowski stated that his intent of the motion is to codify this in the ordinance and we can always look at it again and change it, but for now let's define it in the ordinance.

Ald. Walz-Chojnacki asked Ald. Roznowski if he would accept a friendly amendment to his motion allowing five members of a committee to choose another chair if a problem with the appointed chair would arise.

Motion by Ald. Walz-Chojnacki, seconded by Ald. Wilson to amend the motion on the floor to include that five members of a committee can choose another chair. --

Ald. Roznowski said that he would not support this as a friendly amendment and that there is too much inward focus on this matter rather than doing city business. The council has the opportunity every two years to change a chair or vice chair.

Vote on amendment to the original motion: 2 Ayes; 4 Noes; Ald. Roznowski, Walsh, Stippich, Kofroth. Motion failed

Ald. Wilson directed the committee back to the original motion on the floor with discussion.

Ald. Stippich made comment that this motion is attempting to codify a power that is already being exercised and should have it solidified in the ordinance.

Mr. Kesner stated that although it is not currently expressly codified in the ordinance, there are various sections in Title 2 stating that the mayor should appoint the committees and it does not specify that the mayor appoint the chair.

Vote on the motion - Ayes 3; Noes 3- Ald. Kofroth, Wilson, Walz-Chojnacki
Motion fails for lack of majority.

The committee discussed the addition of agenda-setting of committee meetings as the last item of business on Common Council agendas. Items submitted as communications on a Council agenda would appear on future committee meeting agendas. Mr. Kesner commented that the wording in regard to the agenda-setting piece will be added under Chapter 2.02.050 Presentation of Business.

The committee briefly discussed options for providing liaison representation of the council to boards and commissions. Each Board or Commission would be assigned to one of the Standing Committees for the purpose of efficient oversight and communication.

The Committee discussed the role of Council members serving as *ad hoc* or *ex officio* members of other boards and commissions. The consensus was that members are permitted to attend and participate in other Council committees to which they are not appointed. However, it was also pointed out that this practice may pose quorum issues for that member's standing committee.

Moved by Ald. Stippich, seconded by Ald. Kofroth that all members of the Common Council shall be *ex officio* members of all standing committees - Ayes 5; Noes 1- Walsh

It was agreed upon that these changes go to council for adoption.

Moved by Ald. Wilson, seconded by Ald. Roznowski to recommend adoption of the ordinance amending Title 2 pertaining to common council structure to be effective at or prior to the committee meetings scheduled for March 31, 2015 - Ayes 6

RESULT:	ADOPTION [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 2/17/2015 7:30 PM
TO:	Common Council	
MOVER:	Craig Wilson, Alderman	
SECONDER:	Jeffrey Roznowski, Alderman	
AYES:	Wilson, Roznowski, Walz-Chojnacki, Stippich, Kofroth, Walsh	

Carla A. Ledesma, CMC, City Clerk