



City of Appleton

100 North Appleton Street
Appleton, WI 54911-4799
www.appleton.org

Meeting Minutes - Final Common Council

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

Organizational Meeting

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Woodford at 6:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL OF ALDERPERSONS

Ald. Schutz arrived at 6:04 p.m.

Ald. Hayden arrived at 6:22 p.m.

Ald. Alfheim arrived at 6:37 p.m.

Present: 15 - Alderperson William Siebers, Alderperson Vered Meltzer, Alderperson Brad Firkus, Alderperson Israel Del Toro, Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland, Alderperson Denise Fenton, Alderperson Patrick Hayden, Alderperson Joss Thyssen, Alderperson Alex Schultz, Alderperson Kristin Alfheim, Alderperson Nate Wolff, Alderperson Sheri Hartzheim, Alderperson Christopher Croatt, Alderperson Chad Doran and Mayor Jake Woodford

Excused: 1 - Alderperson Vaya Jones

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

All departments were represented.

C. REPORT OF THE INFORMAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

[23-0400](#)**Rule 3. Order of Business***Ald. Siebers***Modify subsection a. Invocation to include one of the following options:**

- **Option A.** The Invocation shall endeavor to be a brief, 1-2 minute statement that prompts inspiration, invokes encouragement, or provides a message of cooperation. The Invocation shall not address, take a position on, or invoke debate on an item on the Common Council Agenda.

- **Option B.** The Invocation will consist of the following message: "We gather together to listen and share, learn and educate, and to be granted wisdom and grace as we move Appleton forward, in the best interest of our community." A moment of silence or reflection may also be used for the Invocation. Additional messages may be added to the rotation of the Invocation with Common Council approval.

- **Option C.** Remove the Invocation from the Common Council Meeting Agenda, and Order of Business.

8 votes are required to pass the Rule Change.

Aldersperson Siebers moved, seconded by Aldersperson Hartzheim, that Option B. be approved. Roll Call. Motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Aldersperson William Siebers, Aldersperson Brad Firkus, Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland, Aldersperson Joss Thyssen, Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim, Aldersperson Christopher Croatt and Aldersperson Chad Doran

Nay: 5 - Aldersperson Vered Meltzer, Aldersperson Israel Del Toro, Aldersperson Denise Fenton, Aldersperson Alex Schultz and Aldersperson Nate Wolff

Excused: 1 - Aldersperson Vaya Jones

Absent: 2 - Aldersperson Patrick Hayden and Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim

Abstained: 1 - Mayor Jake Woodford

Aldersperson Meltzer moved, seconded by Aldersperson Wolff, that Option A. be approved. Roll Call. Motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Aldersperson Vered Meltzer, Aldersperson Brad Firkus, Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland, Aldersperson Denise Fenton, Aldersperson Alex Schultz and Aldersperson Nate Wolff

Nay: 6 - Aldersperson William Siebers, Aldersperson Israel Del Toro, Aldersperson Joss Thyssen, Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim, Aldersperson Christopher Croatt and Aldersperson Chad Doran

Excused: 1 - Aldersperson Vaya Jones

Absent: 2 - Alderperson Patrick Hayden and Alderperson Kristin Alfheim

Abstained: 1 - Mayor Jake Woodford

Alderperson Del Toro moved, seconded by Alderperson Siebers, that Option C. be approved. Roll Call. Motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Alderperson William Siebers, Alderperson Israel Del Toro, Alderperson Joss Thyssen and Alderperson Christopher Croatt

Nay: 8 - Alderperson Vered Meltzer, Alderperson Brad Firkus, Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland, Alderperson Denise Fenton, Alderperson Alex Schultz, Alderperson Nate Wolff, Alderperson Sheri Hartzheim and Alderperson Chad Doran

Excused: 1 - Alderperson Vaya Jones

Absent: 2 - Alderperson Patrick Hayden and Alderperson Kristin Alfheim

Abstained: 1 - Mayor Jake Woodford

Hartzheim moved, seconded by Siebers to Reconsider Item 23-0400 since there were more members of the Council present. Roll Call. Motion carried 14/0 and the item was reconsidered.

Alderperson Croatt moved, seconded by Alderperson Hartzheim, that Option B. be approved. Roll Call. Motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Alderperson William Siebers, Alderperson Brad Firkus, Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland, Alderperson Joss Thyssen, Alderperson Kristin Alfheim, Alderperson Sheri Hartzheim, Alderperson Christopher Croatt and Alderperson Chad Doran

Nay: 6 - Alderperson Vered Meltzer, Alderperson Israel Del Toro, Alderperson Denise Fenton, Alderperson Patrick Hayden, Alderperson Alex Schultz and Alderperson Nate Wolff

Excused: 1 - Alderperson Vaya Jones

Abstained: 1 - Mayor Jake Woodford

[23-0380](#)

Rule 4. Resolutions/Meeting Minutes

Ald. Meltzer & Ald. Wolff

All Resolutions shall be submitted to the Council in writing. *(Add):*
Council members are encouraged to work with staff before introducing Resolutions in order to ensure that Resolutions are well-researched and ready for debate.

Alderperson Wolff moved, seconded by Alderperson Hartzheim, that the addition to Rule 4. be approved. Roll Call. Motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 10 - Alderperson William Siebers, Alderperson Vered Meltzer, Alderperson Brad Firkus, Alderperson Israel Del Toro, Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland, Alderperson Denise Fenton, Alderperson Nate Wolff, Alderperson Sheri Hartzheim, Alderperson Christopher Croatt and Alderperson Chad Doran

Nay: 2 - Alderperson Joss Thyssen and Alderperson Alex Schultz

Excused: 1 - Alderperson Vaya Jones

Absent: 2 - Alderperson Patrick Hayden and Alderperson Kristin Alfheim

Abstained: 1 - Mayor Jake Woodford

[23-0381](#)

Rule 14. Call the Question

Ald. Doran

Call the Question - The motion to call the question cannot be used when the speaker yields to another and then regains the floor. No member can call the question while speaking to the issue. Note: The motion to call the question is not debatable per Robert's Rules. The motion to call the previous question will be allowed during deliberations of the Committee of the Whole. At the time the question is called, the Chair will announce how many Alderpersons are in line to speak.

~~(Add): The question will be called only if 4/5ths of the members present approve.~~

Replace the first proposed rule change (The question will be called only if 4/5ths of the members present approve) with:

(Add): The opportunity to call the question will be allowed only if each member present has been given an opportunity to speak on the item for which the motion to call the question has been requested.

Alderperson Hartzheim moved, seconded by Alderperson Croatt, that the Rule Change be amended to Strike the following sentence: "At the time the question is called, the Chair will announce how many Alderpersons are in line to speak." Roll Call. Motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Alderperson William Siebers, Alderperson Sheri Hartzheim and Alderperson Christopher Croatt

Nay: 9 - Alderperson Vered Meltzer, Alderperson Brad Firkus, Alderperson Israel Del Toro, Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland, Alderperson Denise Fenton, Alderperson Joss Thyssen, Alderperson Alex Schultz, Alderperson Nate Wolff and Alderperson Chad Doran

Excused: 1 - Alderperson Vaya Jones

Absent: 2 - Alderperson Patrick Hayden and Alderperson Kristin Alfheim

Abstained: 1 - Mayor Jake Woodford

Alderperson Doran moved, seconded by Alderperson Hartzheim, that the Rule Change be amended to add "at lease one time" "after given an opportunity to speak" in the proposed amendment to the rule change. Roll Call. Motion failed by the following vote (8 votes are needed to pass the item):

Aye: 7 - Alderperson William Siebers, Alderperson Vered Meltzer, Alderperson Alex Schultz, Alderperson Nate Wolff, Alderperson Sheri Hartzheim, Alderperson Christopher Croatt and Alderperson Chad Doran

Nay: 5 - Alderperson Brad Firkus, Alderperson Israel Del Toro, Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland, Alderperson Denise Fenton and Alderperson Joss Thyssen

Excused: 1 - Alderperson Vaya Jones

Absent: 2 - Alderperson Patrick Hayden and Alderperson Kristin Alfheim

Abstained: 1 - Mayor Jake Woodford

Alderperson Hartzheim moved, seconded by Alderperson Doran, that the Rule Change be approved. Roll Call. Motion failed by the following vote (8 votes required to pass):

Aye: 7 - Alderperson William Siebers, Alderperson Vered Meltzer, Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland, Alderperson Alex Schultz, Alderperson Sheri Hartzheim, Alderperson Christopher Croatt and Alderperson Chad Doran

Nay: 5 - Alderperson Brad Firkus, Alderperson Israel Del Toro, Alderperson Denise Fenton, Alderperson Joss Thyssen and Alderperson Nate Wolff

Excused: 1 - Alderperson Vaya Jones

Absent: 2 - Alderperson Patrick Hayden and Alderperson Kristin Alfheim

Abstained: 1 - Mayor Jake Woodford

Alderperson Doran moved, seconded by Alderperson Croatt to Reconsider Item 23-0381 Regarding Rule 14. Roll Call. Motion failed 6/8.

[23-0383](#)

Rule 32. Continuity of Government

Ald. Doran

The Council, by ~~secret~~ **open** ballot, will elect a Council President and a Council Vice President. If for any reason the Mayor was incapacitated and not able to perform the necessary duties, the Council President would become the acting Mayor. If the Council President were unable to perform these duties, the Council Vice President would become the acting Mayor.

Alderperson Hartzheim moved, seconded by Alderperson Croatt, that the Rule Change to Rule 32. be approved. Roll Call. Motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Alderperson Sheri Hartzheim, Alderperson Christopher Croatt and Alderperson Chad Doran

Nay: 10 - Alderperson William Siebers, Alderperson Vered Meltzer, Alderperson Brad Firkus, Alderperson Israel Del Toro, Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland, Alderperson Denise Fenton, Alderperson Patrick Hayden, Alderperson Joss Thyssen, Alderperson Alex Schultz and Alderperson Nate Wolff

Excused: 1 - Alderperson Vaya Jones

Absent: 1 - Alderperson Kristin Alfheim

Abstained: 1 - Mayor Jake Woodford

[23-0384](#)

Rule 34. Withdrawal of Resolutions

Ald. Doran

Strike Rule 34. in its entirety.

Alderperson Doran moved, seconded by Alderperson Croatt, that the Rule Change striking Rule 34. be approved. Roll Call. Motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Alderperson Sheri Hartzheim, Alderperson Christopher Croatt and Alderperson Chad Doran

Nay: 10 - Alderperson William Siebers, Alderperson Vered Meltzer, Alderperson Brad Firkus, Alderperson Israel Del Toro, Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland, Alderperson Denise Fenton, Alderperson Patrick Hayden, Alderperson Joss Thyssen, Alderperson Alex Schultz and Alderperson Nate Wolff

Excused: 1 - Alderperson Vaya Jones

Absent: 1 - Alderperson Kristin Alfheim

Abstained: 1 - Mayor Jake Woodford

[23-0390](#)

Rule 34. Withdrawal of Resolutions

Ald. Hartzheim

Strike subsection 2. of Rule 34.

~~2) A Resolution may be withdrawn at the Council level by its author subject to consent of 2/3 of Council members present.~~

Alderperson Hartzheim moved, seconded by Alderperson Croatt, that the Rule Change to Rule 34. be approved. Roll Call. Motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 9 - Alderperson William Siebers, Alderperson Vered Meltzer, Alderperson Brad Firkus, Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland, Alderperson Denise Fenton, Alderperson Patrick Hayden, Alderperson Sheri Hartzheim, Alderperson Christopher Croatt and Alderperson Chad Doran

Nay: 4 - Alderperson Israel Del Toro, Alderperson Joss Thyssen, Alderperson Alex Schultz and Alderperson Nate Wolff

Excused: 1 - Alderperson Vaya Jones

Absent: 1 - Alderperson Kristin Alfheim

Abstained: 1 - Mayor Jake Woodford

[23-0385](#)**Creation of new Rule - Pledge of Allegiance***Ald. Doran****Add Pledge of Allegiance for every meeting of Committees, Board & Commissions***

At the beginning of any meeting of a committee, board or commission, regardless of the location in which the meeting is held, after calling the meeting the order, the chair of the meeting will call for the Pledge of Allegiance to be recited before moving on to any other business.

If the United States flag is not present, attendees should simply stand and place their right hand over their heart and face towards the person leading in the recitation of the Pledge or to where the flag would normally be placed.

Aldersperson Wolff moved, seconded by Aldersperson Del Toro, that the Rule Change be amended to strike the last sentence "If the United States flag is not present, attendees should simply stand and place their right hand over their heart and face towards the person leading the recitation of the Pledge or to where the flag would normally be placed." Roll Call. Motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 11 - Aldersperson Vered Meltzer, Aldersperson Brad Firkus, Aldersperson Israel Del Toro, Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland, Aldersperson Denise Fenton, Aldersperson Patrick Hayden, Aldersperson Joss Thyssen, Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim, Aldersperson Nate Wolff, Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim and Aldersperson Christopher Croatt

Nay: 3 - Aldersperson William Siebers, Aldersperson Alex Schultz and Aldersperson Chad Doran

Excused: 1 - Aldersperson Vaya Jones

Abstained: 1 - Mayor Jake Woodford

Aldersperson Hartzheim moved, seconded by Aldersperson Croatt, that the Rule Change be approved as amended. Roll Call. Motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 10 - Aldersperson William Siebers, Aldersperson Vered Meltzer, Aldersperson Brad Firkus, Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland, Aldersperson Patrick Hayden, Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim, Aldersperson Nate Wolff, Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim, Aldersperson Christopher Croatt and Aldersperson Chad Doran

Nay: 4 - Aldersperson Israel Del Toro, Aldersperson Denise Fenton, Aldersperson Joss Thyssen and Aldersperson Alex Schultz

Excused: 1 - Aldersperson Vaya Jones

Abstained: 1 - Mayor Jake Woodford

1. Rules of Council (as amended above)

[23-0387](#)

Rules of Council

Attachments: [Council Rules - FINAL 4-20-22.pdf](#)
[Council Rules - Redlined 4-19-23.pdf](#)
[Council Rules - FINAL 4-19-23.pdf](#)

Aldersperson Fenton moved, seconded by Aldersperson Van Zeeland, that the Rules of Council be approved as amended. Roll Call. Motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 13 - Aldersperson William Siebers, Aldersperson Vered Meltzer, Aldersperson Brad Firkus, Aldersperson Israel Del Toro, Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland, Aldersperson Denise Fenton, Aldersperson Patrick Hayden, Aldersperson Joss Thyssen, Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim, Aldersperson Nate Wolff, Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim, Aldersperson Christopher Croatt and Aldersperson Chad Doran

Nay: 1 - Aldersperson Alex Schultz

Excused: 1 - Aldersperson Vaya Jones

Abstained: 1 - Mayor Jake Woodford

2. Department and Committee Functions

[23-0388](#)

Department and Committee Functions

Attachments: [Dept-Comm Functions - FINAL 4-20-22.pdf](#)

Aldersperson Meltzer moved, seconded by Aldersperson Croatt, that the Department and Committee Functions be approved. Roll Call. Motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 14 - Aldersperson William Siebers, Aldersperson Vered Meltzer, Aldersperson Brad Firkus, Aldersperson Israel Del Toro, Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland, Aldersperson Denise Fenton, Aldersperson Patrick Hayden, Aldersperson Joss Thyssen, Aldersperson Alex Schultz, Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim, Aldersperson Nate Wolff, Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim, Aldersperson Christopher Croatt and Aldersperson Chad Doran

Excused: 1 - Aldersperson Vaya Jones

Abstained: 1 - Mayor Jake Woodford

3.. Commitment to the Code of Conduct

[23-0398](#)

Code of Conduct

Attachments: [Code of Conduct - Current.pdf](#)

Aldersperson Fenton moved, seconded by Aldersperson Meltzer, that the Code of Conduct be approved. Roll Call. Motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 14 - Alderperson William Siebers, Alderperson Vered Meltzer, Alderperson Brad Firkus, Alderperson Israel Del Toro, Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland, Alderperson Denise Fenton, Alderperson Patrick Hayden, Alderperson Joss Thyssen, Alderperson Alex Schultz, Alderperson Kristin Alfheim, Alderperson Nate Wolff, Alderperson Sheri Hartzheim, Alderperson Christopher Croatt and Alderperson Chad Doran

Excused: 1 - Alderperson Vaya Jones

Abstained: 1 - Mayor Jake Woodford

D. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

[23-0430](#)

Alderperson Committee Appointments

Attachments: [2023 Committee Appointments.pdf](#)

Alderperson Hartzheim moved, seconded by Alderperson Van Zeeland, that the Committee Appointments be approved. Roll Call. Motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 14 - Alderperson William Siebers, Alderperson Vered Meltzer, Alderperson Brad Firkus, Alderperson Israel Del Toro, Alderperson Katie Van Zeeland, Alderperson Denise Fenton, Alderperson Patrick Hayden, Alderperson Joss Thyssen, Alderperson Alex Schultz, Alderperson Kristin Alfheim, Alderperson Nate Wolff, Alderperson Sheri Hartzheim, Alderperson Christopher Croatt and Alderperson Chad Doran

Excused: 1 - Alderperson Vaya Jones

Abstained: 1 - Mayor Jake Woodford

E. ELECTION OF COMMON COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Alderpersons Van Zeeland and Meltzer were nominated for Council President.

After secret ballots were counted, Alderperson Van Zeeland was elected Council President for the 2023-2024 term.

F. ELECTION OF COMMON COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

Alderpersons Alfheim, Fenton, and Meltzer were nominated for Council Vice President.

Alderperson Fenton withdrew her nomination.

After secret ballots were counted, Alderperson Alfheim was elected the Council Vice President for the 2023-2024 term.

G. ELECTION OF COMMON COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CITY PLAN COMMISSION

Alderspersons Fenton, Hartzheim, and Del Toro were nominated for Council Representative to the City Plan Commission.

Aldersperson Hartzheim withdrew her nomination.

Ballots were counted and Aldersperson Fenton was elected the Council Representative to the City Plan Commission for the 2023-2024 term.

H. RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED BY ALDERPERSONS REFERRED TO THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

No Resolutions were submitted for the Organizational Meeting.

I. OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS**[23-0399](#)**

Request to modify the Common Council Meeting Schedule for Cancellation of the following meetings:

- Wednesday, July 5th 2023
- Wednesday, January 3rd 2024

Aldersperson Hartzheim moved, seconded by Aldersperson Fenton, that the Cancellation of the two meetings be approved. Roll Call. Motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 14 - Aldersperson William Siebers, Aldersperson Vered Meltzer, Aldersperson Brad Firkus, Aldersperson Israel Del Toro, Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland, Aldersperson Denise Fenton, Aldersperson Patrick Hayden, Aldersperson Joss Thyssen, Aldersperson Alex Schultz, Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim, Aldersperson Nate Wolff, Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim, Aldersperson Christopher Croatt and Aldersperson Chad Doran

Excused: 1 - Aldersperson Vaya Jones

Abstained: 1 - Mayor Jake Woodford

[23-0405](#)

Request to hold a mid-year Organizational Meeting on Wednesday, September 20th, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Aldersperson Croatt moved, seconded by Aldersperson Hartzheim, that the Mid-Year Organizational Meeting be approved. Roll Call. Motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 14 - Aldersperson William Siebers, Aldersperson Vered Meltzer, Aldersperson Brad Firkus, Aldersperson Israel Del Toro, Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland, Aldersperson Denise Fenton, Aldersperson Patrick Hayden, Aldersperson Joss Thyssen, Aldersperson Alex Schultz, Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim, Aldersperson Nate Wolff, Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim, Aldersperson Christopher Croatt and Aldersperson Chad Doran

Excused: 1 - Aldersperson Vaya Jones

Abstained: 1 - Mayor Jake Woodford

J. ADJOURN

Alderson Croatt moved, seconded by Alderson Fenton, that the meeting be adjourned at 7:12 p.m. Roll Call. Motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 14 - Alderson William Siebers, Alderson Vered Meltzer, Alderson Brad Firkus, Alderson Israel Del Toro, Alderson Katie Van Zeeland, Alderson Denise Fenton, Alderson Patrick Hayden, Alderson Joss Thyssen, Alderson Alex Schultz, Alderson Kristin Alfheim, Alderson Nate Wolff, Alderson Sheri Hartzheim, Alderson Christopher Croatt and Alderson Chad Doran

Excused: 1 - Alderson Vaya Jones

Abstained: 1 - Mayor Jake Woodford

Kami Lynch, City Clerk