

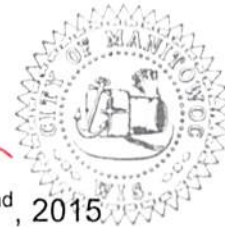
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# CITY OF MANITOWOC

WISCONSIN, USA  
www.manitowoc.org

16-0022



December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

## VETO

TO: Common Council President Eric Sitkiewitz  
Members of the Common Council

FROM: Mayor Justin M. Nickels

SUBJECT: Resolution 2015-1304

Council President Sitkiewitz and Members of the Common Council,

Please allow me to provide the Honorable Common Council with this written communication vetoing the Common Council's action on Resolution 2015-1304 which pertains to establishing mandatory starting times of no earlier than 5:00pm for all committees, boards, or commissions which are established by Manitowoc Municipal Code, receives 50% or more of its funding from the City, or is comprised by a majority of Council appointees. This resolution was adopted by your body on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 by a 6-4 affirmative vote.

I am vetoing this Resolution for the following reasons:

- 1.) I believe 5:00pm is an arbitrary time with no clear rationale behind the purpose for it. Throughout my ten-plus years in elected office I have never heard a complaint about meeting times from the general public. In fact, I have heard just the contrary. For example, the Committee on Aging prefers to meet in the mornings at the Senior Center. This works for them because those interested in these meetings would be at the Senior Center at that time. Another example is the Board of Public Works meeting at 4:00pm which we have heard contractors particularly appreciate (especially after we attempted moving this committee to a later time in the past).
- 2.) Throughout my years in elected office I have never sat on a board/committee/commission where the members didn't ask the membership when the best time was to meet for all the members. There are several individuals who sit on multiple boards/committee/commissions, this resolution would require these citizen members to potentially choose between which ones they can continue to serve on, or not. Most of these boards/committees/commissions have a Common Council representative as a voting member of them, if there is any concern over their meeting time the council member should address it then



– or address it to the council member serving on a particular board/committee/commission.

- 3.) I am concerned about staffing for several of these boards/committees/commissions. This will require certain staff to spend more evenings of the week at work. More than they already do for meetings.
- 4.) I understand the main point of this resolution is to encourage greater citizen input/accessibility to their local government. Several of these boards/committees/commissions are already filled with citizen members providing their input to the elected officials. With the incorporation of Granicus I believe we have taken the greatest step forward by providing as much information to the citizens if they desire it. If there is an issue taken up by a board/committee/commission citizens can very easily contact their elected officials, who I expect would bring it forward to the appropriate board/committee/commission and inform the chair or members of any conflict that citizen may have with the time of the meeting and encourage the board/committee/commission to meet at a different time for that meeting to accommodate the citizens request.
- 5.) Alderman Brandel requested how many citizens have turned down appointments because of the time of the meeting. After reviewing my files I cannot find any during my time as mayor.

Finally, I appreciate the idea to encourage as many citizens to attend meetings and voice their concerns. If there was a contingent of citizens urging us to change our meeting times to accommodate them I would understand the rationale behind this resolution. However, in all my years I have never heard a complaint from the general public over our meeting schedules. In lieu of that, I defer to the boards/committees/commissions (which are made up by some of the very citizens we are seeking to accommodate with this resolution) to set their meeting times that work best for their voting members.


I respectfully ask that you sustain this veto.

As always, feel free to contact me anytime if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

12/22/15

Date

  
Justin M. Nickels – Mayor  
City of Manitowoc