

CITY OF PORTLAND
LEGISLATIVE/NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 7, 2016 Meeting started at 8:05 a.m.

Portland City Hall, 389 Congress Street, Room 209, Portland, Maine

A. Attendance/Introductions:

Councilor Justin Costa, Chair, Councilor Jill Duson, Councilor Jon Hinck, Councilor Edward Suslovic, City Manager Jon Jennings, Corporation Counsel Danielle West-Chuhta, Jason Shedlock.

B. Discussion Items:

1. Legislative priorities: We need to continue to establish a list at the staff level to discuss with the Committee at its next meeting.
 - a. Councilor Duson: We should create an issue-area list as a municipality, including tax issues; interactions with Augusta and Washington D.C. for target issue areas; education issues; social services issues; environmental sustainability including water issues; and elderly issues.
 - i. Research and data on these issues are needed in order for the delegation to make a difference.
 - b. City Manager Jon Jennings: add solar tax credit options and pursuits as well.
 - c. Councilor Duson: we need tracking of legislative items; including renewing the cloture list and tracking items, even if all we have is the title; that is have the committee review that list and decide how to proceed; and what the committee wants moving forward.
 - d. Councilor Costa: wants to send a request for priorities to the City Council, the Portland Delegation and get more for staff and then come back to the committee in August with the list for review.
 - e. Councilor Hinck: the committee needs a strategy, including a timeline, for introducing the bills and having the delegation carry them forward, with dates and including the cloture deadline, January 6, 2016,¹ on the timeline.

¹ Maine State Legislature Joint Rules, Part 2, Legislation, specifies that: "All requests for bills and resolves submitted by Legislators for a first regular session must be submitted in complete form, as provided in Joint Rule 208, to the Revisor of Statutes by 4:00 p.m. on the 3rd Friday in December, except that for the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature, the cloture date is the first Friday in January." Please note that this could change after the election in November.

- f. Councilor Costa: the committee needs to have our internal conversations first and then discuss with the Legislative Delegation; they may have ideas to help us too. Also, follow up is needed re: bonds that Anne Haskell has proposed in the Legislature.
- g. City Manager Jon Jennings: a Legislative Committee and Delegation dinner scheduled on November 17 needs to be rescheduled because of a recently discovered conflict.
- h. Councilor Suslovic: suggested a gathering inviting all the delegation to come. In addition, the committee:
 - i. Needs to look at the federal Legislative Delegation;
 - ii. Get input from ECOMaine, Metro; etc.; and
 - iii. Needs to utilize MMA more.
- i. Councilor Brenerman: the committee needs to talk to the Legislative Delegation about committee assignments.
 - i. Members should follow a list that is smaller and to tell this to Kate Knox;
 - ii. How can we get Council reaction quickly, in order to allow the committee to represent the rest of the City Council?; and
 - iii. We should limit what we do to what impacts the City of Portland, and not statewide bills.
- j. City Manager Jennings: we need to have someone plug into the role that he had at the federal level. He also said we need to narrow the tracking list down to what the focus areas of the city are.
- k. Councilor Costa: the councilors had their own focus areas that they should be able to provide input about to the group in Augusta.
- l. City Manager Jennings: we need to be strategic and regional in our thought process about Legislative Priorities too.
- m. Jason Shedlock: loop the Mayor in as the policy leader and for help with other issues as the committee meets.
- n. It was determined that the next meeting will be August 10, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. (with the City Committee members only) and 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. with the Portland Delegation.
- o. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.