



Legislative Committee February 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The February 24, 2020 meeting was called to order by Chair Pious Ali at 8:06 a.m. in Room 209, Portland City Hall, Portland, Maine.

I. Attendance/Introductions

Councilor Pious Ali (Chair), Councilor Jill Duson, Mayor Kate Snyder, Dena Libner (staff), Danielle West-Chuhta (Counsel), Jennifer Thompson (Counsel), Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur), Alysia Melnick (by phone, Bernstein Shur), City Manager Jon Jennings

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the February 10, 2020 meeting minutes made by Councilor Duson, seconded by Mayor Snyder; minutes approved 3-0.

III. Legislative Update

Kate Knox presented a broad legislative update for Committee consideration, including the State's supplemental budget and progress related to a State lodging tax.

Alysia Melnick provided an update on various pieces of marijuana legislation up for consideration, including LD 2091. Committee members discussed a letter, signed by City Manager Jon Jennings, requesting that the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs amend LD 2091 to broaden the scope of the legislation to include municipalities.

The Committee discussed LD 1403, as well as the report from the statewide stakeholder group and a financial analysis, provided by HHS, regarding the different reimbursement amounts Portland would receive under each scenario. The Committee requested that Jon

Jennings meet with HHS staff to gain additional information and understanding about this bill and its impact on Portland.

LD 1415: The Committee was presented by a legal analysis and recommendation by Jennifer Thompson. The Committee requested that Bernstein Shur ask MMA how Portland can be helpful in their lobbying efforts. Kate Knox was also asked to communicate Portland's concerns to the Portland delegation.

IV. Other Business

Jon Jennings communicated concerns of Portland's Human Resources Department regarding LD 2110. Specifically, HR voiced concerns about the bill's impact on the City's ability to establish its own healthcare and prescription plans.

Kate Knox recounted conversations she had had with the Portland delegation to Augusta, specifically members' request to be presented with information related to General Assistance, HHS issues, and the school budget. Jon Jennings was asked to share a recent school district memo regarding funding with Kate Knox.

All present confirmed that the current workflow process worked well for their purposes.

Councilor Ali asked Bernstein Shur to consider an orientation with new delegation members to discuss the role and limitations of the City. Councilor Duson agreed, adding that the orientation should set the tone for partnership and invite their feedback, as well as provide an opportunity for the delegation to share information about their priorities.

The Committee agreed to schedule a two-hour lunch meeting between the City Council and Augusta delegation on May 21.

V. Adjournment

Councilor Duson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mayor Snyder; vote 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.