



Legislative Committee December 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The December 2, 2020 remote Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Pious Ali at 9:30 AM on Zoom.

Councilor Pious Ali (Chair), Councilor Jill Duson, Mayor Kate Snyder, City Manager Jon Jennings, Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Kate Knox (Bernstein Schur), Chris Feeney (Bernstein Schur), and Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Schur) were present.

The Committee approved minutes from meetings on June 1, June 8, June 22, and September 14, 2020, 3-0.

Jon Jennings reviewed a memo outlining various State legislative priorities of each City department. He emphasized that City staff's primary goal is to prevent funding cuts to programs and services the City relies on.

Danielle West-Chuhta recommended that municipalities' ability to conduct remote meetings be set in stone so that the City would be better able to plan in advance for meetings rather than wait to see if the Governor extends her emergency order.

Mayor Snyder asked the City Manager for the City's plan for funding innovations investments, such as electronic vehicle charging stations. Jennings said the City is currently very dependent on grant funding for such projects, and would like to be able to expand funding sources even further. However, he said that public revenue streams are not bouncing back as quickly as the City had hoped since the pandemic began, so resources for such projects are limited.

Kate Knox indicated that, since cloture is scheduled for December 18, 2020, she and her team would need an indication before that date as to which of the City's priority bills the Committee would like pursued for drafting. Councilor Ali said he would like to wait until the new Committee members weigh in before deciding what action the Committee will take. In addition, he said the Committee would be meeting on Friday, December 11 with the Portland delegation to Augusta and would discuss the legislative priorities with them then.

Knox said she would ascertain the status of as many past bills as possible prior to that meeting.

Mayor Snyder made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Duson, vote 3-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 AM.