



Legislative Committee February 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The February 9, 2021 remote Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Pious Ali at 8:02 AM on Zoom.

Councilor Pious Ali (Chair), Councilor April Fournier, Mayor Kate Snyder, Councilor Nick Mavodones, Jon Jennings (City Manager), Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Kathy Jones (City Clerk), Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur) and Roberto Rodriguez (School Board Chair) were present.

Councilor Mavodones made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 2, 2021, seconded by Mayor Snyder, no amendments, vote 4-0.

Kate Knox reviewed the list of new bills with the Committee. Dena said that the Assessor expressed strong concerns in regards to LD 290 (An Act To Stabilize Property Taxes for Individuals 65 Years of Age or Older Who Own a Homestead for at Least 10 Years). Councilor Mavodones, Councilor Fournier and Mayor Snyder expressed their wish for Kate Knox to continue to monitor it. Councilor Fournier and Mayor Snyder stated that they opposed the bill due to the issues raised by staff.

Councilor Ali, Chair, informed the members of the Committee about a telephone conversation he had with Representative Rachel Talbot-Ross, and that the Portland delegation to Augusta determined that they would like to host the Committee members for a meeting in lieu of attending one of the Committee's monthly meetings. Councilor Ali proposed to the delegation that this meeting be held the third Tuesday of every month.

Councilor Mavodones asked about the rationale of the delegation hosting the meeting instead of the Committee, as it has been done previously. Councilor Ali said the delegation would like to take the lead if they are providing legislative updates. Councilor Mavodones stated that, regardless of how these meetings were structured, it would be important to recognize the different roles held by the Committee and the delegation, as well as to establish clear ground rules. Councilor Ali will continue communicating with the Chair of the delegation and will come

back with additional feedback. Councilor Fournier agrees that it is important for both bodies to get together and work cohesively.

Councilor Ali, Chair, opened the discussion of the 2021 Legislative Work Plan. Kathy Jones asked the committee for feedback in regards to a proposed reorganization of the City's website to enhance how Board and Committee openings are listed. Councilor Mavodones asked for a demo to be shown to the Committee. Councilor Fournier liked the layout of the boards and committees but agreed that enhancing it will be beneficial for the public to navigate the site. Mr. Jennings will work with staff to reorganize the page as recommended by the Committee.

Mayor Snyder made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Mavodones, vote 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 AM.