



Legislative Committee February 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The February 23, 2021 remote Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Pious Ali at 8:00 AM on Zoom.

Councilor Pious Ali (Chair), Mayor Kate Snyder, Councilor Nick Mavodones, Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Kathy Jones (City Clerk), Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur), and Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur) were present.

Councilor Mavodones made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 18, 2021, seconded by Mayor Snyder, no amendments, vote 3-0.

Dena Libner provided the Committee with City staff feedback to new bills. She mentioned that the City staff didn't have any feedback at this time but the Economic Development and Planning staff are interested in seeing what the actual LD 502 bill will look like. As for LD 519 it will introduce provisions that are already active in the City of Portland. Kate Know will continue tracking LD 502 and LD 519.

Mayor Snyder shared a conversation she had with the City Manager regarding delegation meetings, as well as meetings scheduled by the Maine Municipal Association with U.S Representative Pingree and Senator King. She indicated that Mr. Jennings plans to give an update on the annual delegation meeting to the Council and the Committee at a later date.

The Mayor also said that the City Manager planned to give the Council an update about the City's needle exchange program at the March 1, 2021 Council meeting.

Mayor Snyder shared about a discussion held by the Mayors Coalition regarding the proposed stimulus plan presented by President Biden, and how mayors throughout the country are focusing on having additional stimulus for local and state government. A letter is being drafted by the Mayors Coalition for its members to sign to advocate for the additional support.

Kate Knox provided an update about the possibility of the State Legislature going into session on March 10 or March 11 to pass the supplemental budget and possibly working on some bills. Governor Mills will be giving the State of the State February 23, 2021 and may present her bond package. The Appropriations Committee has begun public hearings in regards to the appropriation budget.

Dena mentioned to the Committee that City staff plan to deliver testimony on LD 340 (An Act To Allow for the Establishment of Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Programs) on February 25, 2021.

Mayor Snyder inquired about LD 412 (An Act To Authorize the Use of Tax Increment Financing Funds for Constructing or Renovating Municipal Offices and Other Buildings). Chris Feeney confirmed that Bernstein Shur is monitoring it. Dena expressed that Mr. Jennings was in support of it.

Mayor Snyder made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Mavodones, vote 3-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27AM.