



Legislative Committee May 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The May 25, 2021 remote Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Pious Ali at 8:00 AM on Zoom.

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

Councilor Fournier made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 18, 2021, seconded by Councilor Mavodones, no amendments, vote 4-0.

Kate Knox gave an update on the progress of the legislative session in Augusta. She said the priority continues to be the change package budget, which is very important to the City and she expected would be voted on the following week.

No new bills relevant to the City were published in the prior week, and no public hearings on bills of interest were scheduled for the coming week.

Mayor Snyder asked for an update on LD 1611. Kate said the Committee was not interested in the City's input, and did not choose to include any of the amendments the City requested.

Kate said that re: LD 1695, amendments were made that City staff had expressed concerns about. Maine Municipal Association shares those concerns, and Kate and Chris Feeney had been in touch with them. Kate advised that if those concerns are not addressed in Committee, the City will be able to address them in Appropriations.

Dena said she would share an MMA email describing those amendments with Committee members.

Mayor Snyder addressed two bills she would like the Committee to consider: LD 163 (*An Act To Revise Maine's Environmental Laws*) and LD 1532 (*An Act To Protect Maine's Air Quality by Strengthening Requirements for Air Emissions Licensing*). Kate confirmed that since work sessions for each bill had already taken place, it was too late to formally

submit testimony. She said LD 163 was passed out of Committee with a divided report; LD 1532 had not been passed out of Committee, and she would discuss the bill's progress with Rep. Morales. She also said that while it might be too late for testimony, she could still communicate the City's perspective to the bill sponsor and Portland delegation. Councilor Fournier, Councilor Mavodones, and Mayor Snyder discussed the concerns they had heard from residents in the West End and Libbytown regarding emissions.

Councilor Ali said he agreed that the Committee should weigh in one way or the other.

Kate asked Dena if staff had any concerns about the bills. Dena said that staff had confirmed DEP opposed LD 1532 and was neither for nor against LD 163. An issue raised for LD 163 is language regarding the delegation of enforcement authority to municipalities, and how this might impact City operations.

City Manager Jon Jennings said that over the course of the last couple years, he had worked closely with DEP to place odor monitors on the East End and West End. DEP had recently reported its findings to the Sustainability Committee.

He recommended that additional feedback be gathered from staff.

Councilor Ali suggested that the Committee Work Plan be reviewed at the next meeting.

Councilor Fournier made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mayor Snyder, vote 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 am.