



Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes July 6, 2021

The July 6, 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 April Fournier, Jon Jennings (City Manager), Kathy Jones (City Clerk), Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), Councilor Nick Mavodones and Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur) were present.

Kate Knox informed the Committee that on July 1 the State budget passed with a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority. Kate Knox said they will be back for veto day on July 19. Kate Knox informed the Committee that the Governor did 15 vetoes.

Kate Knox informed the Committee that another big item is the **ARPA Funds Bill**. Kate said this is a large piece of work that is still not done and there is a lot of fluidity.

Kate Knox said Legislation is now done, it is either on the Appropriations table waiting for money or sitting on the Governor's desk. Alysia Melnick informed the Committee that the batch of bills that moved through were sitting on the Appropriations table and did get funded.

Mayor Snyder discussed **LD 1708 (CMP Versant Bill)**. Kate said the municipal tax element is important for the Committee and expects that the Governor will veto this. Kate Knox added that this would create a public power entity. The public entity would take the private assets of CMP and Versant and run a public utility, which is hugely controversial. Kate Knox said there is a provision meant to make sure the municipality would not be left in the lurch.

The House amended the bill to change the language to something that was constitutional so that they would not lose tax revenue. Kate said this bill is now sitting on the Governor's desk, and that she feels that this will be vetoed. Councilor Ali asked if City Manager Jon Jennings has anything to share. Mr. Jennings added that CMP is the third-largest taxpayer, paying \$2.6

million to the City of Portland. He said he has not seen the updated bill but has strong concerns, but knows we may not have time for any impact due to this bill being on the Governor's desk.

Mayor Snyder asked Kate Knox how this moved to the Governor's desk so quickly. Kate Knox said it did move quickly through Committee because everyone knew this was coming. Mayor Snyder asked, if the Governor vetoes this, what rules govern bringing it back? Kate Knox said if the Governor vetoes and the vetoes are not overridden by $\frac{2}{3}$ of members sitting in chairs, then it dies and cannot be brought back.

The Mayor discussed the bill's language and said it was important to make sure that the final language ensures the municipality continues to get tax dollars. Councilor Mavodones agreed and said that they should weigh in as soon as they have more definitive information. Alysia Melnick added that she sent the link to the amendment to clarify. Councilor Fournier agreed that more information is needed but possibly may need to go to voters. Councilor Ali asked Jon Jennings to provide a projection at the next meeting.

Mayor Snyder suggested that waiting until next week would be too late and Kate Knox agreed. Kate Knox said it is challenging due to the level of structural details that would allow information for Portland tax payers in terms of dollars. Councilors Ali asked how the Portland delegation voted. Kate Knox said she would have to look at role calls. Mayor Snyder said Ed Crocker voted against and Kate Knox said both senators voted in favor, but there were mixed feelings.

Councilor Ali asked about the website plan. Jon Jennings asked for clarification on the schedule for meetings, and Councilor Ali suggested that they meet next week. Councilor Ali suggested discussing LD 1708 and the website plan, and then meeting every other week afterwards.

Mayor Snyder made a motion to approve meeting minutes for the June 22 meeting, seconded by Councilor Fournier, vote 3-0.

Mayor Snyder made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Fournier, vote 3-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM.