



Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2021

The July 13, 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 Fournier, Jon Jennings (City Manager), Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), and Kathy Jones (City Clerk) were present. Councilor Mavadones was not in attendance.

Mayor Snyder made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from July 6, seconded by Councilor Fournier, vote 3-0.

Kate Knox discussed the potential vote on the ARPA funds. She said there were a couple of items that would be relevant to Portland, specifically a shelter bond request. Kate Knox said the Governor was expected to veto the Whistleblower Bill and Public Power bill. She did not expect those vetoes to be overridden.

Councilor Ali asked City Manager Jon Jennings about the cost to the City of the Public Power Bill if it is passed. Mr. Jennings said that the costs would be significant, but that he did not have a specific number to share. He added that CMP is the second-largest property-tax payer in Portland.

Councilor Fournier asked about the LD 969 bond for the convention center. Kate Knox said bond bills are being considered in the ARPA bill, and it is on the table in Appropriations. Councilor Fournier said she felt it would be positive for the City, but felt that instead of building a convention center there are other priorities to focus ARPA money now that the Maine Homelessness Report is out from the State.

Councilor Ali asked about the CMP bill and if the Mayor wanted to communicate the City's concerns to the Governor. Mayor Snyder said that Councilor Mavadones had

suggested taking a position, but she questioned whether a statement by the Committee would have any impact, given the timing.

The Committee discussed their 2021 Work Plan. They discussed making the website more accessible to the public and enhancing community outreach when it comes to available committee positions. The Mayor said she would review the City Clerk's webpages closely before the next meeting.

Councilor Ali asked Jon Jennings if he is working with City staff on federal priorities; Mr. Jennings said he usually starts the process in the fall, and the Delegation meeting is held in March.

Councilor Fournier asked about the process that they work with State Delegation, and what is the best way procedurally so when the Committee decides something there is a vote and then whose responsibility is it moving forward so things do not fall off the radar.

Councilor Ali agreed with Councilor Fournier and added that if the Committee can have a workshop regarding their role and purview it would be helpful.

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