



Legislative/Nominating Committee Meeting

September 14, 2021

Virtual meetings are allowed using emergency legislation approved by LD 2167; 1 M.R.S. §403A, that authorizes cities and towns to conduct meetings online. '

Allow your computer to install the free Zoom app to get the best meeting experience. If you are not able to attend live, a recording will be uploaded to portlandmaine.gov/livestream the next day.

For public comment, you will need to use the "raise your hand" feature. To raise your hand via the telephone, please hit *9. You will be unmuted by the host when it is time for public comment.

AGENDA

ZOOM INFORMATION:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86047065349?pwd=T28xbHE5ZUtvZWxlNjArYVQra0h6QT09>

Passcode: 900557

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US: +19292056099,,86047065349#,,,,*900557# or +13017158592,,86047065349#,,,,*900557#

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Webinar ID: 860 4706 5349

Passcode: 900557

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86047065349?pwd=T28xbHE5ZUtvZWxlNjArYVQra0h6QT09>

- II. Call to Order**
- III. Approval of September 7, 2021 Meeting minutes**
 - a. Minutes for Approval
- IV. Discussion of City Legislative Priorities**
 - a. Staff Policy Recommendations
- V. Other Business**
- VI. Adjournment**

Legislative Committee Minutes
September 7, 2021

The September 7, 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), Anne McGuire (Assistant City Manager), Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), and Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur) were present. Councilor April Fournier was not in attendance.

Kate Knox reported that the redistricting process continues to move forward, thus a legislative session is expected in mid-October. There is no indication at this time that session will include more than redistricting. Cloture starts on September 24, which is expected to be a short session where bills of an emergency nature that cannot wait until the next session will be considered. Bill titles will need to be submitted by the 24 if the Council desires to do so.

Councilor Ali asked if the Council needs to do anything to participate in the redistricting process at this time. According to Kate Knox, there is not, as partisan caucuses are drawing maps that are not likely to impact the City of Portland, and that it is likely that changes will occur in Kennebec Co. This process is not currently open to the public, but some public discussion is expected in the coming weeks.

Councilor Mavodones noted that in prior years, once redistricting has been completed, the Mayor has appointed a committee in the city if redistricting may have an effect on local districts.

Mayor Snyder asked about cloture, specifically to what extent can the Council engage prior to cloture, and asked for a list of staff priorities for next year to present to the legislature. Councilor Ali asked for clarification on which staff member will gather the list of priorities. Dena Libner offered to work with City departments to get a list of staff legislative priorities. The Legislative Committee agreed to meet on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 to review the list of priorities before bringing it to delegation.

Mayor Snyder also mentioned upcoming meetings with Representative Talbot Ross. Councilor Ali agreed to reach out to Representative Talbot Ross to discuss meeting on September 21 to discuss the City's priorities for the next legislative session in order to ensure an opportunity to put forward local priorities in advance of the September 24 deadline.

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

Mayor Snyder made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Mavodones, vote 3-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.



CITY OF PORTLAND

To: Legislative Committee
From: Jon P. Jennings, City Manager
Date: September 13, 2021
RE: Staff Policy Recommendations

In response to the Legislative Committee's September 7, 2021 request, City staff have considered what new State policies would positively impact City operations and effectively address certain challenges. Recommendations are included below. We hope these are helpful to the Committee as it develops its policy priorities, and are happy to provide additional information if needed.

Housing & Economic Development

- Funding for the State affordable housing tax credit program.
- Legislation to strengthen and grow Maine's construction workforce and reduce housing development costs.
- Legislation to promote housing stability, i.e. improvements and continued funding for essential state programs such as General Assistance, Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP).

Health & Human Services

- Legislation to mandate State and County investment in shelter services to more effectively deliver resources to residents across the State.

Public Capital Projects

- Amend the statute requiring performance bonds for public projects at or above \$125K (recommendation: \$250K) in recognition of it deterring small contractors from bidding and adding unnecessary cost (3-5%) to relatively small projects.