

Legislative and Nominating Committee Minutes
October 5, 2021

The October 5, 2021 Legislative 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, Anne McGuire (Assistant City Manager), Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur), and Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur) were present. Councilor April Fournier was not in attendance.

Councilor Ali opened the meeting and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to go over upcoming legislation and determine the City's position on those bills.

Alysia Melnick explained the process for bills in this emergency session, and that the only information that is currently available is bill titles and sponsors. Chris Feeney provided a document highlighting bills sponsored by the Portland Delegation.

Chris Feeney discussed carryover and new bills for the emergency session.

Sen. Chipman has two bills being carried over this session, notably [LD 987 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Portland Harbor Commercial Revitalization Project's Confined Aquatic Disposal cell and Dredging Project](#). This and many other carryover bills are mostly bonds, and may not be meaningfully worked as a two thirds majority is required for passage.

From Representative Talbot Ross, [LD 343 An Act To Set Aside Funds from Federal Block Grants for Certain Communities](#) was previously of interest to the Committee. Representative Talbot Ross also brought forward a homestead tax bill, both of which Chris Feeney is monitoring. [LD 1475 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Targeted Food Processing Infrastructure](#) was also highlighted, and was previously supported by the Committee.

Representative Brennan's [LD 49 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Infrastructure To Address Sea Level Rise](#) and [LD 50 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Housing for Persons Who Are Homeless](#) were highlighted, as was [LD 910 An Act To Amend the General Assistance Laws Governing Reimbursement](#), which the City strongly supported and provided testimony for.

Representative Crockett carried over [LD 133 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Fire Stations](#) which the City supported.

Representative Sylvester carried over [LD 181 An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Complete the Renovation of a Wharf and Bulkhead in Portland for Marine Research](#), as well as [LD 555 An Act To Expand the Rights of Public Sector Employees](#), which would affect the rights of public employees to strike and potentially have impacts on the City.

Councilor Mavodones and Mayor Snyder both stated that their priorities haven't changed and that they are comfortable discussing new bills when appropriate.

Councilor Ali noted that when LD 555 was introduced, staff raised concerns and it was suggested that Alicia Melnick and possibly Mayor Snyder might meet with Representative Sylvester to discuss the bill and its potential impacts, but a meeting was not scheduled. Alicia Melnick suggested that this bill be discussed further with Representative Sylvester.

Mayor Snyder asked about the potential for looking at the status and potential progress of bills the City supported going forward, specifically LD 1337, which had to do with taxation for seasonal Mainers. Alysia Melnick agreed to bring that forward for the list for the next Legislative Committee meeting.

Councilor Ali asked about Representative Talbot Ross's CDBG bill and wanted more detail and clarification, given the City's recent vote on current CDBG rules. Alysia Melnick agreed to provide more information at the next meeting.

Alysia Melnick noted Senator Chipman's LR 2264, which is a bill he has been working on with City of Portland staff, and will bring full language of additional for review at the next meeting.

Councilor Ali asked if there were any Study Commissions that the City should be paying attention to. Alysia Melnick noted that decisions coming out of the [Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions](#) will likely have the most impact on the City of Portland's zoning practices.

CM will discuss bringing Mary Davis to LC meeting w/Christine regarding a Housing and Economic Development Committee proposal. Dena Libner noted that Christine Grimando has provided comments to commission which will be shared with the Legislative Committee

Mayor Snyder made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 28, 2021 and September 28, 2021 Legislative Committee meetings, 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 AM.