

**Legislative & Nominating
Committee Minutes**
February 22, 2022



MEMBERS
Councilor April Fournier, Chair
Mayor Kate Snyder
Councilor Pious Ali

I. ZOOM INFORMATION:

- a. This meeting will be held remotely pursuant to the Remote Meeting Policy adopted by the Legislative & Nominating Committee and as authorized under 1 M.R.S. 403-B because of the existence of an emergency or urgent issue that requires the committee to meet by remote methods. 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 available following the meeting.

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.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/84557383929?pwd=Q3ZncTAzZVpicTJGdFhmWDJKb0NXZz09>

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Or One tap mobile :

US: +13017158592,,84557383929# or +13126266799,,84557383929#

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Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

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Webinar ID: 845 5738 3929

International numbers available: <https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/kbnD8VNW5z>

II. Call to Order

Chair April Fournier called the meeting to order at 8:14 AM.

Councilor April Fournier (Chair), Mayor Kate Snyder, Councilor Pious Ali, Dena Libner, (Chief of Staff), Kathy Jones (City Clerk), Sheba Brown (Executive Office Manager), Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), Chris Feeny (Bernstein Shur) were present.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Minutes from the meeting of February 15, 2022

Mayor Snyder made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022 meeting, seconded by Councilor Ali, vote (3-0)

IV. Legislative Update

a. Review: Testimony in support of LD 1626 (An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act)

The Committee discussed draft testimony on this legislation and whether or not to approve it for submission.

Chair Fournier made a motion to approve the draft testimony for LD 1626, seconded by Mayor Snyder, vote (3-0)

i. *A public hearing on LD 1626 was held on February 15, 2022.*

b. Review: Testimony re: LD 1971 (An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Remote Participation)

Testimony neither for nor against was proposed by staff. Language from another bill would allow a legislative body and staff to meet with remote participation by the public. A public hearing will be held on Friday, February 25, 2022 at 10am.

Mayor Snyder made a motion to approve the testimony for LD 1971, seconded by Councilor Ali, vote (3-0)

i. *A public hearing on LD 1971 will be held February 25, 2022.*

c. Review: Testimony in Support of LD 1337 (An Act To Increase Affordable Housing and Reduce Property Taxes through an Impact Fee on Vacant Residences)

Councilor Ali made a motion to approve the testimony in support of LD 1337, seconded by Mayor Snyder, vote (3-0)

d. Discussion: LD 1673 (An Act To Create a Comprehensive Permit Process for the Construction of Affordable Housing)

The Committee discussed this legislation. Staff has issued a memo on this legislation, and indicated that there is a potential challenge in meeting the 30 day review period, in that it would not allow enough time for comprehensive review. Councilor Ali would

like to invite the bill sponsors (Representative Victoria Morales and Representative Rachel Talbot Ross) to discuss and propose amendments to this legislation and outline staff concerns to Representatives Morales and Talbot Ross.

- i. ***On February 15, 2022, Councilor Ali requested staff feedback on LD 1673. A memo is included in backup materials.***

- e. **Review: Amendment to LD 1909 (An Act To Remove Restrictions on Syringe Service Programs)**

Amendment to change unlimited exchange to cap at 100. Funding for removal of syringes was not included in the amendment, which was voted out of committee and is likely to pass as amended. Staff expressed support of this amendment, but continued to highlight concerns about improper disposal of sharps.

- f. **Review of New LDs and Legislative Tracker (Bernstein Shur)**

Chris Feeney discussed LD 1986 (An Act to Exempt Permanently Disabled Veterans From Payment on all Property Tax). This will provide an exemption of up to 100% of just value for veterans who are totally and permanently disabled. The Committee will review next week. This bill would result in an approximate revenue loss to the City of \$90,000.

Chris Feeney also flagged public hearings on work sessions related to appropriations that the City has provided testimony for in previous sessions, a public hearing being held the day of this meeting on LD 1945 (biometric identifiers) and a hearing on LD 1899 which is scheduled for next month.

V. Other Business

- a. **2022 Federal Priorities Memo (staff recommendations)**

This item was postponed to the March 1, 2022 Meeting.

- b. **Discussion re: Nominating Committee Interviews (Kathy Jones, City Clerk)**

Kathy Jones discussed the Nominating Committee Meeting, reported out on the interview schedule and process, and updated the Committee on the progress of the new Boards and Commissions portal.

VI. Adjournment

Councilor Ali made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mayor Snyder, vote (3-0)