

**Legislative & Nominating
Committee Minutes**
March 1, 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/88909451306?pwd=WGtrUmlrMUVTOHRYUTZwdEU5OXJoQT09>

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US: +13126266799,,88909451306#,,,,*652213# or
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II. Call to Order

Chair Fournier called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM.

Councilor April Fournier (Chair), Mayor Kate Snyder, Councilor Pious Ali, Dena Libner (Chief of Staff), Sheba Brown (Executive Office Manager), Representative Mike Sylvester, Kate Knox (Bernstein Shur), Alysia Melnick (Bernstein Shur), and Chris Feeney (Bernstein Shur) were in attendance.

Chair Fournier asked Mayor Snyder to report on Portland's response to the State's General Assistance law. Mayor Snyder shared that there would be a one-time allocation in the Governor's budget that could help with resettlement coordination and services for individuals experiencing housing insecurity.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. Minutes from the Meeting of February 22, 2022

Motion was made by Mayor Kate Snyder and seconded by City Councilor Pious Ali to approve the February 22, 2022 meeting minutes, vote (3-0)

IV. Legislative Update

a. Discussion: LD 1899 (An Act To Ensure Safe Entry and Access for People Seeking Health Care and Other Constitutional Rights)

The Committee discussed this legislation. Testimony was prepared at start of session. Staff did not have concerns about this legislation at the staff level. The Committee had asked for feedback on buffer zone, and Corporation Counsel indicated that this might encounter legal challenges, however this does not impact the ability for the Committee to provide testimony in support of this bill.

Motion was made by City Councilor Pious Ali and seconded by Mayor Kate Snyder to approve submitting testimony in support of this legislation, vote (3-0)

i. *A public hearing has been scheduled for March 1, 2022 at 9:00 am.*

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

The Committee discussed this legislation in depth, highlighting concerns about the language of the bill that would cause challenges for the City of Portland, which is considered for the purposes of this legislation as a municipality in good standing. The Committee asked for staff to work with legislators to develop refinements to the language of the bill in order to make it amenable to the City's specific needs. The Committee will then consider draft testimony in support of this legislation.

c. Review of Draft Testimony for 1772 (An Act To Amend the Remote Meeting Law in Maine's Freedom of Access Act)

Committee Discussed this legislation. Testimony had already been submitted for this bill in the previous session, however it does not contain the provisions the Committee hoped for. It likely that this legislation will move forward.

Motion was made by Mayor Kate Snyder and seconded by City Councilor Pious Ali to support LD 1772, vote (3-0).

d. Discussion: LD 1986 (An Act To Exempt Permanently Disabled Veterans from Payment of Property Tax)

Committee discussed this legislation, highlighting concerns about the potential cost to the City of approximately \$90,000 in property tax revenue loss. Maine Municipal Association has provided testimony neither for nor against this legislation. The Committee would like for the State to increase reimbursement to cover the cost of this legislation. The committee will review draft testimony on this matter at the next meeting.

i. *A public hearing on LD 1986 is scheduled for March 1, 2022 at 10:00 AM.*

e. LD Tracker (Bernstein Shur)

V. Other Business

a. Review: Governor's Proposed Supplemental Budget (Bernstein Shur)

i. *The Governor released her proposed supplemental budget last week; the complete document can be viewed at <https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/8172>. Public hearings are scheduled to begin February 28, 2022.*

b. 2022 Federal Priorities Memo (staff recommendations)

Councilor Ali asked to discuss this matter in greater depth, given that Committee members plan to attend the National League of Cities Conference in Washington, D.C. where they plan to advocate with federal legislators on these priorities.

c. For Discussion: Regional Housing Report Release and Forward

VI. Adjournment

Motion was made by Mayor Kate Snyder and seconded by Councilor Pious Ali to adjourn the meeting, vote (3-0).