

**Federal, State and Intergovernmental Relations (FSIR) Meeting**  
**Video Conference Call Meeting**  
January 15, 2021

Members Present: Council Member Angela Lawson, Chair; Council Member Curtis Gardner, Vice-Chair; Council Member Nichole Johnston, Member

Others Present: Luke Palmisano, Rachel Allen, Kathy Kitzmann, Peggi O'Keefe, Lauri Hettinger, Natasha Campbell, Roberto Venegas, Totsy Rees, Karen Hancock, Mayor Mike Coffman, Nadeen Ibrahim, Julie Patterson, Darin Parker, Susan Barkman, Cammie Grant, Nancy Freed

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** December 18, 2020 minutes were approved as written.
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2. **CONSENT ITEMS:** None.
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3. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

Summary of Issue and Discussion: Chair CM Angela Lawson welcomed the committee to the video conference call and introductions were made.

Outcome: Information only.

Follow-up Action: None.

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4. **UPDATE ON TAX CREDIT USAGE BY AURORA RESIDENTS**

Summary of Issue and Discussion: Mayor Coffman said these programs are not being promoted at the state or county level because they are in the tax code and a person would have to apply for them even if they do not have a tax liability. The earned income tax credit or the childcare tax credit could mean over \$6000 to a family. J. Patterson said they have worked closely with the Piton foundation over the past few years and now will work to expand on their efforts to publicize the earned income tax credit as well as the two other tax credits. Communications has prepared a flyer that will translated into 5 languages. The flyers will be shared with various community partners. The information will be shared through our city communication channels on a regular basis. In addition to the article in the January water bill newsletter it will be on the front page of the February issue. CM Lawson asked if this presentation was informational or if there was some action needed on the committee's part. Mayor Coffman said this resolution has been thorough Study Session and at that time CM Lawson asked for it to come to FSIR. CM Lawson asked if there have been any changes to the original resolution. Mayor Coffman said there had not. CM Johnston said the reason they asked for the item to come back to FSIR is because of the three county's involvement and the importance of FSIR's collaboration with the counties. Mayor Coffman said the city can encourage the county department of social services to get this information out but we cannot mandate it. CM Johnston asked if there are any other referral services where this information can be posted in the nonprofit world? CM Lawson said asked the

committee if the resolution that was heard at the Study Session should be moved to a council meeting for a first reading? The committee agreed unanimously to move it forward.

Outcome: Information only

Follow-up Action: Information only

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## 5. **FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Summary of Issue and Discussion: Lauri Hettinger, federal lobbyist, gave an update on current federal legislation. In late December 2020 Congress passed a large package that included COVID relief, federal funding for the 2021 fiscal year, tax tenders and an energy bill. The bill includes many of the city's priorities. Including \$9 billion for unemployment, direct payments to individuals, SBA paycheck protection program, an extension on the eviction moratorium through January 2021, and an extension on the CARES Act spending deadline to the end of 2021. There is \$14 billion for transit, \$10 billion too for states to use on highways, and a new program called the Low Income Household Drinking Water and Waste Water Emergency Assistance Program that affects Aurora Water which will help families pay their water bills.

Over the next few weeks the Senate will be considering the President's nominees as well as conducting an impeachment trial. President Elect Biden has a proposed COVID Relief bill for \$1.9 trillion. It includes a vaccine plan, continuation of paid sick leave and family medical leave, reimbursement for local governments, unemployment insurance, and a minimum wage increase to \$15. It also includes money for resident's who cannot afford their utilities, it will expand the earned income tax credit as well as provide \$20 billion for transit. In the next couple of weeks President Elect Biden is going to introduce a COVID Recovery package that will include money for infrastructure and clean tech.

CM Gardner asked if the \$350 billion in emergency funding in the COVID Relief bill is for backfilling the budget and revenue shortfalls? L. Hettinger said it is unclear at this point. The formula is not yet known and there is hope that it is the same as the HEROS Act which would allow municipalities to back fill their revenues and would have a population restraint. Those details have not yet been shared. CM Gardner asked why the cyber security piece was included in the bill. L. Hettinger said she did not know and would see if she could find out more information on that. CM Johnston asked if the rumor of forgiving \$10,000 of student loans would be part of this package. L. Hettinger said that it is not in the framework for this package. But she will track that as well. CM Lawson asked if there will be a forbearance for student loans considered in this bill? L. Hettinger said it is not listed but the information she received is very high level so she will be on the look out for that. CM Gardner asked if the small business investment would be considered a PPP round 3? Or is it something different? L. Hettinger said it looks like it is very much the same but the President may change how it is administered since there were so many difficulties with the program.

Outcome: Information only.

Follow-up Action: Information only.

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**6. WATER**

Summary of Issue and Discussion: K. Kitzmann gave an update from the Aurora Water Department.

Request to set Water Tour dates for August 17 & 18, 2021

CM Johnston asked if Water Department considers family, children, and school schedules when setting our Water Tour dates

Kitzmann answered – usually set Water Tour dates for mid to late August to accommodate recess schedules for federal and state legislators and staff. Also, this year, July may be difficult to predict abilities with COVID.

CM Gardner, CM Lawson, and CM Johnston supported August 17 & 18 as tentative dates.

Kitzmann would bring family considerations request back to Water Department for future water tour date setting.

Tuscan South Facility. Aurora's Prairie Water Project recaptures reusable return flows in the South Platte River below the Metro Water Reclamation facility. Water storage through reclaimed gravel pit reservoirs is a critical component to Prairie Waters Project. In 2003 Aurora Water signed a contract to purchase Tucson South gravel reservoir from aggregate industries after completed and reclaimed as an addition to the PWP system and creating water operation opportunities with regional partners. On November 16, 2020 Aurora Water sent a letter to Adams County Board of County Commissioners in support of Aggregate Industries' request for a conditional use permit for the Tuscan South Facility. The support letter and the Tuscan South Facility would have been discussed at an earlier Council Study Session. Aggregate Industries' Conditional Use permit has not yet been approved by Adams county. The Water Department is needing to further engage with Adams County Commissions to advance that project. We wanted to bring this to FSIR to let you know there would be that additional outreach to the Adams County Commissioners. FSIR Committee acknowledged and look forward to future updates

Outcome: Information only.

Follow-up Action: Information only.

**7. STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Summary of Issue and Discussion: Peggi O'Keefe, state lobbyist, gave an update on the state legislation. The first session of the 73<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly opened on Wednesday, January 13, 2021. The two chambers selected their leadership and moved forward some time-sensitive and urgent bills. The chambers planned to adjourn on Friday January 15, 2021 until mid-February. The House selected Alec Garnett (D-Denver) as the speaker, Kerry Donovan (D-Edwards) as Majority Leader, and Hugh McKean (R-Loveland) as Minority Leader. The Senate selected Leroy Garcia (D-Pueblo) as Senate President and Chris Holbert (R-Parker) as Minority Leader. The leaders made brief remarks but plan full speeches when they return in February. The chamber also adopted temporary rules related to how meetings will be conducted this session. P. O'Keefe said they will be tracking several issues that have been identified as city of Aurora priorities. The first are affordable housing, police reform and transportation. CM Lawson asked if the 7 bills that passed through legislation went out to the committee. L. Palmisano said he looked through them and did add SB21-001; Modify COVID-19 Relief Programs for Small Business to the memo. The bill moves the COVID-19 relief program for minority-owned businesses from the Minority Business

Office to the Colorado Office of Economic Development and expands the scope of the program to allow relief payments, grants, loans, and technical assistance and consulting support to small businesses disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the bill extends the deadlines for allocating and distributing relief payments under the small business relief program. CM Lawson asked for the other 6 bills to be sent to committee members for review. L. Palmisano said he would send those out.

T. Rees said she has been talking to CML and the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) regarding SB20-217 fixes. She has provided a document that addresses their proposed fixes to the bill. The main issue it addresses is the fact that there is a lack of due process before an officer's post certification is revoked. CM Lawson said since they just received this document the committee will read and then address any questions to L. Palmisano for clarification. T. Rees gave an overview of potential legislation regarding transportation and fee structure. CM Gardner asked if the application of fees have to go to the voters? T. Rees said there may be a work-around on that issue. T. Rees said she will bring more information regarding Governor Polis' Greenhouse Gas Roadmap that outlines how the state will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Outcome: Information only.

Follow-up Action: Information only.

## **CENSUS UPDATE**

Summary of Issue and Discussion: K Hancock gave an overview and thanked the team for the work done in collecting census data over the past year. Nadeen Ibrahim gave a detailed report on the census collection and data over the past year. CM Lawson was very thankful for all the work done on the census. K. Hancock said all survey and census data is available through the Planning and Development Services department and requests can be made through L. Palmisano. CM Lawson said she will be asking for information regarding redistricting. CM Johnston asked who the victims of crime survey was sent out to? N. Ibrahim said the survey was sent out randomly and the information gathered over time and the results are what we expect to see on a nationwide scale.

Outcome: Information only.

Follow-up Action: Information only.

## **RULES OF ORDER RESOLUTION**

Summary of Issue and Discussion: L. Palmisano said this resolution will update the Council rules regarding virtual and email emergency meetings. The current rules do not explicitly allow for virtual or electronic meetings. The rule change would allow such meetings with the appropriate 24-hour posting. Staff is asking to allow for those types of meetings. If Council were to take a position on an issue over email, which is something that has been done in the past, it would be best practice to then formally ratify those decisions at the next meeting. If the committees agrees to forward this item it will be added to the agenda item going to Study Session on February 1. CM Lawson said this has been an issue she has been working on with L. Palmisano over some time. She wanted to make sure the committee were not violating any council rules and thought it best to change the council rules so that it aligns with the current way we have been conducting FSIR business. R. Allen said this change takes the Committee's current and past practices and aligns them with the council rules. There is a specific council rules that addresses the FSIR committee, recognizing that this committee has to act quickly in order to take a position on legislation and so

the committee can do those emergency meetings. CM Lawson asked if the committee agrees to move this item forward. The committee unanimously agreed to move the rules of order resolution forward to the February 1, 2021 Study Session.

Outcome: The committee unanimously agreed to move the rules of order resolution forward to the February 1, 2021 Study Session.

Follow-up Action: Staff will add this Rules of Order Resolution to the February 1, 2021 Study Session agenda item.

8. **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

CM Lawson said that L Palmisano will be reaching out to the committee members to work out what the committee's goals for 2021 will be.

**CONFIRM NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2021, 1:00 PM WebEx video conference meeting.

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Approved:

*Angela Lawson*      *2-26-21*  
Angela Lawson      Date  
Committee Chair