

Federal, State, and Intergovernmental Relations (FSIR) Meeting
Video Conference Call Meeting
May 5, 2023

Members Present: Council Member Lawson – Chair, Council Member Jurinsky – Vice Chair,
Council Member Zvonek

Others present: L. Rogers, A. Oughton, A. Botham, C. Grant, L. Hettinger, P. O’Keefe, G.
Koumantakis, T. Rees, R. Venegas, K. Kitzmann, A. Davis, J. Prosser, R.
Pena, C. McDonald.

1. CONSENT ITEMS: None.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 21, 2023 meeting minutes were approved.

3. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Summary of Issue and Discussion: Lauri Hettinger provided an update on federal legislation.

Lauri Hettinger provided an update on various federal legislative issues, including the praise from HUD for Aurora's projects, the debt limit concerns with the Limit Save Grow Act, and the upcoming meeting between Schumer, McConnell, McCarthy, and Pelosi. She also discussed the House Appropriations Committee's timeline, the consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act, and Neera Tanden's appointment as a domestic policy advisor. She also reported on HUD allocations and grant opportunities from the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill, highlighting programs for extreme weather events, electric vehicle charging, urban community forestry, and reconnecting communities.

Committee Discussion:

CM Lawson asked if the departments were aware of the grants, and L. Rogers confirmed that the information had been passed on to the grants team and relevant departments.

CM Lawson brought up Senate Bill 870, and L. Rogers explained the bill reauthorizes the U.S. Fire Administration Assistance, the Fires Grant Program, and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program through fiscal year 2030. The bill has passed the Senate and is currently in the House.

Chief A. Oughton discussed the benefits of the bill for the city, mentioning that it has provided almost \$4.4 million in AFG and SAFER Grants over the past seven years. He emphasized that

the grants help localities purchase and maintain rolling stock and provide supplemental staffing for emerging risks and training. He expressed the desire to actively support the bill.

Outcome: The Committee voted on taking an Actively Support position on S. 870.

Follow-up Action: Staff and lobbyists will act on the above proposal in accordance with the positions taken.

4. STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Summary of Issue and Discussion: Peggi O'Keefe gave an update on current legislation.

P. O'Keefe provided a state legislative update, noting four days left in the session and over 150 bills are still being processed. She highlighted three bills of interest: House Bill 1249, which raises the age for prosecution of juveniles in the criminal justice system from 10 to 13, Senate Bill 1307, which allocates \$3.8 million to increase juvenile detention beds by 22; and Senate Bill 23-213, the Governor's Land Use Bill, which has faced numerous amendments and debate. L. Rogers mentioned that their position on the land use bill remained the same. O'Keefe explained the ongoing legislative process for these bills and the challenges they face in both the House and Senate.

C. Grant provided updates on Senate Bill 105 and Senate Bill 172

T. Rees provided an update, stating that both bills (House Bill 23-1304 and House Bill 23-1307) passed the Senate on their third reading and have moved through the legislative process.

Committee Discussion:

Council Member (CM) Lawson commented on the complexity and confusion surrounding the Governor's Land Use Bill, mentioning the numerous amendments it has undergone and asked about the possibility of floating beds for juvenile detention. O'Keefe confirmed that the idea was worth continuing discussions on.

Outcome: Information only.

Follow-up Action: No follow-up is needed.

5. BILL POSITION DISCUSSION

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

L. Rogers introduced two bills for discussion, both with recommendations for active support.

The first bill she mentioned is House Bill 23-1304, also known as Proposition 123, which pertains to affordable housing programs. This legislation outlines guidelines for the implementation of the program and enshrines the ballot measure into law.

The second bill is House Bill 23-1307, referred to as the "Enhanced Supports for Youth in Detention" bill, which is intended to improve conditions and resources for young people in detention centers. The staff recommends active support for this bill, as it aligns with a resolution previously passed by the city and is an area of active focus for the city.

Committee Discussion:

Outcome: The Committee voted on taking an Actively Support position on HB23-1304 and HB23-1307.

Follow-up Action: Staff and lobbyists will act on the above proposal in accordance with the positions taken.

6. WATER UPDATE

Summary of Issue and Discussion: Kathy Kitzmann presented the update to the Committee.

Senate Bill 23 -295, involves the formation of a Colorado River Drought Task Force. Originally, the bill outlined that the task force would consist of 12 appointed seats for West Slope stakeholders, with no representation for East Slope stakeholders. This lack of representation for East Slope stakeholders was a concern, leading to initial opposition to the bill. However, the bill was heavily amended in the Senate, adding three East Slope seats, one of which is specifically for a Front Range municipal water provider. This amendment led to a neutral stance at the House hearing. K. Kitzmann mentioned that their water might be appointed to the task force, although this is not confirmed.

Committee Discussion: None.

7. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

CM Zvonek brought up a bill on property taxes that's making its way through the legislative process, expected to lead to a vote in the fall. CM Zvonek expressed concerns over the bill and suggested the city should consider taking a position on it, especially given the potential for increased property taxes due to the elimination of the Gallagher amendment. CM Zvonek also mentioned the AQCC role, expressing a desire for the city to reconsider its position given potential negative impacts on businesses.

CM Lawson raised procedural questions about how the committee should handle discussions and decisions if they continue to meet virtually. She also proposed moving to monthly meetings and asked for input on which Friday would be most convenient for the committee members.

George affirmed that the committee could either continue with virtual meetings or set another meeting if they preferred to meet in person on the issues that CM Zovnek brought regarding property taxes and AQCC.

Roberto provided historical context, explaining that before the November elections, the council typically reviews all ballot initiatives and takes positions. However, according to council rules, a unanimous vote is required to take an official position on statewide ballot initiatives. Roberto also noted that this rule could be changed if the committee wished.

CM Lawson, CM Jurinsky, and CM Zvonek agreed to hold the committee meetings on the third Friday of each month.

CONFIRM NEXT MEETING

Next meeting set for June 16, 2023, at 1:00 PM, Virtual

Approved:

Angela Lawson
Angela Lawson
Committee Chair

6-19-23

Date