

Federal, State, and Intergovernmental Relations (FSIR) Meeting
Video Conference Call Meeting
September 15, 2023

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

Others present: L. Hettinger, L. Rogers, C. Grant, K. Kitzmann, G. Koumantakis, S.
Newman, P. O’Keefe, J. Prosser, R. Venegas, H. Hernandez, T. Rees, M.
Bryant, C. McDonald

1. CONSENT ITEMS:

- **Extend State and Federal Lobbying contracts for one year**

L. Rogers stated the city had the option to extend the state and federal lobbying contracts. She stated no changes were proposed and all contracts were up to date.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 18, 2023 meeting minutes were approved.

3. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

L. Hettinger updated the committee that it had been six weeks since the August recess and the House and Senate were filing back. She said the Senate got all appropriation bills out of the committee for the first time in 15 years and started considering noncontroversial bills such as transportation, HUD, agriculture, and military construction, VA. L. Hettinger said there were several hiccups on the House side. She said committee meetings, finalizing, and house rules committee bills were required before they went to the floor and they were not able to get that out. She said they had 15 days to avoid a federal government shutdown and the federal agencies had started putting together memos and work plans to explain how it would affect local and state governments. She said she would continue to keep them updated. L. Hettinger congratulated them on getting the USDA Forestry and Community Grant under the Inflation Reduction Act. She added that other grant opportunities would be coming up.

Committee Discussion: None.

Outcome: Information only.

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

- **Federal Legislative Positions**

SB 157: HR 3238 Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act

L. Rogers stated the bill would revise provisions for low income housing tax credits by increasing the per capita dollar amount to modify tenant income eligibility requirements, increase state allocations of the credits, and repeal the qualified census tract population cap. She stated the City recommended a support position and that the expansion of the tax credit would further incentivize affordable housing developments in the city.

Committee Discussion:

CM Zvonek and CM Lawson supported the City's position.

SB 1034: HR 2367: Truck Parking Safety Improvement Act

L. Rogers explained that the bill would authorize the appropriation of a total of \$755 million for the DOT to provide competitive grants for municipalities to approve and develop public parking facilities for commercial motor vehicles. She said the City recommended a support position and allocating for this funding would assist them in developing commercial developments along I-70 and develop safe locations for their commercial drivers.

Committee Discussion:

CM Lawson and CM Zvonek supported the City's position.

House Resolution 3557: American Broadband Deployment Act

L. Rogers said this legislation would codify action from the FCC and preempt local authority over wireless telecommunication facilities and cable franchises. She said it would be a presumption of state and local zoning authority over the placement of wireless technologies, towers, and equipment. She communicated that it was very disliked and that City staff recommended to oppose the legislation.

Committee Discussion:

CM Zvonek and CM Lawson supported the City's position.

Outcome: Information Only.

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

4. STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

P. O'Keefe gave an update on the state legislation. P. O'Keefe talked about the shuffling seats at the legislature. She said the Senate Democrats met and elected Senator Robert Rodriguez as the Majority Leader and Senator Faith Winter as the Assistant Majority Leader. She added that they expected changes in the committee structure and membership. P. O'Keefe said the interim committee taskforces had been meeting and passed titles that were the starting point for draft legislation being created by legal services. She said they would have a full list of the bills to be approved by committees by the end of October and would share those with the council. She said they have continued to have meetings with Aurora Delegation.

R. Totsy said there would be a couple TLRC bills that could affect the city and they would keep an eye on them, such as the infrastructure improvement to reduce vulnerable road user fatalities bill, government's front range passenger rail district bill, railroad safety measure bill, and the extension of free youth transit bill. She stated the Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee met and adopted 16 bills to be drafted, including some the city would be interested in, such as nonfunctional turf in new developments and impacts of conservation on water rights.

C. Grant stated the Sales and Use Tax Simplification Taskforce met and requested several proposals. She said the Department of Revenue requested legislation to simplify their collection of local sales taxes and legislation to look at developing local thresholds that would allow for less frequent remittances. She said the committee asked for legislations to improve the ability of information regarding local lodging and certain use taxes. C. Grant added the Legislative Oversight Committee also meet concerning tax policy and requested 10 bills to be drafted, including modifying, updating, or repealing certain state tax credits and expenditures, creating a permanent fund for state severance tax, and extending the earned income tax credit for an additional three years. She said the committee would revisit the property taxation of short term rentals and requested drafting legislation regarding the Supreme Court decision Tyler vs. Hennepin County and the government seizure of property for unpaid taxes when the value of property seized is greater than the tax debt.

Committee: Discussion:

CM Lawson asked if there would be any way to get a spreadsheet of what was stated about each committee due to the number of topics and information.

P. O'Keefe stated they sent that information to Liz and she could send it to them or they could send it to them directly.

CM Zvonek said he wanted feedback on the property tax crisis, specifically Proposition HH. He said he believed it would fail and homeowners would be faced with astronomical increase in property taxes. He said he hoped they would actually do something to roll back some of the increase and be proactive in trying to get legislature to do something about it. CM Zvonek suggested having conversations about real property tax solutions.

P. O’Keefe agreed that was a good point in regard to affordable housing. She said they could start to have discussions about it and would add it as talking points when meeting with the delegation to ask for some solutions around the property tax issue. She stated she heard the polling was tight on that issue.

CM Lawson said she had been part of those conversations and would add that as a note to have in discussions with legislators.

C. Grant said as the bills gained traction, they would start to gather more information on them.

Outcome: Information only.

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

- **State Ballot Measures Discussion**

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

L. Rogers discussed Proposition HH and Proposition II. She stated all the information is publicly available was in their packets. She said CML had already taken an opposed position.

Proposition HH

L. Rogers detailed the final ballot title. L She said the City did not have a position recommendation and would lean on the recommendation from Council.

Committee Discussion:

CM Zvonek said they should oppose it because they would be taking refunds that were due to taxpayers anyway and paying down the property tax rate. He said if they were really reducing anything they would not have to go to voters. He said Proposition HH would not help seniors or homeowners. He also added they should bring it forward to the full council and ask for all of their colleagues to weigh in on it.

CM Lawson and CM Jurinsky also took an oppose position on the resolution.

Outcome: Information only.

Follow-up Action: Moving Resolution HH to Study Session.

Proposition II

L. Rogers detailed the final ballot title. She stated the City did not have a position recommendation and would lean on the discretion of Council.

Committee Discussion:

CM Zvonek stated his position on Resolution II was no and did think they should move it forward.

CM Jurinsky also stated no to the resolution and yes to moving it forward.

CM Lawson said she would also be a no on the resolution and yes to moving it forward. She said she wanted to make sure the impact was directly to the City.

L. Rogers said they would provide an entire fiscal impact to the council.

P. O'Keefe thanked the committee for renewing the contract and appreciated the relationship and experience.

Outcome: Information only.

Follow-Up Action: Moving Resolution II forward to Study Session.

5. WATER UPDATE

- **Binney Tour - C3 Basecamp**

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

K. Kitzmann said they had a two-day tour on September 11th and 12th and requested to include Binney Water Purification Plants on the tour. She said they hosted them for about an hour and a half on the 12th and provided an overview of Aurora water and treatment plant. She said the Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee requested 16 bills to be drafted in their last meeting and about half were about water and half about agriculture. She added that they still had the Wildfire Manage Review Committee to get their bills drafted and the Colorado River Drought Taskforce would likely have bills. K. Kitzmann added that Aurora State Water Lobbying Contract's requests for proposals and awards were in process.

Committee Discussion: None.

Outcome: Information only.

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

6. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

None.

CONFIRM NEXT MEETING

October 20, 2023 at 1:00 p.m., Virtual

Approved:

Angela Lawson

10-22-23

Angela Lawson
Committee Chair

Date