

Federal, State, and Intergovernmental Relations (FSIR) Meeting
Video Conference Call Meeting
November 03, 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, R.
Venegas, T. Rees, M. Bryant, H. Stauffer, S. Day, W. Flowers, C. Cox, T.
Vaughn, C. McDonald

1. CONSENT ITEMS:

None.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 20, 2023 meeting minutes were approved.

3. COLORADO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

H. Stauffer, CML Legislative Advocacy Manager, discussed the upcoming legislation for 2024. She stated housing would be a huge priority and noted that CML also gave authority to work on an affordable housing bill to give communities the necessary tools without preempting local authority. She said the Governor's Office are working on three bills: planning and strategic growth, transit-oriented development, and accessory dwelling units. H. Stauffer discussed some of the many satellite bills around housing. She also mentioned that the Home Builders Association was working on reforming construction defect litigation and considering a statewide warranty standard for builders. She noted that CML did anticipate issues impacting local licensing of beer and liquor, including a new catering license, change to allowances for existing arts licenses, and removal of statutory licensing fee caps. She discussed bills from the Opioid and Substance Use Disorder Study Committee, including Opioid Harm Reduction and Immunity for the Use of Opioid Antagonists and Harm Reduction Centers. H. Stauffer mentioned economic development and county revitalization authorities, open meetings and open records, IT and websites, AQCC concerning law and garden equipment, and prohibiting certain landscaping practices from Water Resource and Ag Interim Committee.

Committee Discussion:

CM Zvonek asked if there were any conversations or a plan B on what to do if HH failed, stating that residents would be in a tough spot with a 30-40% tax increase.

H. Stauffer said she would be surprised if the government called a special session on it but said Republicans were working on legislation for 2024 if it failed.

CM Zvonek asked if there was additional flexibility and an update on the cap regarding juvenile beds.

CM Zvonek said he understood there were important issues but did not know if they were any more important than the violent crime across their state and community in juvenile crime. He said he would be happy to help build the coalition in finding sponsors in the legislature on the bed cap.

CM Lawson agreed it was worth the effort to keep advocating on the bed cap issue.

H. Stauffer stated she had not heard anything, but that did not mean nothing was happening.

CM Lawson inquired if there was a sense on what type of public safety bills would come forth in the next session.

H. Stauffer said she had not heard details but did see them in the presentation and would be working to get details.

Outcome: Information only.

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

4. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- **Legislative Discussion**

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

L. Hettinger stated Mike Johnson was the new Speaker of the House. She said the House and Senate were working through the appropriation bills. She said the Interior Bill passed in the House, and the Transportation Bill and Water Systems Improvements were being considered in the Senate. She stated that the House and Senate would consider reviewing probation bills over the next two weeks. L. Hettinger noted they were operating under a CR because Congress was not able to pass all 12 bills. She noted several amendments to the House Transportation Bill to cut the capital investment grant program and transit redevelopment grants.

L. Rogers presented a federal bill to take a position on Senate Bill 2860, The Safer Banking Act, which would provide protections for federally regulated financial institutions that served state-sanctioned marijuana businesses. She said the staff recommended a support position.

CM Zvonek, CM Jurinsky, and CM Lawson all approved the Staff's position of support on Senate Bill 2860.

Committee Discussion: None.

Outcome: Information only.

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

5. STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- **State Legislative Discussion**

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

T. Rees stated the 2023 interim committees wrapped up, and the approved bills would be heard in legislative counsel on November 15th, and the committee will either approve the proposals for introduction in January or kill the bills. She said she expected all bills would be approved but would report back when completed. She noted the Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorder Study Committee did not move forward the bill to allow local governments to authorize supervise drug use sites. T. Rees discussed the youth and juvenile justice bills that had been adopted and said they had been working on the juvenile bed cap, but nobody wanted to take it on. She added that she understood that if HH did not pass, there was no further plan.

C. Grant updated on the state budget and Wildfire Matters Review Committee. She said the governor presented his budget proposal, including looking to fully fund K-12 education, a 6.5% increase in the general fund with a budget prioritizing housing and public safety. She also stated the Wildfire Matters Review Committee approved five bills to move forward, including the study biochar and wildfire mitigation efforts, the emergency management plan for individuals with animals, the assessment of rural community wildfire-related grant applications, local government disaster-related programs, and extend outreach campaigns for wildfire risk mitigation.

M. Bryant, Public Relations Manager in the Communications Department, presented an item to seek the Council's allowance for City Staff to provide comments to the State Office of Information Technology as they were going through their rulemaking process on the accessibility legislation. He stated they put items together for areas where they would like clarification and guidance from the process.

Committee Discussion:

CM Zvonek, CM Jurinsky, and CM Lawson all approved the Communications Department to participate in the accessibility rulemaking.

Outcome: Information only.

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

6. WATER UPDATE

Summary of Issue and Discussion:

K. Kitzmann said the Wildfire Matters Review Committee passed five bills, with four supporting healthy watersheds or wildfire spots that Aurora Water would monitor. She said the Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee approved nine bills, including six involving water issues. She said the most significant topic was Bill 6, and that did pass.

Committee Discussion: None.

Outcome: Information only.

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

7. END OF THE YEAR WRAP UP

L. Rogers gave an update on everything the committee could do this year, including lobbying trips, positions on federal and state bills, advocating, and working with different community and governmental partners.

K. Kitzmann said FSIR supported Aurora Water beautifully in 2023, including support, bringing projects forward, education and outreach.

Committee Discussion: None.

Outcome: Information only.

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

8. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

None.

CONFIRM NEXT MEETING

TBD

Approved:

Angela Lawson
Angela Lawson
Committee Chair

1-19-24

Date