

Legislative Committee
January 19, 2018

In attendance:

Councilors: Pious Ali (chair), Jill Duson

Lobbyists: Kate Knox, Alysia Melnick, Isabel Mullin

Staff: Julie Sullivan, Jen Thompson, Danielle West-Chuhta

Chair Ali – welcome, intros and need to clarify process; met with Costa re how things worked for him and whether any changes needed; what does everyone think?

PROCESS

Challenges because committees set so late and short session and Jon so ill.

Alysia said needs can be different based on which bills – eg, things we've taken positions on for years vs something new/controversial, esp if taking a different position than a member of our delegation. Lunches in Augusta were helpful, Jill attended regularly.

Pious – does having councilors and delegation meet help your work? Eg, maybe city side meets here and Alysia can bring up to Augusta whoever needed. Pious cannot go to Augusta because would have to take off work.

Alysia – an email summary of city's positions on things might be more helpful.

Kate – once we have our marching orders from committee, they can represent via email who in delegation they talked to and what positions are. Big meetings are hard to get through everything – end of session would be good. Also even though this is short session, volume of Portland bills was high. So, marching orders are her first priority, and then they can do care and feeding of delegation when up there. Maybe updates on their own work via a breakfast... but not necessary.

Jill – need clear path for councilors to have their fingerprints on what the city's positions are or at least understand. What bills we care about and whether we want them to pass/fail/amend. Danielle used to include this update in her weekly report to council, so I should do that.

Process is if A/K need something immediately, they call Julie, and she reaches out to staff or Chair Ali. Both Pious and Jill understand that all three councilors can't weigh in on every little thing.

Let's continue past practice (Pious).

Jill – please send me all testimonies. Process in general works fine – next session, we'll do the big overview at the beginning and set the agenda. Meetings with the delegation: they seemed

to want councilors? Jill happy to come up to Augusta as Kate/Alysia think it helpful – esp on an important bill they are taking a position different from City.

REVIEW OF BILLS

Pilotage bill – Jen T – Portland and SoPo share the harbor commission because we share the port. In May, pilots raised rates – for vessels of a certain size. Bay Ferries challenged it based on process. Pilots tried again and BF opposed and went to Dion who proposed this bill for no pilot fees for certain cases. Concerns are re like air traffic control – limits the number of ships to enter/exit port at same time, comply with speed and other rules of the road, way traffic flows thru harbor, esp in summer. SoPo waiting to hear what we do. Safety of the port is big concern. We are also in the middle of negotiation with BF. So... Should we NOT take a position?

- (Jen) Pilots have a monopoly is one assertion; harbor commission though has set a licensing standard that is so high that there aren't very many people who are licensed – 4 pilots with this license, two are Portland Pilots...
- (Alysia) Dion has said some of the biggest accidents in the harbor have been when pilots are on board. He used to captain a vessel and if he had listened to pilot they would have run aground. Amount of increase was quite significant and they will leave (BF) if this goes through.
- Jill – oppose the bill and put these issues out in public forum and not allow our position to be talked down individually. Pilots need to testify themselves.
- Kate – this was yesterday and there was a ton of testimony, including pilots and harbor commission.
- Isabel – committee members were fairly put off by opposition to the bill. Momentum is clearly with BF. Mark sponsoring, Rachel testified in support.
- Jill – exemption from req to have pilot, so no fee – bill does not speak to fees specifically.
- Kate - We could still take a position – work session – lobbying hell out of it.
- Danielle – only had to be at 15 trips – we should at least get that number higher, like 250 trips. They could do 15 in a week. Require more knowledge of harbor – drive home safety concerns.
- Jill – important for City to put its position out there and work the bill and not concede without having stated our legitimate concerns about safety, etc. Provide strong testimony. Go all out on this.
- Kate – suggested amendments would be helpful. Trip numbers is one. (250)
- Argument that there was an exception at one point and no increase in accidents?
- Substantial uptick in cruise ships, ferries ride so high you can't see, kayakers, Eimskip.
- Jill – long letter from cmte chair and cm on this.
- Isabel – Rep Sylvester testified against – focusing on safety.
- What about Heather? Will check with her to see
- Jill moved make oppo to this bill a priority and auth our staff and lobbyists to develop an action plan to go after it. Pious second, unanimous.

- Jen will write it up for K/A
- Yes, send someone up to testify if allowed; even hallway convos helpful – Jen or Bill N.
- Kate will ask for us to have 3 minutes

LD 1629 - Jill – MMA LPC – oppose senior tax lien – leg will be sympathetic because of title but comes from governor’s weird read of what we do re tax lien foreclosures. Mayor’s commission also opposing. Based on one case. No idea what we do in reality. Already have capacity in statute to address.

- Jill – provide fact sheet on our tax lien foreclosure process
- Danielle – will talk to Chris Huff
- Jill – move we authorize oppo – unanimous

Process – Pious – how often meet with delegation, how often meet as committee –

- GA, marijuana plus work sessions...
- Kate – small cell update – they don’t like the \$2400 and said won’t do it (the cell and cable cos) – ATT and Verizon have dropped this bill in about 20 states. Charter, Comcast, MMA, COP oppo. Stakeholder group proposed. Kate has call today at 11:30 with Charter, Comcast, MMA – need whip count to see if can kill in cmte, otherwise delay as long as possible.
- Jill – yes, ratify position staff took and work done yesterday. Also syringe exchange bill and marijuana bill re taxes/fees
- Alysia – marijuana - Saviello – explicitly permitted fees – so costs could be covered by licensing fees. We can set licensing fees however we want. Danielle concerned because if fee has to reasonably reflect our costs which would be hard to back up.
 - If no substantial rev sharing, then would city oppose the omnibus legislation?
 - Need to make as much revenue on this as possible because also of things like GA that as the largest service center community that we have to support
 - But don’t think we would oppose the omnibus leg (Jill)
 - Kate – need to round up delegation and get them to really push on this; our delegation voting no would keep the bill from passing.
 - Alysia – yes, we do think it’s going to be vetoed anyway.
 - Jill – have meeting up there?
 - Pious – how often should we meet with delegation? Kate – good to do one initial meeting with councilors and delegation – that’s probably it. Kate will circle up with Rachel at beg of week re when – eg, lunch on a certain day. Jon, Danielle and I should go too. (def me)
 - Julie send deets of LD 1687 to Melissa re should we take posn
 - Julie send deets of LD 1722 to Greg re same

- Need delegation to be aware of 1754 (rural roads) – put together 5 bullets on why this is problematic – Julie work with Chris B.
- Julie send leg tracking document to full council as update from Chair Ali weekly