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Tuesday, February 9, 2021

7:30 a.m.

Zoom

Members Present:

- Mayor Dean O'Connor, Altoona**
- Council Member Bobbi Benz, Ankeny**
- Mayor Scott Cirksena, Clive**
- Council Member John Edwards, Clive**
- Mayor Frank Cownie, Des Moines**
- Council Member Connie Boesen, Des Moines**
- Council Member Eric Johansen, Grimes**
- Mayor Pam Pepper, Indianola**
- Council Member Bob Kling, Indianola**
- Council Member Tom Cope, Johnston**
- Mayor Tom Phillips, Norwalk**
- Council Member Curt Gause, Pleasant Hill**
- Council Member Robert Sarchet, Polk City**
- Supervisor Matt McCoy, Polk County**
- Mayor Bob Andeweg, Urbandale**
- Council Member David Russell, Urbandale**
- Mayor Courtney Clarke, Waukee**
- Council Member Ben Sinclair, Waukee**
- Council Member Russ Trimble, West Des Moines**
- Mayor Dave Burgess, Windsor Heights**
- Council Member Theresa Harms, Windsor Heights**

Staff Present:

- Alex Hassel, Policy Liaison, City of Des Moines**
- Jeff Lester, Des Moines City Attorney**

Guests Present:

- Senator Nate Boulton**
- Senator Sarah Trone Garriott**
- Representative Eddie Andrews**
- Representative Jennifer Konfrst**
- Andrea Woodard, Greater Des Moines Partnership**
- Ryan Moon, Greater Des Moines Partnership**
- Rhonda Martin, Johnston City Council**
- Angie Arthur, Polk County Continuum of Care**
- Art Witmack, Taxpayers Association of Iowa**
- Daniel Stalder, Iowa League of Cities**

Elisabeth Buck, United Way
Jen Schulte, City of Des Moines
Shelley Watkins, Central Iowa Shelter & Services

Approval of the January 12, 2021 meeting minutes were moved for approval by Frank Cownie, seconded by Tom Cope. All voted in favor. Motion Carried.

Review of Legislation of Interest – Tom Cope

Tom Cope presented on the attached legislative update document.

Dean O'Connor spoke regarding SSB 1140, the Governor's omnibus public safety bill. This will have the opposite effect for police departments because there are many reasons as to why police budgets go up and down (hiring more officers, officers retire, etc.) and with this bill Councils might be hesitant to ever raise the budget which would effectively cap police budgets and have an adverse effect.

Bob Kling asked how SF 50, Hotel/Motel Taxes, would impact Bravo. Tom responded that it would essentially force a restructure because currently, 50 percent of hotel/motel tax revenue is used for tourism promotion or entertainment/cultural venues. If the bill passed the way it is, it would require that all of that 50 percent gets spent on tourism and promotion, which is not how Bravo currently spends its money. The bill will likely not move forward as currently drafted.

Input from Legislators

Representative Konfrst discussed HSB 80, the electric bikes bill. It allows local governments to regulate where e-bikes are allowed but doesn't allow you to regulate it differently than a regular bicycle. Representative Konfrst also shared that 411 passed the House State Government Committee, and that things are moving quickly at the legislature so that concerns need to be shared with committee members as soon as possible.

Senator Trone Garriott shared the education funding proposals. The Senate has proposed a similar funding level, however, enrollments statewide are down about 7,000 students due to parents holding students back a year from preschool. Because of this, the increase this year is much lower and in some communities, will trigger the budget guarantee and raise property taxes to make up the difference. Erin Johnson asked if increased property valuations might make up the difference or if there is other funding being considered. Senator Trone Garriott shared that they are considering an additional \$30 million for schools that were compliant with COVID-19 back to school requirements.

Courtney Clarke asked about what advocacy strategies have been effective on issues where home rule and local control has not been effective. Tom Cope shared that they argument of local control needs to be made still, but supplemented with additional data.

Senator Boulton and Representative Andrews both shared appreciation for the legislative update and connecting with local communities through MAC.

United Way Update

Elisabeth Buck presented on the attached presentation.

COVID Updates

Frank Cownie shared an update on the City's mask requirements. Discussion followed regarding metrics being used to determine City responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Curt Gause shared that Pleasant Hill is working on additional guidelines for home based businesses as they have seen in increase them throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Future Topics

The Energy Resolution passed by Des Moines will be shared in the minutes.

DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

7:30 a.m.

Zoom