



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – September 7, 2016 Agenda Item 5

Voting Session

Discussion of Legislative Priorities

Recommended Council Action

Identify priorities and provide direction to the City Manager.

Context with Key Issues

This work session discussion has been scheduled to have the Council begin to identify its legislative priorities for the 2017 Session of the General Assembly; select areas of focus for Public Policy Partners in monitoring legislation and advocating for the City, as well as to determine the Council's expectations for the relationship; to prepare for issuing an RFP for the County legislative advocate that is funded in the FY 2017 budget; and to consider selecting Councilmembers to serve as points of contact on legislative matters. More detailed information is included below.

Each year the City Council identifies its legislative priorities to guide staff and the City's legislative advocate in pursuing the City's interests in Annapolis.

In July, three requests were submitted to the Maryland Municipal League for consideration as MML priorities: 1) pursue the creation of an Innovation Fund from which municipalities could receive grant funding to undertake innovative efforts to advance one or more high priority goals of the State; 2) mandate coordination of construction and repairs by utilities and the State Highway Administration, and localities, provide notice to municipalities and residents, and mandate time frames in which final repaving and repairs are made to residents' property; and, 3) request an evaluation of the collection and distribution of business personal property tax by the State of Maryland.

While the MML priorities are generally of interest to many municipalities in Maryland, the City Council pursues other legislative priorities as well. The Council is requested to identify those other priorities. Items that may be considered include:

- State bond bills (grants) for the Library renovation and, perhaps, a pool and recreation facility on the Washington Adventist Hospital campus.
- Follow up on the language inserted in the State's FY 17 budget regarding utilities and New Hampshire Avenue economic development.

The City has a contract with Public Policy Partners to serve as its legislative advocate in Annapolis. The legislative advocate promotes the City's interests in the General Assembly, identifies legislation of interest to monitor and provides information on the status and likelihood of passage, supports the City's efforts in having legislation adopted or amended, provides guidance to Council and staff in delivering effective testimony, and has a good knowledge of the General Assembly's leadership,

legislators, committees, and staff.

In addition to identifying legislative priorities to pursue, it would be helpful for the Council to consider what types of bills should be monitored before and during the session as well as what kind of interaction with and reporting from the legislative advocate would be most helpful.

Councilmember Smith has been serving on the MML Legislative Committee and has now been appointed to serve as Vice Chair. He will be kept apprised of bills affecting municipalities through this network. Does the Council have suggestions as to how best to share this information?

The Council included in the FY 2017 Budget funds to hire an advocate to represent the City's interests with Montgomery County. To guide the preparation of the RFP to be issued, the Council is requested to comment on what would be focus areas for the Montgomery County legislative advocate and how much time is anticipated to be needed. Does the Council wish to have one Councilmember serve as a point person for the RFP process and, eventually, for the City's Montgomery County legislation?

Council Priority

Livable Community for All; Fiscally Sustainable Government; Engaged, Responsive, and Service Oriented Government; Advance Economic Development Efforts

Environmental Impact of Action

N/A

Fiscal Impact of Action

N/A

Attachments and Links

- Montgomery County Delegation Fall Calendar

PREPARATION FOR THE 2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION - MONTGOMERY COUNTY DELEGATION FALL CALENDAR

Thursday, October 6, 2016 - Bill Request Deadline for local and bi-county bills (This is a "guarantee" deadline. All bills submitted by this date are guaranteed to be back to the legislator for approval prior to the Sponsor Approval Deadline.)

Thursday, November 3, 2016 - Sponsor Approval Deadline for local and bi-county bills (This is the deadline for the requesting legislator to approve local and bi-county legislation in order to be guaranteed a hearing without the bill considered to be "late filed.")

Thursday, November 10, 2016 - Consolidated Transportation Program Presentation ("Road Show")* by State Highway Administration, 7:00 p.m. - 3rd Floor Hearing Room, Stella Werner Council Office Bldg., 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

Wednesday, November 16, 2016 - Joint House and Senate Priorities Hearing - 7:00 p.m. - 3rd Floor Hearing Room, Stella Werner Council Office Bldg., 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850 - This hearing is an opportunity for the public to respond to the Road Show and to bring other issues of importance for the 2017 Session to the attention of the legislators.

Monday, December 5, 2016 - House Hearing for local and bi-county bills - 7:00 p.m. - 3rd Floor Hearing Room, Stella Werner Council Office Bldg., 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850 - Local bills refer to legislation affecting issues specific to Montgomery County. Bi-County bills refer to legislation that requires the approval of the Montgomery County and the Prince George's County Delegations.

Wednesday, December 7, 2016 - House Hearing for local and bi-county bills - 7:00 p.m. - 3rd Floor Hearing Room, Stella Werner Council Office Bldg., 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850 - Local bills refer to legislation affecting issues specific to Montgomery County. Bi-County bills refer to legislation that requires the approval of the Montgomery County and the Prince George's County Delegations.

***Maryland Department of Transportation "Road Show"**

Each fall, the Maryland Secretary of Transportation travels to each of the 23 counties and the City of Baltimore taking the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Capital Program on tour. On each of the stops, department officials present the consolidated transportation plan to local officials and the citizens. Transportation plans of general interest, as well as those specific to the individual county are discussed, and the department then seeks input from both the local elected officials and the general public. The public's opportunity to respond to issues raised at the "Road Show" is at the Joint Legislative Priorities Hearing.