



MONROE CITY COUNCIL
Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 12, 2019, 6 P.M.
Monroe City Hall

2019 Committee
Councilmembers
Ed Davis
Jim Kamp
Kirk Scarboro

AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Approval Minutes** (August 13, 2019) [\[Page 2\]](#)
- III. **Unfinished Business**
- IV. **New Business**
 - A. 2020 Legislative Priorities (Administration) [\[Page 4\]](#)
- V. **Other**
- VI. **Next Committee Meeting** (December 10, 2019)
Agenda Items: TBD.
- VII. **Adjournment**



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MINUTES

I. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Monroe City Council Legislative Affairs Committee was held on Tuesday, August 13, 2019. The meeting was called to order by Councilmember Kamp, 6:06 p.m.; Passport Table, Monroe City Hall.

Council Present: Ed Davis; Jim Kamp; & Kirk Scarboro.
Mayor: None.
Staff Present: Elizabeth Adkisson, City Clerk; Deborah Knight, City Administrator;
& Ben Swanson, Community Development Director.
Others Present: Heather Rousey.

II. Approval of Minutes (July 9, 2019)

Councilmember Scarboro moved to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, July 9, 2019, Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting; the motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Motion carried (3-0).

III. Unfinished Business - NONE

IV. New Business

A. Affordable Housing Code (Community Development)

Mr. Swanson provided background information on the Unified Development Regulations project; affordable housing section pulled out for a separate review process; and Affordable Housing working group created to review these regulations and provide findings to the Planning Commission.

Discussion ensued regarding group scope of work, membership, and timeline; and affordable housing options to be considered.

B. Annexations (Community Development)

Mr. Swanson provided background information on pre-annexation zoning for the Urban Growth Area (UGA) and annexation process to begin in September 2019.

Discussion ensued regarding potential annexation areas, previous annexation attempts, and incentives (such as a community park).

C. Quality Indigent Defense Evaluation (City Clerk)

Mr. Adkisson provided background information on the Quality Indigent Defense Evaluation process, timeline, and final evaluation recommendations/potential fiscal impacts.

V. Other - NONE

VI. Next Committee Meeting (September 10, 2019, 6 p.m.)

CANCELLED – due to Monroe Transportation Benefit District Board Special Meeting; September 10, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

Councilmember Davis moved to adjourn the Tuesday, August 13, 2019, Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting; the motion was seconded by Councilmember Kamp. Motion carried (2-0)¹.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Minutes were approved at the November 12, 2019 Committee meeting.

¹ CLERK'S NOTE: Councilmember Scarboro exited the meeting at approximately 6:33 p.m. and did not return.



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SUBJECT:	<i>Proposed 2020 Legislative Priorities</i>
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DATE:	DEPT:	CONTACT:	PRESENTER:	ITEM:
11/12/2019	Administration	Deborah Knight	Deborah Knight	New Business #1

- Discussion:** 11/12/2019
Attachments: 1. Proposed 2020 Legislative Priorities
 2. Association of Washington Cities 2020 Legislative Agenda

REQUESTED ACTION: Discuss the proposed legislative agenda for 2020 and provide direction to Mayor Thomas and city staff.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The Legislative Agenda list of funding and policy priorities reflects the City of Monroe’s position on key initiatives that are expected to arise in the form of legislation, budget decisions, or policy decisions in the upcoming 2020 Session of the State Legislature.

The Legislative Committee has an opportunity to review the proposed Legislative Agenda for 2020 before the Agenda is presented to the full City Council for discussion and direction on December 10, 2019.

DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND

Each year the City has an opportunity to identify legislative priorities in order to advance local initiatives in partnership with state and county officials.

Mayor Thomas, City Staff, Ms. Alanna-Janelle Dotzauer, and Mr. Trevor Justin, the City’s government affairs consultants with Strategies 360, are looking for discussion and direction on the proposed 2020 Legislative Agenda (*Attachment 1*).

The City typically adopts its legislative priorities in the fall to prepare for the beginning of the State legislative session on January 12, 2020. The Association of Washington Cities will hold its annual Legislative Action Days on January 28-29, 2020. This is an opportunity to meet with the City’s legislative delegation one-on-one regarding the City’s priorities.

The City Council can continue to refine its Legislative Agenda prior to the start of the legislative session in January.

The 2020 Legislative Agenda (*Attachment 1*) is organized around the City’s 2020 budget themes: Safe and Secure; Economic Development; Managing Growth; Utilities and Transportation; Community Culture and Good Government:

1. Addressing chronic and hidden homelessness
2. Supporting a transportation package to #Finish522
3. Facilitating annexations
4. Developing alternative funding sources for park maintenance, operations and capital improvements
5. Funding a US 2 corridor study for capacity improvements from Hwy 9 to Stevens Pass

FISCAL IMPACTS

There is no specific budget associated with adopting the 2020 Legislative Agenda. The 2020 budget includes funding for the contract with Strategies 360 to provide legislative and government affairs consulting services throughout the legislative session. A contract amendment with Strategies 360 for 2020 was approved by the City Council in October.

Securing requested funding through the State Capital and Transportation Budget for priority capital improvements will serve state and city residents.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

The 2020 Legislative session begins on January 13, 2020. The Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Legislative Action Days is scheduled for January 28-29, 2019. Ideally, the City Council will adopt the City's legislative priorities prior to the start of the legislative session. This provide sufficient time for Mayor Thomas and City Staff to begin contacting the City's legislative delegation regarding the City's priorities.

ALTERNATIVES

The Council Committee can choose to postpone taking action on the Legislative Agenda until a later date.

The Council Committee may also direct Mayor Thomas and City Staff to add, change or delete items to the Legislative Agenda prior to bringing the priorities to the City Council for action.

CITY OF MONROE – 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

OVERVIEW

- The 2020 Legislative Session begins Monday, January 13th and it will be a short 60-day session where the State Legislature will pass Supplemental Budgets – therefore, the state will not be making the same level of investments in the Operating, Transportation or Capital Budgets as they did in 2019.
- Bills that were introduced but did not pass during the 2019 session are still alive in 2020 and are automatically reintroduced and retained in their present position in the second half of the biennium.

1. ADDRESSING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

- The City plans to take a three-pronged approach to the homelessness issue in Monroe: support capital facilities for housing and treatment, retain local authority regarding homelessness, and oppose measures that limit the city’s ability to adequately deal with the homeless population.
- Developing facilities and programs to reduce chronic homelessness (shelters, treatment programs, etc.)
 - The City will engage and support legislation in 2020 that aligns with these goals.
 - Housing bills:
 - [HB 1406](#) – Encouraging investments in affordable and supportive housing.
 - Passed in 2019, technical changes will be made in 2020.
 - [HB 1923](#) – Increasing urban residential building capacity.
 - Passed in 2019, technical changes will be made in 2020.
- Revising State Laws RE: Homestead RCW (RV case in Seattle), updating laws related to involuntary commitment, requiring prosecution of low level but felony drug offenses as felonies, etc.
 - [HB 1591](#) – Concerning the rights of persons experiencing homelessness.
 - Not passed in 2019, engage with concerns in 2020.
 - [HB 1713](#) – 2015-16 – Integrating the treatment systems for mental health and chemical dependency. (Ricky’s Law)
 - [RCW 9A.20.010](#) – Classification and designation of crimes. (Existing law)
- The City would be supportive of a budget request to study and identify statewide issues that contribute to chronic homelessness and identify solutions on an area by area basis.
 - Budget request amount (\$)?
- The City is also supportive of retaining local authority in helping to mitigate and address the homelessness issue in the City.

2. PARKS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT LEGISLATION

- In 2019, (Not passed) the city supported [HB 1371](#) – Concerning the creation of parks benefit districts. A scaled back version of the 2019 bill will be structured for the 2020 session as follows:
 - 1/10th of one-cent sales tax authority with the ability to fully bond based on increase.
- Representative Eslick, Prime Sponsor / Representative Tarleton engaged:
 - Doug/ AJ & Trevor to schedule meetings with policy and fiscal committee members, however, will work to get the bill sent straight to House/Senate fiscal committees.

3. FACILITATING ANNEXATIONS

- In 2019: Legislation passed – [HB 2044](#) – Concerning the de-annexation of a portion of land from a park and recreation district or metropolitan park district.
- In 2019: Two bills on the topic did not pass:
 - [HB 1357](#) – Eliminating certain requirements for the annexation of an unincorporated island of territory.
 - [HB 1598](#) – Providing code cities of a certain size with the ability to annex unincorporated areas without a referendum provision pursuant to a jointly approved interlocal agreement with the county.
- The City is supportive of annexation around UGAs.
- As discussed in previous legislative sessions, continue to monitor any items from Ruckelshaus that we might want to incorporate.

4. SR 522

- In 2020, continue to support proposed Transportation Package request – keep the request in front of people and be ready for any smaller transportation budget opportunities that may arise.
- Proposal currently includes \$160 Million for SR 522, defend/protect this much needed investment.
 - \$90 Million towards construction of the widening the narrow part of SR 522.
 - \$70 Million towards construction of a new SR 522/Paradise Lake interchange.
 - \$56 Million towards construction on a US 2 Monroe Bypass and widening.
- 2019 Achievements:
 - Allocated \$12.8 Million of new funds for design and engineering work to be spent in the 2019-21 biennium.
 - Moved up a previously allocated additional \$10 Million for design and engineering work to the 2021-23 biennium. These funds had been originally allocated for the 2025-27 and 2027-29 biennia within the Connecting Washington package approved in 2015.

5. US-2 CAPACITY IMPROVEMENTS

- Transportation Budget – member request.
 - Representative Eslick is looking for support for US 2 capacity improvements.
- The City of Monroe is working with the City of Wenatchee and other stakeholders to explore a coordinated effort for a US 2 capacity study from Highway 9 to Wenatchee. More details will be forthcoming.



Adopt a comprehensive set of transportation policies that provide robust new resources and local options

Cities are responsible for a significant share of the statewide transportation system and fund most of that responsibility out of local tax dollars. Cities struggle to meet the \$1 billion gap in transportation maintenance and preservation costs. To meet these ever-expanding needs, the state must maintain existing and create new transportation-specific revenue options for cities. The state must also develop a statewide transportation package that includes increased resources for city transportation needs.



Fully fund the Public Works Trust Fund (P WTF)

The Public Works Trust Fund is a crucial funding partner in our efforts to provide the necessary infrastructure for our communities. We seek full funding for the program and ask the state to protect the current stream of loan repayments and uphold the 2% state share of REET dedicated to the account. Additionally, we look to strengthen the program by ending the ongoing revenue diversions as soon as possible.



Create a tax increment financing (TIF) option for cities

Washington's cities need economic development tools that help maintain, expand, and modernize local infrastructure to spur local private sector investment. By investing in TIF, the Legislature can partner with cities to advance our shared goals of building a robust and diverse economy for communities around the state. For maximum impact, cities need access to both property-tax and sales-tax based TIF programs.



Preserve city fiscal health with secure funding sources

Cities need revenue authority and flexibility to keep up with community growth and increasing service needs. State investment in shared revenue distributions is instrumental to support essential city programs and services. Responsive revenue options allow local elected officials to make the best community-based decisions about how to keep up with growth and the increasing costs of providing basic services like public safety and transportation. Arbitrary restrictions on local revenue decisions unnecessarily hurt residents by limiting critical local services.



Support statewide medication assisted treatment (MAT) services in city and regional jails by providing local flexibility

Cities are experiencing the consequences of an overwhelmed state behavioral health system. While the state has made investments to address some of the challenges, more help is needed. Local jails have increasingly been called to action to address opioid use disorder and provide treatment. However, the costs are overwhelming city criminal justice budgets across the state. City jails need additional state support to access MAT services to save lives and reduce recidivism.



Advance a watershed-based strategic plan to address local fish-blocking culverts along with state culverts

Cities need the state to adopt a broader vision to create a comprehensive response that funds local barrier corrections and provides actual habitat access for fish. Cities recognize that the state is facing a \$4 billion price tag to fix fish-blocking culverts that the U.S. Supreme Court has found to impinge on tribal treaty rights to fish harvests. Cities also own 1,300 barriers in the same streams, and similarly have no identified revenues to pay for needed corrections. A statewide approach is the only way to achieve meaningful salmon and orca recovery.



Continue to pursue new resources and policies to increase affordable housing both at the state and local level

Our communities continue to face a housing crisis and need state support to incentivize housing options. The Legislature can help by proactively supporting cities' voluntary adoption of more effective ADU ordinances and providing additional councilmanic tax authority for housing. Cities need enhanced tools to attract and preserve multifamily development, like changing the multifamily tax exemption program to open it to smaller cities, extending the tax exemption for continued affordability guarantees, and expanding the ability to preserve existing affordable housing.

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