

Utah League of Cities and Towns
Legislative Policy Committee Minutes – June 18, 2018, 12:00PM
Utah Local Government Trust (and Zoom webcast)

1. Welcome, introduction, logistics, and adoption of March 5, 2018 minutes

- ULCT 1st Vice President John Pike welcomed the committee. The committee adopted the March 5th, 2018 minutes.

2. Midyear Caucuses of Commonality report, resolutions process, and next steps for August 20

- Cameron Diehl briefed the committee on the policy ideas that emerged from the Midyear Conference Caucuses of Commonality. Diehl explained that the concepts developed during the Midyear and August caucuses would be translated into resolutions, which the LPC and general membership would vote on during the Annual convention.

3. Interim Preview

- ULCT staff and guests spoke to the committee about policy items ULCT will be engaged on during the interim:
 - i. Economic update and trends – Representative Robert Spendlove briefed the committee on both national and state economic conditions and trends. Specifically, he discussed county-level demographic shifts, industrial growth, consumer confidence, sales tax changes, poverty levels and other economic indicators.
 - ii. Housing affordability and affordable housing – Abby Osborne, representing the Housing Gap Coalition, spoke to the committee about the research and outreach being conducted by the coalition. She explained how housing shortages, increases in costs, and NIMBYISM have increased the cost of housing in much of the state.
 - iii. LUTF update - ULCT Dir. of Government Relations, Rachel Otto, updated the committee on the current efforts from the Land Use Task Force including streamlining housing construction approval process, technical subdivision code revisions (SB 215, public/private infrastructure bonding), and the referendum process (HB 225).
 - iv. Update on water study groups - ULCT Senior Policy Advisor, John Hiskey, updated the LPC on the status of the four water study groups: proposed constitutional amendment, water supply and surplus water, private property, and extraterritorial jurisdiction. He explained that all of the groups were being formed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to examine policy and technical concerns from the prior legislative session. Hiskey also mentioned that the DNR Division of Water Rights has the upcoming meeting schedule posted on their website. He requested members take the ULCT water survey distributed earlier that month.
 - v. Law enforcement Three Rs: Recruitment, Retention, and Retirement. John Hiskey highlighted the three biggest challenges currently facing law enforcement administrators. He explained that these challenges will increase law enforcement costs for cities and mentioned ULCT will be conducting a

survey in conjunction with police chiefs to understand the law enforcement challenges.

- vi. Wayfair decision and July special session – ULCT Senior Policy Advisor, Roger Tew, explained to the committee what either outcome of the South Dakota V. Wayfair case would mean for Utah. Specifically, in the event the court finds in favor of South Dakota, the Utah legislature would need to convene a special session to impose an online sales tax. Tew mentioned that there are several other unrelated technical issues that would need to be addressed in a special session as well.
- vii. Small cell deployment – Tew also briefly answered questions about implementing SB 189 (Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act). He referred the LPC to the ULCT overview of the legislation.
- viii. SB 136 Implementation – ULCT Executive Director, Cameron Diehl, explained the next steps in implementing SB 136 (Transportation Governance Amendments). He broke the process down into 4 “steps”: UTA reform (the county nominations for the board of trustees), UDOT structural reform (appointment of new deputy director, strategic initiatives, and TTIF fund eligibility), 4th quarter/Prop. 1 funding, and the establishment of the Transportation and Tax Review Force (to review autonomous vehicles, toll roads, road usage charges, etc.) Diehl also updated the committee on the Our Schools Now motor fuel tax initiative. The 10-cent increase would generate an estimated \$24,393,597 for local roads.
- ix. Inland port– Cameron Diehl outlined primary ULCT concerns about the Inland Port Board created in SB 234, including the appeal standing, appeal standards, tax increment apportionment, and the board composition. He referenced resolution 2017-001A that states “Cities and towns cannot support development proposals, task forces, commissions, districts, development authorities or other legislation that would deprive local municipalities of their traditional local land use authority on private property or deprive them of control of tax increment generated within their jurisdiction without their consent.” He stated that although the Inland Port only applies to a few cities today, the precedent could expand to other jurisdictions in the future.
- x. Medical Marijuana Initiative – Cameron Diehl discussed the initiative’s strong poll numbers (46% of Utah voters strongly support and 31% somewhat support) and its preemption of local government authority. He reviewed reports from police chiefs in Washington and Colorado and outlined their public safety concerns.
- xi. Other Interim Issues – Rachel Otto briefly previewed ULCT efforts on housing policy (engagement with DWS, Chamber, other partners), towing (discussions with industry), billboards (finding a consensus process), HB 336 Fine Amendments (identifying fiscal impacts on cities), food truck licensing (identifying best practices), referendum (HB 225 follow up), and alcohol (2017’s HB 442 implementation deadlines).

4. Wednesday Webchats preview for June/July

- Rachel Otto told the committee about ULCT's summer lineup for Wednesday Webchats.

5. Adjourn

- The LPC Adjourned.

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