

Utah League of Cities and Towns
Legislative Policy Committee Minutes – January 7, 2019, 12:00 p.m.
Utah Local Governments Trust (and Zoom webcast)

1. Welcome, introductions, logistics, and adoption of December 10, 2018 minutes
 - a. ULCT 1st Vice President Mike Mendenhall welcomed the committee. The committee honored fallen Provo Police Officer Joseph Shinners with a moment of silence. The committee adopted the minutes from the December 10, 2018 meeting.

2. LPC 2019 – structural changes and outreach
 - a. Upcoming meeting and event – ULCT Director of Government Relations, Rachel Otto, noted that the next LPC meeting will be held at the Capitol on February 4, 2019, 12:00 p.m. Rachel informed the committee that registration is open for Local Officials Day, which will be held on January 30, 2019 at the Capitol and the Salt Palace Convention Center.
 - b. Updates to the Legislative Policy Committee process – Rachel discussed LPC LPC format changes. ULCT will be more direct and succinct in presentations and will provide detailed handouts to supplement each topic. This change is an effort to make LPC meetings more productive and to foster two-way communication. Rachel outlined three ways committee members can communicate with ULCT: participate in LPC meetings, comment on the ULCT Bill Tracker, and reach out to individual ULCT staff. Rachel went over LPC rules for a committee quorum, membership, and consensus procedures.
 - c. Engaging with councils, communities, and legislators – ULCT 1st Vice President and Spanish Fork councilmember, Mike Mendenhall, discussed two ways committee members can share LPC materials with their councils, communities, and legislators: through council meetings and legislator care packages. Mike shared a video of a Spanish Fork council meeting where he discussed the ULCT *Map to close the Gap* brochure. Mike also discussed pre-session care packages—which include ULCT materials—that the Spanish Fork council puts together for each of their legislators.
 - d. Communication and Social Media – ULCT Executive Director, Cameron Diehl, discussed ULCT efforts to focus the League’s communication platform and messaging this session. ULCT Director of Communication, Susan Wood, encouraged committee members to follow #CitiesWork and their legislators on social media. Susan discussed a series of op-eds the ULCT will begin running weekly with Utah Policy and encouraged members to comment on them and to share them with their communities. The ULCT wants to help cities tell their story as they prepare for growth and address affordable housing. Susan would like to collect sound bites from city and town leaders to share on social media. Susan presented a ULCT video featuring Cedar Hills Mayor Jenney Rees discussing her city’s Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance. Susan passed around a sign-up sheet and encouraged cities and towns to volunteer to share their story with ULCT.

3. Results of LPC priorities survey

- a. ULCT Executive Director, Cameron Diehl, reviewed the 2019 *Tools for Building Better Policy* and the five-step prism through which the ULCT evaluates bills. Cameron recapped the LPC priorities survey results, which will help the ULCT prioritize efforts in the 2019 legislative session. Top priorities include land use, tax policy, transportation, public safety, and finance. The specific issues that were of most significance include class B & C road funds, local land use authority, 50/50 sales tax formula, flexibility in using revenues from the transportation local option, and city fee authority. Over the summer, the high profile issues the ULCT worked on include preservation of local authority over watersheds, UDOT prioritization, referenda, air quality, truth in taxation, Tier 2 retirement, local tax incentives, and secondary water meters. Cameron informed committee members that the survey is still active. Cameron discussed a recommendation from a Southern Utah legislator that wants to create a revolving disaster mitigation fund. This legislator reached out the ULCT for feedback and the ULCT is now reaching out to communities for feedback. The disaster mitigation fund will be an additional topic added to the survey.

4. Legislative items

- a. ACTION – secondary water – ULCT Director of Policy, Wayne Bradshaw, requested that committee members share their position on metering secondary water, data on metering and water conservation, and information on actual or projected costs to meter secondary water (wbradshaw@ulct.org). ULCT senior policy advisor, John Hiskey, discussed the background on the secondary water bill.
- b. UPDATE – firefighter retirement and Tier 2 – John Hiskey discussed the Tier 1 and Tier 2 retirement brackets and the impact Tier 2 is having on public safety officers. John also discussed the insurance premium tax that funds a portion of firefighter retirement. The funds have not been getting to the appropriate accounts and there is a shortfall. Ashley Spatafore, who is representing many of the fire chiefs and cities that are members of the Unified Fire Authority (UFA), gave an update on the research that has been completed. UFA hired Steve Young from Holland and Hart to collect data and identify the problem. Since 1971, a portion of the insurance premium tax has gone into the account. In about 2014, the Tax Commission changed their software and while the proper taxes were paid, the funds in the account were not separated. The two-fold solution to the issue includes clarifying the statutory language and making sure firefighter retirement is properly funded. A bill proposing this solution will go through committee again, will be filed, and will come before LPC for review.
- c. UPDATE – other issues – Cameron Diehl discussed the League’s support of the Tier 2 retirement reforms about a decade ago. Cameron informed the committee that Wayne Bradshaw is researching other states to see how they are managing public safety officer recruitment and retention. The LPC has been on record supporting Tier 2 reforms. Rather than taking a piecemeal approach as was attempted by legislators in 2015 and 2017, the ULCT is gathering information and

vetting the information through the retirement subgroup. The topic will then be brought before the LPC. Cameron opened the meeting for questions:

- i. Jamie Davidson, appointed by the ULCT Board of Directors to serve on the ULCT Utah Retirement System Membership Board, stated that when this conversation was addressed in 2011, it was a \$5 billion problem and the URS was struggling financially. The concern is that in 2018 when we have a billion-dollar surplus, maybe it is time to tackle retirement reform. However, if we make changes at the bottom of the market, he suggests we are cautious about making changes at the top of the market because the financial ramifications are in the billions.
- ii. Jewell Allen, Grantsville council member, asked who the League is reaching out to in cities regarding secondary water metering. Cameron stated that the League has heard organically from cities, but the League is now working to reach out to cities with secondary water. Wayne reiterated the information he is seeking from cities on secondary water metering.
- d. OVERVIEW OF UPCOMING LEGISLATION – Rachel gave an update on the commission on housing affordability bill, which the LPC voted to support last month, which is still in progress. The Land Use Task Force has reached consensus on changes to the Ombudsman statute. The Task Force is working toward consensus on proposed changes to the Land Use Management and Development Act. Other potential bills of interest include food trucks, gravel pits, idling ordinances, pit bulls, governmental immunity, instream flows for trout, victim rights, fire code amendments, pawn shops, towing, gambling machines, homeless shelter funding, damage to underground facilities, the disaster and recovery mitigation fund, and hundreds of others. Rachel encouraged LPC members to be up to date on ULCT positions by the next LPC meeting. Rachel went over a survey that will be sent out to committee members regarding topic lists and fiscal notes so members can confirm their areas of interest.

5. Wrap-up

- a. Cameron reiterated that state and local referenda will be an important topic this session. The LPC endorsed 2018 HB 225, 4th substitute. The topic will be brought before the LPC as it develops.
- b. Mike encouraged committee members to engage with the League throughout the session.

6. The LPC adjourned