

LAKELAND CITY COMMISSION

Legislative Committee January 14, 2021

The Legislative Committee met in the City commission Conference Room. Commissioner Phillip Walker (chair) and Commissioners Sara McCarley & Chad McLeod (members) were present. Mayor Bill Mutz and Commissioners Stephanie Madden, Mike Musick, and Bill Read were present along with David Shepp of The Southern Group, LLC and staff.

Commissioner Sara McCarley called the meeting to order at 8 a.m.

Opportunities:

- Land Acquisition Trust Fund / PRWC - HB 603 / SB 1400: Bills were introduced to add the Heartland Headwaters Protection & Sustainability Act to the statutory list of projects to be funded through the Land Acquisition Trust Fund. The goal is to seek \$20 million per year. SB1400 will be heard in its first committee in Week 2.
- Lakeland Seven Wetlands - HB 2243: This funding request was approved on consent agenda in the House Agriculture & Natural Resource Appropriations Committee in December. It is now eligible to be funded in the House Budget proposal. House & Senate Budgets are expected to be introduced in Week 4.
- 2nd DCA Courthouse: Not a funding request but expected to be introduced in the 2022-23 Budget proposal. House & Senate Budgets are expected to be introduced in Week 4.
- Building Inspector Certifications - HB 423/ SB 644: Bills were introduced to address the shortage of qualified building inspectors. HB 423 passed its first committee. SB 644 will be heard in its first committee in Week 2.

Challenges:

- Local Ordinances - SB 280 / HB 403: Bills were introduced to require cities to produce a business impact statement prior to passing an ordinance. The bills also allow for businesses to delay enactment of new ordinances by filing suit challenging the legal validity of the ordinance. Both bills have passed their first committees.
- Business Damages Caused by Government - SB 620 / HB 569: Bills were introduced to create a cause of action for a business to claim a "taking" if a local ordinance results in a loss of revenue of more than 15%. Both bills have passed their first committees.
- Infrastructure Project Funding - SB 1162 / HB 621: Bills were introduced to prohibit cities and counties that receive a dividend from their electric and/or water utilities from seeking State Grant funding for utility projects. The bills have been referred to committee.
- Financial Disclosure for Local Officials - SB 510 / HB 301: Bills were introduced to require city mayors, commissioners and managers to file full financial disclosure

forms. SB 510 has passed its first committee; HB 301 will be heard in its first committee in Week 2.

- Affordable Housing – HB 1553/SB1170; Bills would remove cities from eligibility for SHIP program and eliminate the statutory authority for SAIL program. HB 839 has been filed. SB 1170 has been referred to committees.

Dave Shepp will provide this report every Friday via email. He will provide handouts for commissioners attending days on the hill.

The Commission discussed:

- Opportunities to amend the local ordinance bills. Mr. Shepp was optimistic.
- PRWC funding. Mr. Shepp was working through this issue. The new legislation typically could not affect an existing contract. Moving forward will be the challenge. He will work to gain clarity on the issue
- Companion Bills – There must be identical bills passed in both houses to become law.
- The Land Acquisition Trust Fund is used for a variety of purposes. It was created by a constitutional amendment. It is for land acquisition, conservation, water resources, and protecting Florida's natural resources.
- Bills like the Infrastructure Project Funding usually rise out of specific problems in one area of the State and are an attempt to fix that problem on a statewide basis.

Commissioner Phillip Walker arrived at 8:14 a.m. He discussed the Monday Morning Calls, SB1162, and thanked the other commissioners for their involvement.

The Committee adjourned adjourn 8:17 a.m.